

Financial support guide:

Summer edition



At RHP, we understand there are times when you may need a little extra financial support. The summer holidays are fantastic for children but can be daunting for parents. This guide features links to local charities and organisations who can help with food costs, activities, and money management.

[Better Off Calculator](#)

A budget is one of the best ways to build up a picture of your finances. With this free calculator you can see what benefits you're eligible for and how much better off you might be in work - if you're not working already.

[Turn2us grants](#)

Charitable organisations across the UK give grants to help people in need. Grants are given to people based on their personal circumstances: for example, a job you've worked at or a health condition you may have.



Crisis and Resilience Fund

The Household Support Fund is a grant you don't need to pay back. You can apply if you're struggling to pay for food, bills, energy costs, and other everyday essentials.

[Richmond](#)

[Hounslow](#)

[Kingston](#)

[Hillingdon](#)

[Spelthorne](#)

Free school meals

If you usually get free school meals, we can support you over the school holidays with a food voucher. Email proof that you're entitled to free school meals to

customer.services@rhp.org.uk, putting 'Welfare Summer Holidays Support' in the subject line, and we'll be in touch. For information on what school support is available from your council, see the section on your local area.

If you don't currently get free school meals but receive benefits like Income Support or Universal Credit, you can check if you're eligible [here](#).

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll also qualify for the Holiday Activity and Food Programme. Food vouchers may also be available through the Household Support Fund. Find out more by contacting your local council.

[Summer holiday activity ideas](#)

Looking to make your days out more exciting? WhereCanWeGo is a great guide to discovering what's on around your area.

[Moneysaving Expert](#)

Information on free activities to keep children entertained, and 'kids eat free' restaurant deals.

Ideas for free activities

- Take a picnic to Bushy or Richmond Park and enjoy your local town without breaking the bank. Bring bikes, scooter and skates for extra fun!
- Visit your local garden center.
- Feed the ducks.
- Visit the playgrounds.
- Stay home, watch your favourite movie and make homemade pizzas.
- Bring out your craft skills and make something spectacular.
- Check out [Pets at Home's workshops](#).
- Research your local community centres and libraries for free activities.



Budget days out for those receiving benefits

[Tower of London, Hampton Court and Kensington Palace for £1](#)

[Visit RHS gardens for £1](#)

[Discount entry to the London Transport Museum](#)

[Visit Tate exhibitions for £5](#)

[Visit Wakehurst and Kew Gardens for £1](#)

[Visit the Cartoon Museum for £3](#)

[Free entry to exhibitions at the V&A](#)

[Visit Westminster Abbey for £1](#): These tickets aren't bookable online. Present your Universal Credit letter on arrival.

Help with holiday costs

[Family Holiday Charity](#)

[Other support with holiday costs](#)

Richmond

[Local Assistance Scheme](#)

The Local Assistance Scheme provides payments to help residents who have nowhere else to turn in difficult circumstances.

[Hampton Fund](#)

Supports residents in TW1, TW11, TW12 and TW2 with a grant to help with the costs of gas and electricity, and money towards school trips.

[Richmond Aid](#)

Offers debt management, Welfare benefits and help with appeals.

[Richmond Furniture Scheme](#)

A local charity offering affordable, accessible furniture.

[Heatham House](#)

Heatham House is a youth centre in the heart of Twickenham with a packed weekly programme of sessions for young people in primary school year 5, up to the age of 19.

[Achieving for children under](#)

Hillingdon

[Citizens Advice](#)

Giving people the knowledge and confidence they need to find their way forward - whoever they are, and whatever their problem.

[Summer activity program](#)

Begin booking activities from Monday 29 June 2026 and include a range of fun sessions, including creative arts, sports and games.

[Hillingdon foodbank](#)

The Hillingdon Foodbank provides short term and emergency food to families in the borough going through difficult times and crises.



Hounslow

[Check your eligibility for housing benefits](#)

[Isleworth & Hounslow Charity](#)

Offers grants up to £300 to local residents.

[Hounslow Foodbox](#)

Providing emergency food, support and advice.

[Foodbank Hounslow](#)

The Foodbanks at Hope Church Hounslow support local individuals and families who find themselves in financial difficulty by providing them with a food parcel, including the basic essentials.

[Holiday Activities Programme](#)

The Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) provides grant funding to local authorities. The Local authority then coordinates free holiday activities for eligible children. HAF is for school-aged children from reception to year 11 (inclusive) who receive benefits-related free school meals.

[What's on this summer](#)

Free summer activities in and around Hounslow.

Kingston

[Kingston Foodbank](#)

Part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.

[Citizens Advice](#)

Giving people the knowledge and confidence they need to find their way forward - whoever they are, and whatever their problem.

[Benefits advice & support](#)

If you're having trouble paying bills or dealing with credit cards and loans, you can get help to manage your money.

[Achieving for children under](#)

[FUEL](#)

FUEL makes free places at holiday clubs available during the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays for young people who receive benefit-related free school meals.

[Kingston heritage events](#)

Kingston has a great selection of activities to keep families with young children entertained throughout the summer holidays.

[Kingston Heritage](#)

View some of the events and activities hosted by Kingston Museum and Kingston History Centre as part of their family learning programme.

Richmond

[FUEL](#)

FUEL makes free places at holiday clubs available during the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays for young people who receive benefit-related free school meals.

[Summer Reading Challenge](#)

The Summer Reading Challenge runs from Saturday 4 July 2026 and is free to join. This year's Challenge is all about creativity. Read six library books over the summer and collect a special Marvellous Makers sticker for each book read. Read all six books to receive a certificate and a medal.

Spelthorne

[Fit for sport](#)

Fit For Sport Holiday Activity Camps are designed to engage all children from 4-12 years old through multi-sports, games, and arts and crafts.

[Surrey short breaks](#)

Short Breaks offer a range of creative, flexible, fun play and leisure activities in local communities for children and young people who have additional needs and disabilities.

[Spelthorne summer events/booklet](#)

Information on all the leisure events in and around Spelthorne this summer to keep your children busy and engaged.

