

Islington Town Hall
Upper Street
London N1 2UD

Telephone: 020 7527 2000
contact@islington.gov.uk
www.islington.gov.uk/costofliving

September 2022

Dear parent/ carer,

We are helping families with the cost of living

Welcome to the new school year! I hope you and your family had a restful and enjoyable summer and are looking forward to the school year ahead.

I'm writing to remind you of Islington's free school meals offer for some nursery and all primary school children, which is such an important part of our work to give children in Islington the best start in life, and helps families with the cost of living too, saving over £450 per year per child.

Islington Council is one of only a few local authorities in London to offer free school meals for all KS2 primary age pupils in local schools and to children aged 3 and above in council maintained nurseries, but you need to register. And if you have a child moving from primary to secondary school, you may also be eligible for a £150 school uniform grant.

Now more than ever, with the rising cost of living, many families are feeling the squeeze. So, I also wanted to let you know about other financial support and advice available from Islington Council and a range of voluntary and community groups across the borough. You will find details of support available for families on the reverse of this letter – from benefits maximisation through to help with childcare costs and help with your energy bills.

Registering your child to receive free school meals or applying for a uniform grant is quick and easy. Just go to www.islington.gov.uk/costofliving where you also find details of other ways to access cost of living support.

For more information about free school meals, please email freeschoolmeal@islington.gov.uk. Finally, I'd like to take the opportunity to wish your child every success for the coming school year.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Michelline Safi Ngongo
Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families
Islington Council

If you would like this document in large print or Braille, audiotape, easy read or in another language, please telephone 020 7527 2000.

We're helping

with the cost of living crisis

Free, confidential advice to maximise your income

Contact the council for friendly advice and support. We can help you work out what benefits and financial support you are entitled to, whether you will be better off in work, including the affordability of childcare, and we can help you to make a claim.

Call **020 7527 8222**

Email heretohelp@islington.gov.uk

Visit www.islington.gov.uk/moneyadvice

Get help finding and paying for childcare

Our Family Information Service (FIS) can help with:

- Free early education for 2, 3 and 4 year olds
- Childcare for under 5s, including childminders and Islington's funded nurseries, and childcare for over 5s - after-school and holidays
- 30 hours free childcare
- Tax-fee childcare
- Childcare through Universal Credit
- Islington Childcare Bursary

Call **020 7527 5959**; email fis@islington.gov.uk or visit www.islington.gov.uk/FIS

Apply for a Childcare Bursary

If you live in Islington, are claiming benefits and have a child aged 0-16 (or up to 18 with disabilities) who needs childcare, you may be entitled to a Childcare Bursary. The bursary is there to help parents who are starting work, a work placement, or short-term training to pay for childcare. It does not need to be paid back.

Call **020 7527 5891** or visit www.islington.gov.uk/childcarebursary

Help with your energy bills

Our energy advice team can provide guidance on reducing energy bills and speaking to your energy suppliers regarding utility debt and billing issues, help you apply for water discounts, support with energy efficiency grant applications and signpost to other public health interventions. To speak to a member of the SHINE team:

Call **0300 555 0195** or **020 7527 2121** lines are open 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday.

Or text **07800 006 143** or visit shine-london.org.uk

Stay updated

Sign up for email updates on Islington news, events and other topics.

Visit www.islington.gov.uk/stayupdated

Join in the conversation

Follow [@IslingtonBC](https://twitter.com/IslingtonBC) on Twitter and search Islington Council on Facebook.

If your household income is feeling the squeeze, you'll find a wide range of support online at www.islington.gov.uk/costofliving

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