

Press Release from Buckinghamshire Council

17 July 2025

## Buckinghamshire Council rolls out summer support for families

This summer, Buckinghamshire Council is once again offering a range of support for eligible families to help children stay active, engaged and well-fed during the school holidays.

The popular Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is returning with a wide variety of free, fun-filled holiday clubs and activities for children and young people from Reception to Year 11 who receive benefits-related free school meals. Funded by the Department for Education, the HAF programme also includes a healthy meal with every session, helping to ensure children are fuelled for a day of fun and learning.

From sports and outdoor adventures to creative arts and cookery, there's something for everyone, with sessions running across dozens of venues throughout Buckinghamshire. Families can book up to 16 sessions over the summer period using a HAF voucher, which will be sent via email or text message from <u>HolidayActivities.com</u>.

In addition to the HAF programme, the council is also providing £50 digital food vouchers to eligible families to help with grocery costs over the summer holidays. Funded by the Department for Work and Pensions through the Household Support Fund, these vouchers are sent via schools or early years settings and can be used at most major supermarkets.

Ade Osibogun, Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education, said:

"We know that school holidays can bring extra challenges for families, particularly when it comes to keeping children active, engaged, and well-nourished without the structure and support that term time provides. That's why we're proud to once again offer the HAF programme, alongside our food voucher scheme, to support families across Buckinghamshire.

"These initiatives are about more than just meals and activities—they're about giving every child the opportunity to thrive, learn new skills, and enjoy their summer in a safe and supportive environment. We're committed to ensuring that no child is left behind, and that every family feels supported during the school break."

Steve Bowles, Cabinet Member for Communities at Buckinghamshire Council, added: "We understand that the summer holidays can place additional financial pressure on families, especially when it comes to putting food on the table. That's why we're pleased to be offering digital food vouchers once again this year. These vouchers provide practical support to help ease the burden and ensure that children across Buckinghamshire have access to nutritious meals throughout the break."

For more information on the HAF programme and how to book, visit the <u>Buckinghamshire HAF</u> webpage. To learn more about the food voucher scheme, visit the <u>Free Food Vouchers page</u>.

Notes to Editor

Contact us at <u>communications@buckinghamshire.gov.uk</u> during office hours. For urgent out of hours enquiries, please call 07825 430978 (Mon – Weds), 07773 005835 (Thurs – Fri) or 07834 678905 (Sat – Sun).

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