

**Press release**

## **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PROVIDES FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS DURING HALF-TERM BREAK**

Northamptonshire County Council has announced it is providing free school meal vouchers to children in the county who qualify for free school meals, during the half-term break.

This is being funded using the money received from central government and provided to NCC for COVID-19-related costs, which includes support for children.

Distribution of the vouchers will only be made to families who have previously applied and have been deemed eligible for free school meals.

### **How does the scheme work?**

The scheme is being delivered using an online platform, which will distribute the vouchers directly to the email addresses of eligible parents. The email will appear in parents' inboxes as a message from Northamptonshire County Council.

Those who are eligible but do not receive this email should visit the Northamptonshire County Council website and complete the eligibility form available as directed.

### **Where can the vouchers be used?**

The vouchers can be used in the following shops:

- Tesco
- Asda
- Morrisons
- Sainsbury's
- Waitrose
- Marks & Spencer
- Aldi
- McColl's

### **How many children in the county qualify for free school meals?**

17,001 children qualify for free school meals in Northamptonshire.

### **How much will the support over half term cost NCC?**

The total cost of the voucher support is £255,015 – this equates to £15 per child, per voucher.

**Where do parents go for more information?**

Further information can be found on the [NCC website here](#).

Councillor Matt Golby, Leader of Northamptonshire County Council, said: “We have always put the support for vulnerable people, especially children, at the heart of what we do at the County Council.

“I am delighted that the NCC Cabinet has agreed to provide free school meal vouchers, using some of the funding the government provided to us.”

Cllr Fiona Baker, cabinet member for Children’s, Families and Education at Northamptonshire County Council, said: “I’m delighted that this decision has been reached in order to support our children and their families who access free school meals this half term.

“We will continue to work closely with schools during this pandemic to ensure that the needs of the vulnerable children in our county are understood.”

**ENDS**