

FREE SCHOOL MEALS – SCHOOL HOLIDAY SUPPORT

We are writing to remind families that the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) is still open for applications for May half term holiday payments.

Families eligible for Free School Meals

If you are receiving means-tested Free School Meals (FSM) and need help with essential costs during the holidays, you can apply online until **Sunday, 31 May 2026**:

[School Holiday Support Payment | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

If you have already applied and been awarded the fund before the Easter break, you will have already received your May half term payments.

Please note: school holiday payments are no longer made automatically to families who are receiving Free School Meals, so you will need to apply if you need support.

Applications for the summer holidays are expected to reopen in June. More information will be shared soon.

The Crisis and Resilience Fund replaced the Household Support Fund in April 2026. It ensures that financial support for families who need it. The fund also gives longer term support to boost income and manage debt so that people feel more confident and secure when unexpected money problems arise.

Not just school holidays

As well as the school holiday support payments, there are a number of other costs that the Crisis and Resilience Fund can help with. Visit the Crisis and Resilience Fund webpage for more information about support with:

- [Crisis payments](#)
- [Help in Emergencies for Local People \(HELP\)](#)
- [Housing Payments and Discretionary Hardship Payments](#)
- [Heating oil support](#)

[Crisis and Resilience Fund | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

Other support

There is also information and support available on the Council's cost of living webpages, which bring together resources about financial help, advice services, and emergency assistance:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/benefits-and-welfare-help/cost-of-living>

If you have any queries in relation to this email, please contact HouseholdSupport@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk