**Help for families this winter**

There's support for families where children get means-tested free school meals and other households who are struggling.

The parents of children who receive means-tested free school meals in term time can [apply for a grant of £15 per week](https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-living/household-support-fund) for each eligible child during the school holidays via First Days Children's Charity.  
  
They will get payments automatically just before October half-term, the Christmas two-week holiday and February half-term.  
  
Residents who received vouchers to cover the cost of meals in the school holidays from First Days since April 2023, do not need to apply again. Please do not contact First Days to request a higher amount. Only contact with queries about your payment if you have not received it by the first day of October half-term, the Christmas holidays and February half-term.  
  
Changes to your income mean you may be in this situation needing support for the first time, don't be afraid to come forward for help.

**Cost of Living Help Hub**  
  
All the latest cost of living help and advice for the borough can be found on the [cost of living help hub](https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-living). Key advice and links include:

* Use the [Citizens Advice calculator](https://citizensadvicewokingham.entitledto.co.uk/home/start) to see how to maximise your income
* Use the [Entitled To budget tool](https://budgetnew.entitledto.co.uk/citizensadvicewokingham) to plan your spending
* Get [help with bills](https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-living/help-bills)
* Get [help with food](https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-of-living/help-essentials/help-food)