

28/04/2023

Department: Slough Early Years Service
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Our Ref: #HAF2023

Dear Headteacher/ Business Manager

Re: Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2023

Following the success of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme in 2022, I wanted to write to share with you some highlights from programme. To bring you up to date on our plans for the 2023 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). The children who have participated have enjoyed Arts and Crafts, participated in various sporting activities including fencing and Circus skills. They have learnt about Birds of Prey and fun science experiments to name a few. The Slough Music Service facilitates a club at the Grove School in Chalvey and all the children have learnt about different types of Music. The 2023 theme is African Drums.

Slough HAF supported 1,650 children last year engaging them in fun and enriching activities and a healthy hot meal every day during the school holidays.

We continue to work with some of our schools who have offered their facilities for the programme, and we would like to say a BIG thank you to them for their continued support, opening up their schools to the HAF programme and Providers.

These continue to be our successful provisions with over 200 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 together in the hall, they tended to eat more and were open to different tastes and textures.

We are all aware of the challenges to come from April 2023 with the rising cost of utility bills and the effect this will have on our most vulnerable children in Slough. Some families are already facing difficulties with the extra costs involved for food and the heating bills and of course not everybody has the best time over the holidays. We want to use the HAF programme to alleviate this difficulty and spread some holiday cheer to the children by at least providing some fun activities and a **hot meal**.

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

- A. **School / Kitchen Staff wanting to earn extra money during the holidays** – The financial climate is affecting every facet of the society. School Staff know the children best could run a holiday club or join with a provider during the holidays.

- B. **Offer a full Holiday Activities and food Programme** – This is 4 hours a day for 4 days during the Easter and Christmas holidays and 4 hours a day, 4 days a week for 4 weeks over summer holidays (4-4-4).
- C. **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.
- D. **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 all the cost of the food provision.**
- E. **Promotion of the programme to all families eligible for free school meals-** issuing HAF codes to children from the list generated by the HAF team. We love to attend schools to inform children of the HAF programme during assemblies or attend sports days where we can promote the programme with parents.

Benefits to the school could include

- Improved attendance
- Improved mental health of the children
- Children are safe and not socially isolated

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.

For any further questions regarding the Holiday Activities and Food Programme please contact: Shakir Hussain or email HAF@slough.gov.uk; subject: HAF 2023- Schools

Yours sincerely,



Shakir Hussain

On behalf of the multi-agency HAF Steering Group