

4th November 2021

Department: Slough Early Years Service
Contact Name: Dayo Williams
Contact No: 07749 710114
Email: dayo.williams@slough.gov.uk
Our Ref: HAFWINTER2021

Send to: Primary Heads
Secondary Heads
Business Mangers

Dear Headteacher/ Business Manager

Re: Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2021

Following the success of the summer Holiday Activities and Food Programme, I wanted to write to you to share with you some highlights from the summer programme and also bring you up to date on our plans for the Winter programme and how you and your school can get involved.

The DfE grant funding to local authorities has given us the opportunity to coordinate free holiday provision, including healthy food and enriching activities, for children who receive benefits-related free school meals (FSM). It will of course be optional for eligible children to attend this provision if they wish.

We would like to start by thanking

- St Mary's Church of England Primary School
- Claycots School, Town Hall Campus
- Priory School

for opening up their schools to the HAF programme and Providers. These were successful provisions with over 60 children attending daily, enjoying the facilities and the creative activities laid out by the Providers. It was noted that when food was prepared where the children could see it and eat in the hall they tended to eat more and were open to different tastes and textures.

We have a current list of Providers offering various activities ranging from: music workshops, holiday clubs, sporting activities, creative arts and crafts and dance and drama. These Providers are working creatively to provide long lasting experiences for the children and building memories whereby the children engage and experience activities. Children from disadvantaged families are less likely to access organised out-of-school activities so providing enriching activities during the holiday time helps them broaden their outlook and future aspirations. We have been approached by these Providers who want to extend the provisions to other schools.

Christmas and the winter months are difficult periods for families with the extra costs involved for food and the heating bills, issues of isolation and of course not everybody has the best time over the festive period. We want to use the HAF programme to alleviate this difficulty and spread some cheer to the children by at least providing some festive activities and a **hot meal**.

There are various ways you and your schools can support the programme which is 4 hours a day for 4 days during the Christmas holidays at **no cost to the school**.

A. **Offer a full Holiday Activities and food Programme** – This is 4 hours a day, 4 days during the Christmas holidays.

- B. **Offer of your venue-** We have various providers who want to run HAF Programmes but are unable to secure a venue to run the activities from.
- C. **Offer of your catering facilities** – A major component of the HAF Programme is ensuring the children are provided a healthy meal during the 4-hour programme. For this we need a school sized kitchen. **HAF funding will of course cover the cost of the food provision**
- D. **Promotion of the programme to all families eligible for free school meals-** We would issue out school specific codes for the Winter Programme.

Benefits to the school could include

- Improved attendance
- Improved mental health of the children

If you currently have plans to have a holiday programme, the HAF funding could help cover the cost of a provision to support SEND children as well as children eligible for free school meals whilst at the same time admitting those who can pay to attend.

There is an application process for this should you wish to go for a HAF programme. Alternatively, you could support in kind with your venue and use of the kitchen as previously mentioned.

I have also attached a flyer for the winter HAF to be included with your next newsletter to families.

For any further questions regarding the Holiday Activities and Food Programme please contact: Dayo Williams on 07749 710114 or email HAF@slough.gov.uk; subject: Winter HAF

Yours sincerely,

DWilliams

Dayo Williams
On behalf of the multi-agency HAF Steering Group