

**Protect
Care and Invest
to create a
better borough**



-  shaun.davies@telford.gov.uk
-  telford.gov.uk
-  facebook.com /TelfordWrekin
-  twitter.com /TelfordWrekin
-  01952 383004

Date: 23/10/2020

Dear Parent

We are writing to you today to reassure you following headlines you may have seen about the unsuccessful campaign led by footballer Marcus Rashford asking Government to further extend provision of free school meals into the Christmas school holidays.

We want to be clear that Telford & Wrekin Council is already doing what Marcus Rashford was seeking.

We are committed to provide extra support for families eligible for free school meals due to financial circumstances. This is part of our commitment to Protect, Care and Invest in our borough and its residents.

We are doing this because we recognise that, with extra costs such as providing meals, childcare and reduced working hours leading to lower income, school holidays are a real financial challenge for some families. There's growing evidence too that this impacts on the health and wellbeing of some families during the holidays.

That's why due to the extra pressures created by the pandemic, we've set up the following scheme to provide extra support for those who are eligible:

Breakfast packages

Available borough wide, this provides children in Years 3-11 eligible for free school meals with free weekly breakfast parcels covering 5 days a week.

During the summer, this scheme delivered almost 44,000 breakfasts to children in Telford and Wrekin.

We have now extended this to the end of the Christmas holidays and are aiming to extend again through until Easter if possible, working with our partners.

The borough is covered by 11 providers – for more details on who these providers are, how to register and to check which ward you live in please visit www.telford.gov.uk/breakfast

We hope this reassures you that this extra support in the borough will continue. This is on top of the Council's work at the start of lockdown to continue to provide a packed lunch for those in receipt of Free School Meals weeks before any Government support was available.

If you qualify for Free School Meals, you may also qualify for a range of other benefits, and with many people's income being affected by the Pandemic, you can check that you are receiving what you're entitled to at www.telford.gov.uk/coronavirus/support

If you would like to volunteer, get involved or make a donation to help with this scheme, please contact grant.applications@telford.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



Cllr Shaun Davies
Council Leader



Cllr Paul Watling
Cabinet Member for
Cooperative Communities,
Engagement and
Partnerships



Cllr Shirley Reynolds
Cabinet Member for
Children, Young People,
Education and
Lifelong Learning