



16th October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Free School Meals updates: ParentPay, Breakfast Club, Essex Activate Half Term Club, ICT support, Winter supermarket vouchers & free local family learning with ACL Essex

As we settle into our academic year 2025/26, we would like to share some updates for families of children eligible for free school meals.

Free school meals allowance on ParentPay

The current free school meal daily allowance amount of £2.58 is credited to your child's lunch account each day. Any charges to their account that accrue are therefore as a result of them exceeding this amount. As an example, should your child spend a total amount of £3.00 in a day, £2.58 of this would be covered by their free school meal allowance and ParentPay would therefore show a charge of £0.42, being the extra amount spent. In these circumstances, you would then need to add funds to your account to cover the additional expenditure.

To access a statement itemising food and beverage items purchased by your child, login to the homepage of your ParentPay account, click on 'Transaction History', followed by 'Payment History'.

Please note that if your child does not use their daily free school meal allowance, this does not accrue as a credit balance on the account.

Should you wish to set a daily spending limit on your child's cashless catering card, you may do so by emailing this request to kfrid@honywoodschool.com

Supporting you - ICT support available

Should you require any support with ParentPay, please contact Mrs Zanatta in the School Office by phone (01376 561231) or by emailing lzanatta@honywoodschool.com. Appointments can also be arranged for face-to-face support if preferred.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club was successfully trialled last year and is now available to all. It will run in the Main Hall (MH1) from 8.15am - 8.45am and give learners the chance to have breakfast if they have not been able to at home. There will be a basic selection of cereal, toast and squash on offer free of charge. The breakfast club is open to all, so if you feel that your child would benefit from this provision, please do encourage them to attend. However, please be aware that whilst we feel passionate about providing our learners with this provision at Honywood, the financial longevity is reviewed at the end

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of each term, so please do encourage your children to take advantage of the provision whilst it is available.

Essex ActivAte Half term Club

Eligible children can book onto free activity clubs during half term. This is a provision offered by Active Essex on behalf of Essex County Council.

[The Essex Activate holiday club](#) scheme is running again during the October Half Term for young people who are eligible for benefits based free school meals and working families. Bookings are now live.

Please note: You will not receive a WONDE e-voucher from your school to book your child onto a half term club. You will need to book your child/ren onto a club through the Essex ActivAte website.

Simply select your area and find what clubs are available, then book your child/ren onto a club.

You will not receive a voucher from the school for this; families are required to book directly through the [Essex ActivAte website](#). Please see flyer from the Local Authority accompanying this letter for further details and the link to make a booking.

Wonde Winter supermarket Vouchers

We have been advised that the Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund will be providing the families of eligible free school meals children with a one-off £50 supermarket voucher. This will be issued on Monday 3rd November, when you will receive the voucher by email from EVouchers. If you have any queries regarding a voucher, you should contact EVouchers directly on support@evouchers.com.

Community & Family Learning - ACL Essex

Essex County Council have shared information with us regarding free interactive courses offered by ACL Essex to support parents, grandparents and carers with their family's journey, including wellbeing art, maths fun and family games. Some courses are online whilst others take place at local venues. Find out more and enrol online by visiting their website: -

<https://aclessex.com/courses/community-family-learning/>

Yours faithfully,

Mr D Scott
Associate Assistant Headteacher
PPG and Interventions

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