

School Funding During COVID-19:

Additional costs associated with the provision of meals during the February half term holiday period 2022.

Context

During the course of the COVID 19 pandemic, specific financial support for pupils entitled to FSM was initially provided by the government during school holiday periods, but this came to an end once schools re-opened in September 2020.

The government then provided funding, via the DWP COVID Winter Grant Scheme and the COVID Local Support Grant and its extension, to support vulnerable households and families with children particularly affected by the pandemic throughout the winter of 2020-21 period with the cost of food, energy (heating, cooking, lighting), water bills (including sewerage) and other essentials. In the absence of specific and ring-fenced funding for FSMs pupils over school holiday periods, Southwark chose to use this grant funding to make meal provision over the holiday periods from Christmas 2020 through to the summer holiday 2021.

The government announced, in the autumn, the provision of the Household Support Grant which will allow local authorities to help the hardest-hit families and individuals directly with daily needs such as food, clothing and utilities over the winter. It is for local authorities to decide on how best to target this funding and Southwark have set a proportion aside to support pupils entitled to FSM during the 2021-22 winter school holidays of October half term, Christmas and February half term.

Southwark's Offer – February half term 2022:

Southwark remains committed to supporting its disadvantaged pupils during the Christmas holiday 2021 and will do this by using part of the Household Support Grant to fund meals for **those pupils who are eligible to receive benefits-related FSM.**

What costs can be claimed?

- The cost of meals/vouchers provided to any pupils entitled to benefits-related FSM during the February half term 2022 holiday. This includes:
 - All nursery pupils, regardless of whether they are part or full-time.
 - Those pupils who qualify under the [temporary extension of free school meals eligibility to NRPF groups](#);
- The claim period covers 5 week days, from Monday 14th February to Friday 18th February 2022 inclusive.

How much is the cost of a meal or voucher?

Reimbursement will be at £3.00 per meal or voucher provided per week day, £15 in total for the 5 days of the February half term holiday.

How to claim

1. All pupils entitled to **Free School Meals** during the February half term holiday 2022

All schools should:

- Download from their MIS, a report listing the pupils entitled to FSM on Friday 11th February 2022;
 - The report only requires the UPNs of pupils eligible for FSM (no names, please);
 - Forward the report to Schools Finance schoolsfinance@southwark.gov.uk by **Friday 25th March 2022**.

Date that claims are to be made by:-

Friday 25th March 2022.

26.01.2022