

Dear Parent / Carer

Winter Holiday Clubs – Open for all children to book (free depending on personal circumstances)

Did you know that as well as free school meals during term time, you are also entitled to access FREE holiday clubs this winter holiday?

It's About Me is a **FREE** Holiday Activity and Food Programme funded by the Department for Education, designed for children and young people across Derbyshire to have healthy, active, fun-filled school holidays. We believe that everyone deserves a good break and that school holidays are better when children and young people are active, having fun, being entertained and learning new things.

If your child is aged between 4-16 and is eligible for benefits-related free school meals, then they are entitled to access the It's About Me holiday clubs for free! There are a huge range of activities available including sports and games, arts and crafts, cookery, dance and music. Programmes vary depending on the type and location of each local club and each holiday club will give your child a nutritious meal too!

We hope you will take advantage of these fantastic **FREE** holiday clubs across Derbyshire so your children can have a fun-filled and safe holiday!

Can't attend a face-to-face holiday club or unable to find something suitable in your area?

For families with children who are not able to access face-to-face holiday clubs, activity packs and food boxes are also available for the winter school holidays.

Winter Food Boxes

The winter we are working with Morrison's to offer **FREE** recipe food boxes. One food box is available for each eligible household (not one per child). Eligible households must have at least one child or young person eligible for benefits-related free school meals living there. You will need your code to request a free winter food box.

Activity Packs

Activity packs are also available for the winter school holiday; packs are available one per eligible child and are available for Primary or Secondary age. You will need your code to request free winter activity packs.

Families can register for a free winter activity pack and/food box from **Monday 27th November 2023**; registrations close on Wednesday 6th December 2023 or as soon as all activity packs and food boxes have been allocated. More information on the activity packs and food boxes and how to register can be found at: <https://itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk/activity-pack>.

Booked but can't attend?

During our summer programme, we had a large numbers of spaces that were booked but the child did not attend. If you book an activity for your child and they can no longer attend please contact

the provider to cancel the space. Most clubs have a waiting list so spaces can be given to another child if the organisation knows your child is not coming.

If you are eligible for FREE It's About Me holiday provision, you will receive a unique IAM code from your child's school before Monday 4th December 2023. Please book your activities using your code once you have received it. If you have not received your code, but believe your child is eligible for the programme, please contact your school office.

If you are not eligible for free school meals but would still like to attend a holiday programme this winter, a number of our holiday club providers also offer places for children who are not eligible too; we call this a 'blended approach'. These places are either paid for by parents and carers or are offered at a subsidised rate through other funding the holiday club has received. Visit the It's About Me website and contact holiday clubs directly for more information on what they offer.

To book your activities and to find out more information go to www.itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk
To receive programme information and updates directly to your inbox, [Sign-Up](#) to It's About Me updates.

The winter holiday clubs will take place from **Wednesday 27th to Friday 29th December 2023 and Tuesday 2nd to Friday 4th January 2024**. Bookings open from **Monday 4th December 2023**.

Kind regards,

The 'Its About Me' Team