

"Leaders, staff and governors share a passionate commitment to raise the aspirations and achievements of all the students who attend the school."

Ofsted

5th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Changes to the Household Support Fund / Free School Meal Vouchers

The school received a communication from Coventry City Council about changes to its Household Support Fund which they have previously used to provide funding to schools for food vouchers during the school holidays for students eligible for free school meals. I regret to inform you that the Council have advised me that the grant they have received this year is not sufficient to meet the level of demand, and have therefore confirmed that they will not be funding free school meal vouchers for the 2023 Christmas holiday or February half term next year. **This means that we will not be able to issue any free school meal vouchers to you for either of these holiday periods.**

I attach the letter from Coventry City Council explaining why this is happening, which also provides some links for alternative support available to you.

I am very sorry to be sharing this news with you, especially at this time of year, and I wanted to let you know of some services in the local community who can help.

If you are experiencing hardship and are in need of some extra support with a food parcel, we have links with a charity providing food parcels. If you would like more information about this or would like support, please contact Ms Sandhar by email sandhar@pks.coventry.sch.uk.

Other useful links for support in Coventry

Information on Social Supermarkets: <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/directory/111/social-supermarkets-food-hubs-and-foodbanks>

Coventry Foodbank: <https://coventry.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/>

Please do make sure you contact us if you need further support or assistance and we will be happy to support you and your family.

Yours sincerely



S Rooke
Headteacher

Attachment: Coventry City Council Letter





30th November 2023

Changes to the Household Support Fund (HSF)

Coventry received an allocation of a government grant called the Household Support Fund (HSF), to cover this financial year (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024). This fund is designed to be used to support households in the most need due to financial hardship, particularly those who may not qualify for other types of government support.

The City Council has used this to support residents with fuel, food, clothing and bedding, household appliances, household furniture and vouchers for children and young people entitled to free school meals during school holiday periods.

Unfortunately, the grant received for this financial year has not been sufficient to meet the level of demand and has already been nearly totally allocated. As a result, Coventry City Council has had to make difficult decisions as there is insufficient funding for everything it would like to support. This means that we will be unable to provide funding to schools to pay for food vouchers for pupils eligible for free school meals in the Christmas 2023 and February 2024 school holidays.

If you need to access food support, this continues to be available through application to the Household Support Fund: www.coventry.gov.uk/householdsupportfund. This includes the provision of three emergency food parcels to support households in the short term and work with the Coventry Food Network to support residents in exploring longer term options through engagement with a Community Supermarket.

Children and young people eligible for universal-benefits Free School Meals can also access our Coventry Holiday Activities and Food Programme offer. This includes free holiday activities all with nutritional food provided for the child. For more details please go to: <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/haf>