

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the festive season, we understand that the Christmas period can be a particularly challenging time for many families, especially when it comes to managing financial pressures. We want to ensure that all of our families are aware of the support available to them, not just during Christmas, but at any time of the year if financial difficulties arise.

There are a number of local and national agencies that offer a variety of services; from food banks and emergency financial assistance to support with utility bills, household essentials and more. We have compiled some key resources below that may be of help:

1. Local Food Banks

Many local charities and food banks provide emergency food parcels to families in need. If you or someone you know is struggling to access food, please reach out to the following local food banks:

- **The Trussell Trust** can help you find out how to get help from your local food bank, you can also speak to a trained advisor on the phone for personalised support. (<https://www.trussell.org.uk>)
- **Leicester South Food Bank** is supported by the Trussell Trust and are able to provide 3 days nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis. The Get Help page will help you navigate how to access this. (<https://leicestersouth.foodbank.org.uk>)

2. The Community Fridge

This is a volunteer-led community fridge, located in the Children and Family Centre on Granville Road, Hinckley, LE10 0PP. This Fridge is open to the public three days a week; Tuesday's and Thursday's, 10-11am, and Fridays 2-3pm. Please check their Facebook page or call the centre for the most up-date opening times as these can change, (<https://www.neighbourly.com/project/5dde731dc7ac8e28282475ee>)

3. Family Hubs

Family hubs have been established to support families, children and young people across Leicestershire. Working with partnership organisations, the hubs provide a one-stop shop and offer advice, information and resources to help families navigate every stage of life; from pregnancy, through your child's early years, later childhood and into young adulthood. (<https://www.familyhubsleicestershire.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>)

4. National Helplines and Services

- **Turn2Us** (www.turn2us.org.uk): This national charity helps people access financial support, including grants and benefits that may be available.
- **Citizens Advice** (www.citizensadvice.org.uk): Citizens Advice offers free, confidential support on financial matters and can help you apply for benefits, manage debt, and access grants.
- **The Salvation Army** (www.salvationarmy.org.uk): The Salvation Army offers support to families in financial crisis, including food, furniture, and financial assistance.

5. Debt and Financial Advice

If you are facing financial difficulties and need advice or support with managing debt, there are a number of free services available:

National Debtline (www.nationaldebtline.org): A free, confidential helpline for anyone experiencing debt problems.

- **StepChange** (www.stepchange.org): A charity that offers free debt advice and management.

6. The Household Support Fund

The Household Support Fund aims to help households in most need with food, energy vouchers or essential kitchen equipment. This scheme aims to support those who have not received financial support from the government Cost of Living payment, and the previous phases of the Household Support Fund. It also aims to support those on low income, have limited savings, and are particularly at risk due to factors such as disabilities or caring for young children. (<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-community/benefits-and-other-support/household-support-fund>)

7. Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

Parents do not have to pay for school lunches if they receive certain support and allowances. Local authorities are responsible for providing lunches and applications must be made through them. Your child isn't automatically registered, even though all Key Stage 1 children are entitled to a FSM. If you feel you are could benefit from this please use the following link to apply. (<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/social-care-and-supporting-families/free-school-meals>). If you need help registering, please do not hesitate in contacting your child's class teacher or the school office.

The Pupil Premium is extra government money which is paid to schools to support children's learning and development. Children who can benefit from this are registered for Free School Meals (FSM), previously been registered for FSM, have been in care or have parents in the armed forces. Children who are registered for FSM are entitled to the Premium. If your child could claim FSM but takes a packed lunch to school, it's still important you tell school. This will then enable your child to receive the Pupil Premium.

If you or your family are facing additional challenges, such as mental health support or housing issues, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our school pastoral team. We can help connect you with the appropriate agencies or services in your area. On our school website we have a Pastoral Care and Support page (<https://www.kmprimary.org/kmps-parents-carers/pastoral>). This section has links and advice for a range of support including early help services, financial support, bereavement, the School Nursing Service, family wellbeing, mental health, parenting and separation.

Please remember that it's okay to ask for help, and there are resources available to support you during difficult times. If you would like further information or need assistance in contacting any of the above services, please feel



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free to contact me directly, either by phoning school or emailing, or speak to your child's class teacher or by contacting Mrs Carvell (our pastoral support).

We are here to support you and your family, and we want to make sure that everyone has a happy and stress-free festive season.

Yours Sincerely

Miss Jackson

Assistant Headteacher



Headteacher: Mr Elliot Howles
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Nicholas Holt
Company Registration No. 8702056

