

# Newsletter



14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear families,

It's been another action packed week at Place Farm to end the half term with. We have celebrated NSPCC number day today with children attending school in clothes that represent numbers and taking part in a variety of number based activities in class.

On Thursday, our year 5 and 6 children had the opportunity to meet famous children's author and poet, Michael Rosen. The children listened attentively as Michael told them stories and poems that involved lots of audience participation and actions. The children then had the opportunity to have books signed by Michael Rosen. Please see some further images in this newsletter.



With half term next week, just a reminder that there are a range of local activity clubs taking place during the week, which are advertised at the end of the newsletter.



In this weeks newsletter, we have added a link to a new NHS website that provides online courses to support parents and families with mental health and wellbeing.



Also just a reminder that our new Facebook page, that was shared last week, can be found by following this link: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61570369205221>

Wishing you a lovely and restful half term break and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February,

Mrs McConnell

## Upcoming dates:

### February

**Mon 17<sup>th</sup> – Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Feb is half term**

Thur 27<sup>th</sup> Feb: 4KM Reading Café 9:00-9:30

### March

Thur 6<sup>th</sup> Mar: 4RG Reading Café 9:00-9:30  
World Book Day

Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Mar: Year 3 Trip to Cinema

Thur 13<sup>th</sup> Mar: 5JG Reading Café 9:00-9:30

Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Mar: Red Nose Day

Thur 20<sup>th</sup> Mar: 6SL Reading Café 9:00-9:30

Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Mar: Parents evening (further information to follow)

Tues 25<sup>th</sup> Mar: Parents evening (further information to follow)

Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Mar: Y5 Trip to Cambridge Museums

Thur 27<sup>th</sup> Mar: 6EJ Reading Café 9:00-9:30

Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Mar: Y4 Trip to West Stow

### April

Thur 3<sup>rd</sup> Apr: 5ML Reading Café 9:00-9:30

Y6 Visit to Mosque

Spring term discos (further information to follow)

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April: School term ends**

**Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> April: New school term begins**

Thur 24<sup>th</sup> April: 2LA Reading Café 9:00-9:30

### May

Thur 1<sup>st</sup> May: 2LP and Rainbow Reading Café 9:00-9:30

Thur 8<sup>th</sup> May: 1ED and 1ES Reading Café 9:00-9:30

Mon 12<sup>th</sup> May: Y6 SATS week (Mon-Thurs)

Thur 22<sup>nd</sup> May: Class photos

**Mon 26<sup>th</sup> – Fri 30<sup>th</sup> May is half term**

### June

Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> Jun: EYFS Trip to Boydells Farm

Thur 5<sup>th</sup> Jun: 0AP and 0CS Reading Café 9:00-9:30

Thur 12<sup>th</sup> Jun: 3SA and 6EJ Reading Café 9:00-9:30

Thur 19<sup>th</sup> Jun: Y5 Kip on a ship residential trip (until Fri 20<sup>th</sup> June)

3KM and 6SL Reading Café 9:00-9:30

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Jun: Sports Days this week (further information to follow)

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Jun: PD day (school closed to all)**

### July

Thur 3<sup>rd</sup> Jul: 4RG and 4KM Reading Café 9:00-9:30

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Jul: Y6 residential trip (Wed – Fri)

Thur 10<sup>th</sup> Jul: 5JG and 5ML Reading Café 9:00-9:30

Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Jul: Reports sent home

Tue 15<sup>th</sup> Jul: Y6 Graduation

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Jul: Transition days (Wed-Fri)

**Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Jul: Start of summer holidays**

## **Tesco Stronger Start Grant**

An application that we made to Tesco for funding the development of our outdoor learning provision was successful and from next week there will be the option to vote for our school to receive the funding. If you shop at Tesco, and you get given the blue plastic tokens, could you please put these in the box with our school information on which will say:

Place Farm Primary Academy  
Outdoor Learning Enhancement  
Haverhill

The grant will be used in an after-school club to create new wildlife habitats around our school site. This will enhance science learning that takes place inside the classroom.

## **Water Bottles**

We kindly ask that children bring in plastic water bottles, rather than the metal versions. This is for health and safety reasons to avoid injuries related to any knocks or drops. Thank you for your support with this! 😊

## **SEND Parent Padlet:**

<https://padlet.com/lkidd11/parenting-padlet-hgdrprcnhl3ene5>

Please use this link to have an explore of our new SEND Parent Padlet, which contains lots of information resources and links to provide you with support and advice. There are links to local groups, SEND resources and parenting tips.

## **NHS courses to support emotional health and wellbeing**

The NHS have a website called 'inourplace' which provides online learning courses for parents and families to support with emotional health and wellbeing. Please see below for the link to this:

<https://inourplace.co.uk/>



**Welcome to your place for  
emotional health and wellbeing**

# Celebration Assembly



Congratulations to everyone who received a certificate in celebration assembly this week.

We had lots of children receiving their coloured certificates today as well as some PROUD certificates.



We also had several children who were celebrated for their achievements from outside of school.

The AR Word count champions for this week were 5ML, the AR Quiz champions for this week were 3SA and the most improved readers were 3SA.



We are also continuing to celebrate maths achievements on tt rockstars. This term, we are presenting certificates to the child in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 who achieved the most coins in their year group, as well as certificates for the three children who had the biggest increase in their times table recall speed.



Times table knowledge and fluency are so important in many areas of maths. Please continue to encourage your children to use tt rockstars at home. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

## **Attendance**

In celebration assembly each week, we also celebrate the classes with the best attendance of the previous week. Attendance is vitally important to a child's success both in school and in later life.

In 3<sup>rd</sup> place we had OCS with 97%  
In 2<sup>nd</sup> place we had OAP with 99.23%  
In 1<sup>st</sup> place we had 3KM with 99.29%

Whole school attendance was 94.9%

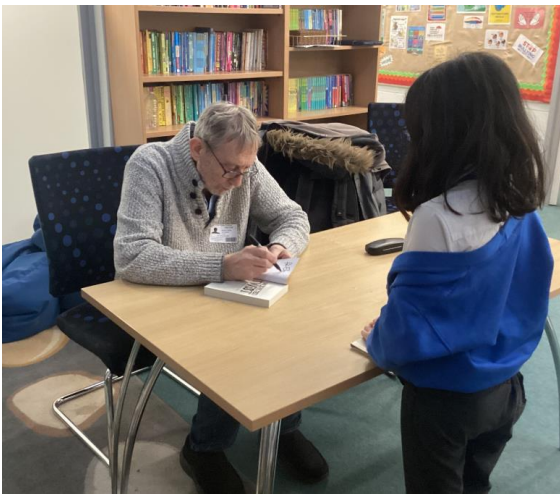


## Year 5 and 6 Michael Rosen Visit



On Thursday afternoon, Years 5 and 6 visited Coupals Primary Academy to meet famous author and poet Michael Rosen.

The children listened to stories and poems by Michael Rosen. He also talked through how he comes up with his ideas for these. The children spent a large part of the afternoon laughing, smiling and joining in with Michael Rosen's humorous style of presenting.



Pupils then had the opportunity to get books signed by Michael Rosen.



# Art Festival

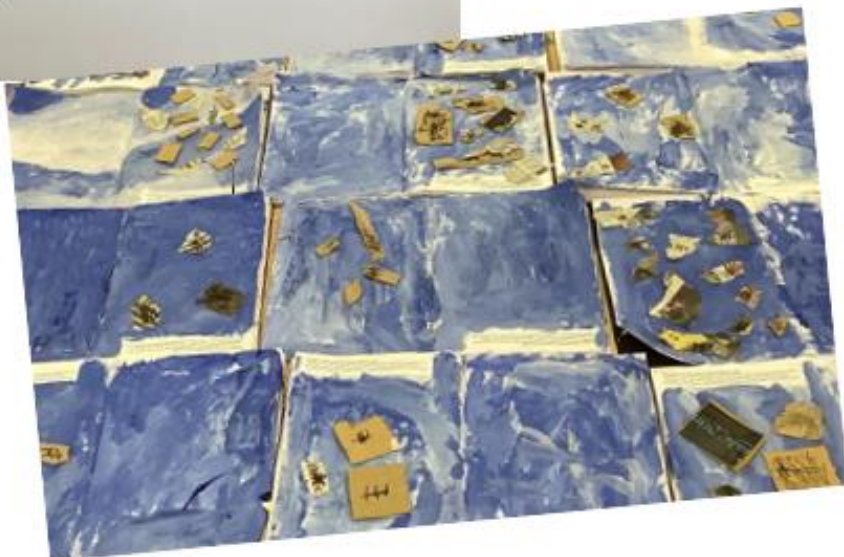
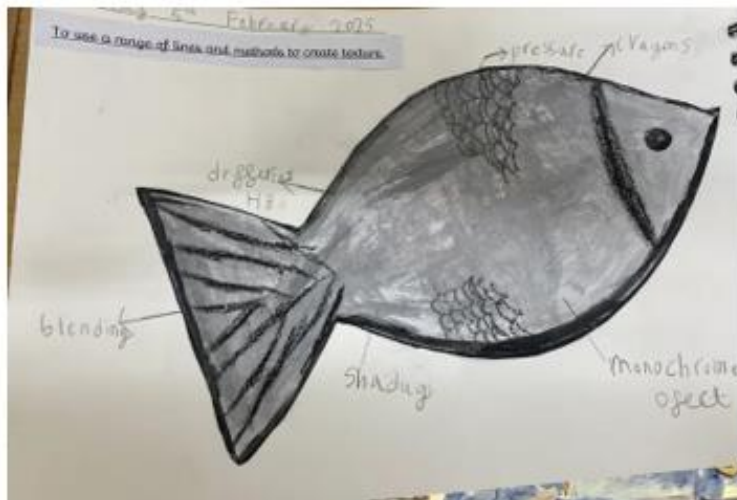
Last week was the yearly Art Festival!  
This year's theme was ... **belonging!**

The children engaged in a range of activities and artistic experiences such as; digital art, recorded workshops, creative response and, online exhibition tours.

The children have created some amazing pieces and it has been lovely to hear the children speak so positively about this week!

Within their creative response the children all produced a fish which will be used in a collaborative, whole school display.

Please see below some images of the children's Art work from this week.





# NSPCC Rocks Competition



As part of the NSPCC Number Day, we took part in a special TT rockstars competition last Friday. Please see pictures for the winning classes and individuals.



# Wildlife Club Winter Roundup



Recently, the children have been looking at what happens to UK wildlife in the winter, different habitats and learning how to recognise common UK birds by song, appearance and flight pattern. They have recorded data for the RSPB Birdwatch 2025 and completed a site survey of the School's urban habitat, including thinking about how we could improve the site and create micro-habitats. We had fun making 'Help the Environment' posters, bird feeders and mini rafts out of natural materials found on the field. We are looking forward to the spring and summer months when the lighter evenings mean we can get outside for longer!





# Teacher Training Opportunity



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE of Teaching**

**Initial Teacher Training Information Webinar**

Wednesday 5th February  
6pm-6:45pm

Book your place today

**Online ITT Information Webinar**  
Wednesday 5th February 2025  
18:00 - 18:45  
Microsoft Teams

Join our online information webinar to learn more about our ITT programme at the National Institute of Teaching. This 45-minute webinar will cover:

- What is the National Institute of Teaching?
- The benefits of joining our ITT programme
- The nuts and bolts: finance options, full and part time training, accreditation, support structures, and a range of additional information to ensure you're well-informed on our provision
- Our application process

[Book your place](#)

*Are you interested in training to be a teacher? **Unity Schools Partnership** are an associate college of the National Institute of Teaching and will deliver Initial Teacher Training from July 2025. We are keen to recruit members of our communities to become teachers in our schools. If you are interested, please click on 'Book your place' on the flyer and register for the webinar on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 6pm- 6.45pm. Alternatively, you can apply directly [Find courses by location or by training provider - Find teacher training courses - GOV.UK](#) using the search function to look for your preferred location.*

# World Book Day – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

**Thursday 6 March**

**WORLD  
BOOK DAY**

This year, children can come to school dressed as a **character from their favourite book**. Please find some easy costume ideas below.

If your child does not want to dress up, please send them to school in their usual school uniform.

We would like every child to bring in their favourite book so they can share it in class.



WORLD BOOK DAY

# STORY IN A BOX COMPETITION

Create your own story scene in a box this world book day! We are inviting the children to use a shoe box to create any story scene of their choice. Please bring this in on World Book Day.

THERE WILL  
BE ONE  
WINNER PER  
YEAR GROUP!

**THURSDAY 6TH  
MARCH 2025**

PLACE FARM PRIMARY ACADEMY



# February Half-Term Prestige Sports Activities

Dear Parents/Carers,

Are you looking for stress-free childcare this February Half term? Prestige Sports have got you covered!

Our Holiday Camps provide a range of enriching experiences and exciting activities! From Super Sports to Creative Crafts, we are your local Activity Crusaders!

Book your slice of the fun at [www.prestigesportsdevelopment.com/mega-activity-holiday-camps](http://www.prestigesportsdevelopment.com/mega-activity-holiday-camps)

It's Half Term next week. If you're looking for entertaining and enriching activities for your children or need childcare during the half term, Prestige Sports Development are running their Mega Activity Camps & Football Camps. They are designed to cater for a huge range of interests. Each camp has an energy zone and a chill out zone with plenty of activities to choose from. From Super Sports & Adventure Action to Arts & Crafts & STEM!

This half term you can find the Prestige Camp at Samuel Ward Sports Dome, Haverhill.

They accept TaxFree Childcare Payment and Childcare Vouchers.

For anymore information or to contact them, please email [bookings@prestigesportsdevelopment.co.uk](mailto:bookings@prestigesportsdevelopment.co.uk)

Kind Regards  
Dan



**DAN PENFOLD**  
Operations Manager

- 07881 308250
- [www.prestigesportsdevelopment.com](http://www.prestigesportsdevelopment.com)
- [d.penfold@prestigesportsdevelopment.co.uk](mailto:d.penfold@prestigesportsdevelopment.co.uk)
- The New Croft, Chalkstone Way, Haverhill

**SCAN HERE TO FIND OUT MORE OR BOOK!**

**FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUBS!**

- Haverhill
- Linton
- Sudbury
- Soham
- Ickworth Park
- Radwinter/Great Easton
- Stetchworth
- Great Yeldham

10% EARLY BIRD UP TO 17th JAN CODE: FEB25

Ofsted

Awesome multi-activity experiences for every child!  
For boys & girls aged 5-12.

9am-3.30pm £22.50  
Early Drop Off 8.15am £2.50

**\*\*Late Pick Available at some venues**

- Whats involved? We offer all sorts of activities from multi sports such as Dodgeball and Football, Nerf, Laser Tag, Arts & Crafts, Lego Boards, Rock Painting & more!

Visit our website to book.

[prestige.sports@gmx.com](mailto:prestige.sports@gmx.com) 07494002352

[www.prestigesportsdevelopment.com](http://www.prestigesportsdevelopment.com)

**FEBRUARY HOLIDAY CAMPS**

Half Term

- Sudbury
- Soham
- Ickworth Park
- Haverhill
- Linton
- Stetchworth
- Radwinter/Gt Easton
- Great Yeldham

Need Help? [bookings@prestigesportsdevelopment.co.uk](mailto:bookings@prestigesportsdevelopment.co.uk) 07494002352

# Abbeycroft Leisure Activities

## Schools in West Suffolk

January is almost over and we are taking bookings for February Half Term! Please could you share this information with the appropriate families that you work with. These are all **free sessions are aimed at those pupils receiving means tested free school meals.**

- **Family Park Cooking** - A great family day out including campfires, marshmallows and cooking a hearty lunch. Each family will also receive ingredients for a weeks' worth of meals to take home.
- **Adventure Days** - Action Packed Adventure Day including a breakfast, lunch and snacks.
- **Swimming and Lunch** - Free swimming and a lunch for families.
- **Soft Play and Lunch** - Free Soft Play and a lunch for families (Kingfisher only)

All the information including how to book is on the attached pdf letter and mini 'fliers' that you can share with your parents.

If anyone has questions they can also:

- email [HAF@acleisure.com](mailto:HAF@acleisure.com)
- Visit [www.abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF](http://www.abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF)
- Call 01284 757495 and leave a name and number for a call back

Everything else families need to know (including eligibility and booking) is on the attached email letter and 'fliers' but for your ease there is also a brief summary and local dates below. These sessions are extremely popular, spaces are limited and are allocated on a first come first served basis so your help sharing the message soon will give your families the best chance of participating.

**To book visit: [www.abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF](http://www.abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF)**

## **Adventure Days (8.30am – 4.30pm to help working parents – breakfast lunch and snacks provided)**

- A full day of indoor and outdoor adventures (8:30am-4:30pm)
- Activities include team games, fire-lighting, axe throwing, archery, swimming and loads more!
- Breakfast and Lunch included

Session	Age	Locality	Town	Venue	Dates	Dates with Additional SEND Support
Adventure Days	8-12 yrs.	West Suffolk	Bury (Mortenhall)	Moreton Hall Community Centre	21st Feb	n/a
Adventure Days	8-12 yrs.	West Suffolk	Haverhill	Haverhill Leisure Centre	17th & 18th Feb	n/a
Adventure Days	8-12 yrs.	BMSDC	Sudbury	Sudbury Scout Hut	19th Feb	19th Feb
Adventure Days	8-12 yrs.	BMSDC	Stowmarket	1st Combs scouts	20th & 21st Feb	n/a

*SEND support – On these days we provide an extra instructor increasing our ratio from 1:10 to 1:5 to provide a little extra support to those that need it.*

*Children will still be expected to be independent and manage their own behaviour and interactions with other children as set out in our behavioural policy.*

## **Family Park Cooking Days (Children aged 5-16 years with their parents/carers)** (Younger siblings can attend)

- A full day out for the family (10am-2pm)
- Take part in a cooking master class
- Take home all the ingredients for a Christmas Dinner and Boxing Day Lunch
- All locations have indoor or covered areas

Session	Age	Locality	Town	Venue	Dates
Family Park Cooking	5 +	West Suffolk	Bury	Bury Scout Hut	17th, 18th, 19th & 20th Feb
Family Park Cooking	5 +	West Suffolk	Newmarket	Jarman Centre	17th & 18th Feb
Family Park Cooking	5 +	West Suffolk	Haverhill	East Town Park	19th & 20th Feb
Family Park Cooking	5 +	West Suffolk	Beccles	Ringfield Village Hall	21st Feb
Family Park Cooking	5 +	West Suffolk	Lowestoft	4th Lowestoft Scouts	20th Feb
Family Park Cooking	5 +	BMSDC	Hadleigh	Hadleigh Scout Hut	19th Feb
Family Park Cooking	5 +	Ipswich	Ipswich	IP1	17th Feb
Family Park Cooking	5 +	Ipswich	Ipswich	IP2	18th Feb
Family Park Cooking	5 +	Ipswich	Ipswich	IP10	20th Feb
Family Park Cooking	5 +	Ipswich	Ipswich	IP4	19th Feb
Family Park Cooking	5 +	BMSDC	Stowmarket	1st Combs Scouts	17th & 18th Feb
Family Park Cooking	5 +	BMSDC	Sudbury	Sudbury Scout Hut	20th & 21st Feb
Family Park Cooking	5 +	East Suffolk	Felixstowe	Ferry Centre	21st Feb

To book visit: [www.abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF](http://www.abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF)

### Free Swim / Soft Play and Lunch (ages 5+)

Abbeycroft is offering free swim and lunch to eligible children from 5-16 years old. (Younger siblings can attend)

Tickets are available for children and parents.

Please note Kingfisher Leisure Centre is offering Soft Play and Lunch instead of swimming

Session	Age	Locality	Town	Venue	Dates	Notes
Free SoftPlay + Lunch	5+11 yrs	BMSDC	Sudbury	Kingfisher Leisure Centre	17th-21st Feb	n/a
Free Swim + Lunch	5 +	BMSDC	Hadleigh	Hadleigh Pool and Leisure Centre	17th-21st Feb	n/a
Free Swim	5 +	West Suffolk	Bury	Bury Leisure Centre	17th-21st Feb	For Bury Residents Only
Free Water Polo	6=15 yrs	West Suffolk	Bury	Bury Leisure Centre	17th-21st Feb	For Bury Residents Only

To book visit: [www.abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF](http://www.abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF)



**ADVENTURE DAYS**  
AGES 8-12 YEARS

17th - 23rd February  
\*subject dates apply  
08:30-16:30

Come to life in the great outdoors this February Half-term and enjoy fire lighting and cooking in the wild, Archery, axe throwing and swimming, and much more.

With our Adventure Days happening across Babergh, Mid and west Suffolk, your child has the chance to unlock their inner explorer whilst fitting around your working hours.  
Breakfast, lunch and snacks provided!

\*Free for those eligible for free school meals or meet Suffolk Country Council eligibility criteria

[abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF](http://abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF)

**FREE\***  
BOOK NOW




Let's Love Life



**FAMILY PARK COOKING**

17th - 23rd February  
Across Suffolk  
10:00-15:00  
\*subject dates apply

Parents and children take part in an amazing family day out with a wide range of activities including an outdoor cooking master class where you will cook a delicious lunch together.

Every family that attend will take home all of the ingredients and recipe cards for a weeks' worth of meals.

\*Free for those eligible for free school meals or meet Suffolk Country Council eligibility criteria

[abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF](http://abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF)

**FREE\***  
BOOK NOW




Let's Love Life



**HALF TERM STARTS WITH ABBEYCROFT**

From action-packed Adventure Days, to fun Valentine's pool parties & Wicked themed dance parties, we've got all that it takes to keep children entertained this February half term.

- 🎉 Dance Party
- 🎉 Petting Zoo
- 🎉 Soft Play
- 🎉 XHeight
- 🎉 Swimming
- 🎉 Bouncy Castle
- 🎉 Valentines Pool Parties
- 🎉 Magic Show
- 🎉 Explore Outdoor
- 🎉 Racquet Sports

**Book Now - [abbeycroft.org.uk](http://abbeycroft.org.uk) or via our app**

\*Not all activities are available at every site



Let's Love Life

January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

**Important information regarding Household Support Fund discretionary grant**

Suffolk County Council (SCC) is pleased to confirm that the Government announced a further six-month extension to the Household Support Fund from September 2024 to March 2025.

We can confirm that funds have been made available for SCC to extend the support previously provided to low-income families in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) over the **February half term and Easter holidays 2025**. There is currently no information on the level of funding that will be available for May 2025 – March 2026.

The grant will be issued as a **£45** supermarket voucher for each eligible child from our provider **Pluxee** to cover both the February half term (£15) and Easter holidays (£30) and is designed to help families with their essential living costs during the holiday.

To ensure that SCC meets the reporting requirements of the Household Support Fund, you will need to redeem all vouchers by **Friday 11 April 2025**. Voucher redemption after this date will not be possible as the fund for 2024/25 will be closed.

As with previous issues of vouchers, the SCC Free School Meals (FSM) team will place the voucher order using the information provided by your child's school. Please ensure that your child's school holds the most up to date contact information for you, so that the voucher is sent to the correct recipient.

If the school has previously printed the vouchers on your behalf, then this arrangement will continue, or you can ask for the voucher to be sent via text message to your mobile phone number. **Please inform your school if you wish to receive the vouchers via text message, if you have previously been unable to receive them via email.**

We aim to have all vouchers sent to recipients by **Thursday 13 February 2024**. If you have **not received the vouchers by this date** or in the event of any queries regarding the vouchers, then please contact our team at [freeschoolmeals@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@suffolk.gov.uk), rather than speaking to the school directly.

Please note, that if you have children who attend different Suffolk schools, you may receive your vouchers at separate times before the start of the school holiday.

Please look out for an email from [noreponse@vouchers.pluxee.uk](mailto:noreponse@vouchers.pluxee.uk), and please also check junk and spam folders before contacting us directly.

**Please can we remind you that all vouchers will have a 2-month expiry date to be redeemed. Once redeemed, the expiry conditions of your chosen supermarket will apply, and you will have a minimum of 12 months to use the voucher. We urge you to contact our team as soon as possible if you encounter any issues redeeming your voucher as we will not be able to access the funding once it has closed and vouchers have expired.**

We hope that this discretionary grant goes some way to help in supporting your family during the school holiday, whether buying food or freeing up some income to go towards energy and water bills or other essential living costs.

If you are financially struggling and require additional support, further information can be found at: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/healthier/cost-of-living-support/](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/healthier/cost-of-living-support/).

Yours faithfully



**Lucy Nicholas (she/her)**

**Resource Manager (Admissions and School Travel)**

Education, Skills and Learning

Directorate of Children and Young People

Suffolk County Council