

Services for Young Children

Parents/ Carers Update – December 2021

Included this month: Connect4communities, Christmas bonus from the Government, workshops for parents, child maintenance online, accessing 30 hours childcare or Tax-Free Childcare

Connect4communities – Holiday Activities and Food Programme



Christmas holiday schemes with free activities and meals for thousands of children from families on low incomes across Hampshire are being supported from the [Connect4communities](#) programme.

Parents and carers can find out what is on offer locally through the

Family Information and Services Hub directory; [Holiday Activities and Food Programme - Christmas Holiday Provision | Family Information and Services Hub \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

A little Christmas cheer

People who receive pension or disability benefits will receive a tax-free Christmas bonus of £10. The payment will be made before 25 December and paid directly to customers' bank or building society. Letters will be sent out by the Government to inform people when they will receive their £10 bonus. Find out more about the [bonus and eligibility](#).



Workshops for parents with children aged 0-5

Contact have free virtual workshops coming up if you are a parent of a young child covering topics like early years education, encouraging positive behaviour, speech and language problems, and supporting parents of children with anxiety.

[Take a look at all the Brighter Beginnings parent workshops](#)

Child Maintenance Service – managing child maintenance online



Child Maintenance Service

A new [video](#) has been posted on YouTube giving parents and guardians information about managing their child maintenance case online.

It explains how customers can review their [case](#) details easily and securely to:

- see when payments are due to be received or made
- report changes to contact details, income, or other circumstances
- keep track of updates
- see information has been sent to them.

Being available 24/7 avoids the need to call. And webchat can offer additional support. Using the online service means customers can get in touch easier and faster, at a time to suit them.



Important! Accessing 30 hours childcare or Tax-Free Childcare, or wanting to apply to start in January 2022?

If your child is receiving 30 hours childcare or Tax-Free Childcare make sure you re-confirm your information; or apply for the funding **before the 31**

December 2021 to ensure that your child receives their entitlement with no gaps or delays from January 2022.

To re-confirm* or apply, visit: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

*Parents who already access the funding must check their childcare account to re-confirm.