



Holiday Activities and Food Newsletter

Autumn 2022

Welcome to our Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme Newsletter!

HAF is funded by the Department for Education and offers children who are eligible for benefit related free school meals to take part in free holiday clubs. There are also a small number of places that can be offered to vulnerable children not eligible for free school meals. The programme offers physical and enriching activities alongside healthy meals and nutritional education.

The funding covers Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays, and providers are required to go through the council's procurement platform to be considered to provide for children and young people in Warrington.

Providers are given support and advice through the funding application process, and our HAF Co-ordinator visits the clubs during the holidays to quality assure and offer ongoing support.

Purple Gecko



Easter 2022

At Easter we had 1,486 face-to-face places on offer, with 975 children and young people taking up the programme.

Summer 2022

In Summer we had over 1700 children attending 47 HAF programmes across Warrington, provided by 24 organisations. There were a range of activities including sports, forest school, music, arts and crafts, family days, cooking and much more.

Purple Gecko CIC is a community organisation new to the HAF programme in Warrington. They had a full cohort of children and young people who took part in a range of activities including musical theatre, multi sports and Thai boxing. Purple Gecko, along with some other providers, worked in partnership with Warrington Disability Partnership to deliver the food element of their programme.



Feedback from parents, carers, children and professionals

Parents are very grateful for the service being offered and children thoroughly enjoyed themselves

“My child enjoyed the entire day, particularly the excitement of the food being provided and not being my packed lunch!”

Pupils described the HAF club as “brilliant” and “really fun”

“He started on day one unable to ride a bike and left day four quite happily riding”

The program seemed successful. The parents were all happy with the provision and the children all seemed to have a good time

Celebrations from HAF providers

Here’s a link to a DJ mix created by Ellis and Tyler, who attended the HAF programme with Score Creative:

https://soundcloud.com/pluggedinmusic/sets/ellis-tyler-its-time-to-party/s-y80h6RmbB4w?si=fcbbb76cc49344ee8dad7550db126776&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

And here’s a link to a video of the HAF programme with Computer Xplorers:
[\(8072\) Warrington HAF Summer 22 @ CompXBolton - YouTube](#)



East Childrens Centres



WASPS



Warrington Youth Zone



Food and nutrition

Good, nutritious food and nutritional education are key elements of the HAF programme, following the school food standards.

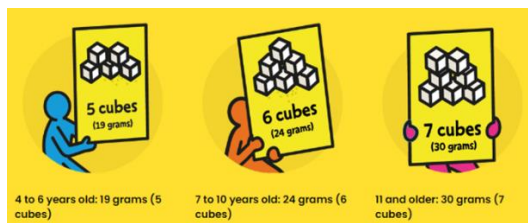
HAF is a real opportunity to make a difference, to open children and young people up to different foods, to engage them in interesting activities to widen their tastes, improve their health and to get them excited about food.



Children are having over 2 times more sugar than recommended, with half of it coming from sugary snacks and drinks. You could use the attached presentation to start a conversation about foods that are high in sugar/ healthier options and what happens if you eat too much sugar.

Activity to engage children

Weigh out the sugar (or use sugar cubes) in a variety of drinks and compare it to the maximum recommended daily amounts. Would you be surprised to find out a can of Coke contains 35grams of sugar and a Frijj Milkshake has a huge 39 grams!



If you don't want to weigh out the sugar try this higher or lower game.



Working in partnership

There have been some excellent examples of partnership working between local community groups on the HAF programme this year. Some providers have worked with Warrington Disability Partnership and The Puddle Project to deliver elements of their programme, and others have worked closely with individual schools to identify and offer places to the children who need it most.

Partners involved in supporting the HAF programme include:

- Sam Birchall – Torus Foundation
- Natalie Bennett – DWP
- Caitlin Bold – Food Poverty Co-ordinator for WVA
- Journey First

If you're interested in finding out more about working in partnership to support low income and vulnerable families in Warrington, please email HAF@warrington.gov.uk.

October half term

HAF funding covers Easter, Summer and Christmas only, and we are aware there will be families struggling in every school holiday. There are a small number of holiday clubs offering free and reduced places for October half term.

For more information, please email HAF@warrington.gov.uk.

Other support for families

Further information about support available to families is available on the Early Help Facebook page <https://m.facebook.com/EarlyhelpSEND?rdr>, and on Warrington Borough Council's website <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/cost-living-support>

Details of local food banks, community fridges, and other sources of food support is available at <https://www.warringtonva.org.uk/warrington-food-network>

Pregnant mothers and families with children under 4 who are on qualifying benefits may qualify for Healthy Start vouchers to buy healthy food, milk, and vitamins <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>

Interested in being part of the HAF programme?

New providers can express their interest for our HAF programmes on the North West Local Authority Procurement Portal <https://www.the-chest.org.uk/>

For further support and advice with the process, please email us at HAF@warrington.gov.uk

Providers and organisations that supported HAF in Summer 2022:

- Early Help: South, West, and East Children's Centres and Warrington Youth Service
- Warrington Play and Sensory Centre
- Warrington Youth Zone
- Warrington Wolves
- Let's Be Kids
- Bike right
- Rosebank Nursery
- The Lakes Nursery
- Little Superstars
- Livewire Warrington
- Score Creative
- Warrington Disability Partnership
- Purple Gecko
- Home Start
- Computer Xplorers
- Smart Body Sports
- WASPS Childcare
- Croft Primary School
- Bright Futures school
- Funky Friends
- Families United
- Active Sport
- Lynch Sport
- Little Treasures
- Dunky's Day Nursery
- The Puddle Project



Warrington's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is funded by the Department for Education and offers vulnerable children, and children who are eligible for benefit related free school meals, to take part in holiday clubs.

warrington.gov.uk/HAF
#HAF2022

We try our utmost to accommodate all needs. The funding covers Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays. Providers need to go through the council's procurement platform to be considered to provide for children and young people in Warrington.

HAF providers, parents and carers can visit the HAF website for more information
HAF@warrington.gov.uk

