



**North Tyneside
Council**

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July 2025

Dear Parent / Guardian

Holiday Food Support – some changes to holiday payments

We are writing to you to let you know what food voucher support we're able to offer families this summer holidays and some other changes to support including :

- Moving to one payment in summer 2025 and one payment in winter 2025 (instead of four smaller payments in spring, summer, autumn and winter)
- A new company providing the voucher
- A new Holiday Activity and Food programme for October half term.

Summer support

The Government has provided funding through the Household Support Grant which we can use in a variety of ways to support families.

The Elected Mayor, Karen Clark, has decided in North Tyneside this funding will be used to provide families in receipt of income-related free school meals to have access to supermarket vouchers, as well as other support which is detailed in this letter.

voucher is a one-off to help you manage the additional expense you will have this summer when your child/children will not receive a free school meal.

The amount we have received this year is less than in 2024, and our budget is under even more pressure. We understand how difficult the summer holidays can be and we will still be able to offer a one-off food grant to support families in the summer and winter for 2025. There is more information at the end of this letter about other ways we can support your family.

This summer we will be able to provide £65 per child for eligible families. This will be a one-off voucher you can use at most supermarkets, either in store or online.

Winter support

We will be issuing another voucher in the winter for £65. This will be a one-off voucher and sent to families in November. We will for the first time be offering some Holiday Activities and Food Programme for children in the October half-term to help families in the autumn and winter months. More details will be sent to you nearer the time about what's happening.

How to use your voucher

The vouchers will be administered by Black Hawk. This is a new provider and different to the previous provider, Edenred. We hope accessing the vouchers this summer will be even easier for families.

The vouchers work in a similar way, with a voucher code being emailed to you, which you can then redeem online to buy a gift card or electronic gift card.

Your voucher code for summer 2025 will be sent to you from selectcode@select-essentials.co.uk with the subject: Your Household Support Fund voucher code has arrived! to the email address as confirmed on record.

Other support this summer

There are many other ways the Council can support you.

If you urgently need help, please contact the Welfare Assistance team on (0191) 643 2777 and press option 2 between 9am and 2pm, Monday to Friday.

During the summer holidays the ease INTO (Holiday Activities and Food) Programme is available for children. The programme provides fun, enriching activities, and nutritious, tasty food in the school holidays.

You can register and book your child's place for the programme in advance of the school holidays by searching 'ease INTO' on the North Tyneside website my.northtyneside.gov.uk

We are committed to supporting our residents and can offer other financial help and advice and suggest other supportive organisations to those who need it.

You can read more about that help [here](#) or by searching 'cost of living' on our website.

Yours faithfully,
Karen Clark, Elected Mayor of North Tyneside

