



# Townsend Primary School

Townsend Street, London SE17 1HJ

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7<sup>th</sup> July 2021

## Summer Break 2021 No Food Vouchers

Dear Parents and Carers

We have received confirmation that food vouchers will not be distributed over the summer break.

Southwark Council has provided a list of summer holiday support and activities, and asked that we share this information with you, which we hope you will find useful.

*You will receive an email copy of this letter to make it easier to click on the links.*

1. **The Summer of Food and Fun** is running summer holiday programmes at over 30 centres in the borough for children up to age 16, including those with special educational needs. The programmes including free food, activities and “take and make” boxes for family cooking at home. [www.southwark.gov.uk/foodandfun](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/foodandfun) - **Book early to secure a place!**
2. **The Community Hub** is a first point of call if your family is in any kind of crisis. The Hub can help with emergency foodbank referrals. Call 020 7525 5000 and choose option 3 (lines are open 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri, with out of hours support). [covidsupport@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:covidsupport@southwark.gov.uk)

Although set up initially to deal with help during lockdown, the Hub is for all sorts of support and your problem does not need to be connected to the Pandemic.

3. **Southwark Emergency Support Scheme (SESS) and Hardship Fund**  
SESS can help you if you're a Southwark resident who is facing a crisis, emergency or disaster and needs help. [The scheme will provide food vouchers, or help with your bills,](#) rather than cash support.

If you're struggling to afford your household bills and food, Southwark Hardship Fund provides [help for people in debt with household bills, such as gas, electricity and water, rent and Council Tax arrears](#). This help could mean you have more money left to buy food.

4. **The Southwark Food Action Alliance (SFAA) [website](#)**. SFAA is a collection of over 90 local organisations who all help with food – whether it's foodbanks, tips on getting cheaper food, cookery skills and recipes and where to go for wider support.

The site also includes: [A map to find your nearest growing projects](#), [A map to find local food help](#). As venues and projects can change frequently, do call or email before visiting.

## **5. Healthy Start Vouchers - Use vouchers to help put more healthy food on the table for your family for free.**

Families and pregnant women in Southwark can benefit from two different kinds of vouchers. Used together they are worth over £8 per week per child.

The [Healthy Start](#) vouchers are for low-income pregnant women and families with children age 0-4. Co-op, Iceland and Sainsburys are all topping up the voucher until the end of August by giving at least £1 of extra help for each voucher used.

Full details of how these three chains will stretch the value of your voucher are <https://endchildfoodpoverty.org/healthy-start>

Healthy Start vouchers can also be used at the Peckham Pantry – a low-cost supermarket where families will receive more for their vouchers than they would at a regular store, as well as at certain stalls in East Street market.

[Rose Vouchers](#) are for low-income pregnant women and families in the SE1, SE5, SE15 and SE17 areas. Children qualify from birth until they start at reception. Older siblings at primary school also qualify for the vouchers, as long as they have a younger sibling receiving the vouchers.

## **6. More affordable shopping at The Pantry**

[The Pantry](#) is an affordable supermarket for those on low incomes. Members pay £4.50 each time they shop and in return receive around £15 of groceries.

## **7. Help the environment by using surplus food (Community Fridges and Olio)**

Community Fridges are centres where food businesses and neighbours leave good food that they would otherwise throw out. Anyone can bring food to a fridge, anyone can take food away. No questions asked. Making use out of food that would otherwise end up in landfill is also a great way to help the planet! There are nearby fridges in Camberwell, Walworth, Borough, Brixton and Waterloo. Use this [map](#) for more information.

Sharing app [Olio](#) is a place where neighbours and food businesses can list good food within date that they do not want. You make a private arrangement to collect the food.

## **8. Get inspired with cheap, easy-to-make recipes**

Cheap family recipes by footballer [Marcus Rashford and Chef Tom Kerridge](#)

Cooking videos, recipes and resources on our local [SFAA website](#), with input from all over the world to suit our diverse borough.

We hope you feel supported and that you will access some of the opportunities above.

Have a lovely summer break and look forward to returning to a more normal school life in September 2021!



Anne Stonell  
**Headteacher**