

Water Primary School

Happiness, Health & Opportunity

Burnley Road East
 Water, Rossendale
 BB4 9PX
 Tel: 01706 216 414
 Fax: 01706 218 637
 Email: enquiries@water.lancs.sch.uk
 Website – www.water.lancs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Miss E. McKay



23rd April 2026

Dear Families

Change regarding Free School Meal Vouchers during school holidays

You may have seen in the news the Government changes to the above.

From 31st March, the Free School Meals Vouchers which were issued as part of the Household Support Fund have been replaced with the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) from 1st April. Therefore, you will no longer receive vouchers during the school holidays.

We have been asked to share the following information:-

What support will be available to families?

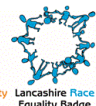
From 1 April, families needing help during school holidays will be able to apply for crisis support payments via their district council. These payments will:

- Provide direct financial support to households facing immediate hardship.
- Offer flexibility based on personal circumstances.
- Connect families with wider support including income maximisation, affordable warmth, digital access, community coordination, and employment pathways.

These crisis support payments are not a direct replacement for meal vouchers, they are for families who can demonstrate an immediate need.

For your local district council's contact details, please see the list below.

District	Contact
Burnley Borough Council	CRF@burnleytogether.org.uk
Chorley Borough Council	hsf@chorley.gov.uk
Fylde Borough Council	CRF@fylde.gov.uk



Hyndburn Borough Council	enquiries@hyndburnbc.gov.uk
Lancaster City Council	crf@lancaster.gov.uk
Pendle Borough Council	CRF@pendle.gov.uk
Preston City Council	household@preston.gov.uk
Ribble Valley Borough Council	benefits@ribblevalley.gov.uk
Rossendale Borough Council	crisisandresilience@rossendalebc.gov.uk
South Ribble Borough Council	CRF@southribble.gov.uk
West Lancashire Borough Council	householdsupportfund@westlancs.gov.uk
Wyre Borough Council	crf@wyre.gov.uk

In addition to crisis payments, families will also be able to access a developing network of Resilience Hubs, which will provide year-round community-based support. These hubs offer practical help with essentials, budgeting, debt, employment, digital skills, and wider wellbeing support, acting as universal access points under a “no wrong door” model.

Families can also continue to use local food support organisations, including food banks, community food pantries, and voluntary sector partners offering low-cost or emergency food provision. These organisations remain an important source of help alongside the new CRF support arrangements.

A list of local resilience hubs will be made available shortly.

Why is this change being made?

The Department for Work and Pensions has introduced CRF to:

- Provide a robust, cash-first safety net for households facing sudden financial shocks.
- Reduce repeat crises by strengthening prevention and long-term resilience.
- Ensure support is aligned with clear measures of local need, such as deprivation, population, and household characteristics.
- Provide a support structure for families experiencing sudden unexpected financial shocks.

The end of holiday-time voucher provision may cause concern, but families will continue to receive support if they need it, delivered through crisis payments and improved local assistance, as required by Government.

Details of future support will be made available ahead of the May half term.

Yours faithfully
Mrs A Graham
Office Manager

