

## Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) 2021

Dear Parents

The below email is from the Gloucestershire County Council and is the replacement for the school hampers during the Easter Holidays. You do need to have registered for this scheme by 9.00am this Friday 19th March. I can only apologise for the short notice, I have only received this today.

As part of the HAF rollout, Gloucestershire County Council has committed to providing educational activities and nutritious food to all Free School Meal children during the school half-term periods. With funding from the DfE, we will offer activities that last at least 4 hours a day, 4 days a week, for 6 weeks of the year to include food and cook along videos.

Due to the current restrictions imposed by the government, the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) will be delivered virtually for the Easter half-term period. During the **first week of half-term**, we will provide educational activities to all Free School Meal children. These will include cook-along videos and tasks for them to engage with. All activities will be suitable for children aged 5 to 16. They will be available on the HAF web page which can be accessed through the Gloucestershire County Council website.

Families will also be able to collect a Home Cooking Kit which contains recipe cards and enough food/ingredients for 4 meals and an Activities Pack with things to do for that week.

These will be available for pick up from a collection point in their local area. Parents will be required to complete an application form in order for us to allocate and distribute the Home Cooking Kits/Activity Packs.

### **What can you do to help? - I have been asked to promote this to you.**

To ensure that this programme is successful, we kindly ask that you actively promote the activities to your parents to enable us to reach as many families as possible.

We would advise you to encourage your Free School Meal families to book through our online application page by **Friday 19th March 2021 at 9am**. This will enable us to allocate and organise the Home Cooking Kits for collection.

Once they have applied, the families will be emailed the details of their collection point by **Monday 29th March 2021**. The Home Cooking Kits and Activity Packs will be available for pick up on **Wednesday 31st March 2021**.

In addition, families will receive the Holiday Free School Meal Vouchers to cover the **second week** of the Easter half-term. Please note this provision is for children aged between **5 – 16 only**.

If Families received the Holiday Vouchers previously, then they will not need to re-apply for the vouchers for future holiday periods. However, all families will need to apply separately for the Home Cooking Kits/ Activity Packs to enable us to distribute accurate numbers.

If the families have not received Holiday Free School Meal Vouchers previously, then they will need to apply using our online portal which will go live nearer the Easter half-term. We will keep you updated and notify all schools when this is live.

For any families that struggle to sign up for this scheme, we kindly ask that you do this on their behalf.

The link is through this page:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/holiday-free-school-meals/>

We will send out further communications regarding the summer holidays nearer the time.

Should you have any queries, please contact The Children's Fund at [Childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

***If you would like some support with registering for this service, please do not hesitate to contact me by 12.noon on Thursday 18th March.***

***Kind regards***

***Kerrie Bennett***