

14 July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

HUGGG FUNDING - NATIONAL CHANGES

I am writing to inform you about important national changes regarding the holiday supermarket vouchers (HUGGG vouchers) previously provided to families eligible for benefits related to free school meals.

What has changed?

The government funded Household Support Fund ended nationally on **31 March 2026**. Because this funding has ended, East Sussex County Council can **no longer automatically distribute holiday vouchers** to families based solely on free school meal eligibility.

On 1 April 2026, the government introduced a new [Crisis and Resilience Fund](#). This fund takes a different approach, focusing support on households experiencing immediate financial hardship or crisis, alongside helping families build long-term financial stability.

How you can still access support

While automatic vouchers have stopped, we are assured that financial help is still available based on individual household circumstances and need. Please see the resources below to find the support that best fits your situation:

- **Families with an existing Support Worker:** If your family currently works with Early Help or Children's Social Care, your practitioner or social worker can apply for fund support directly on your behalf.
- **ESCC Family Information Service:** For advice and guidance on how to access support, you can call **0345 60 80 192** (Monday-Friday, 10am-3pm).
- **[Holiday Food and Fun](#):** Children eligible for free school meals can still access free activities and food during school holiday periods through this program.
- **SEND Support (Amaze Sussex):** Families with children and young people (aged 0-25) with special educational needs and disabilities can contact Amaze Sussex at amazesussex.org.uk or call **01273 772289**.

Next Steps and Immediate Help

If you are currently facing financial difficulties, we have been signposted to encourage you to explore the resources listed above. You can also find more information online



Tel: (01435) 866066 e-mail: office@heathfieldcc.co.uk

Cade Street, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 8RJ Website: www.heathfieldcc.co.uk

Headteacher: Ms Caroline Barlow B.A. (Hons)

regarding the new [Crisis and Resilience Fund](#) and general [Cost of Living support](#) via the East Sussex County Council website.

Thank you for your understanding. We will continue to work with as many outside agencies as we can to ensure our families have access to the support that is available.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Pooley', written in a cursive style.

MR M POOLEY
Assistant Headteacher