

# Cost-of-living support

Find out what help and support is available to you and your family as the cost-of-living crisis continues to bite.

## Get in touch with us to let us know if you're struggling with your finances

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We know everyone is feeling the pinch this winter and we want to support those families in our school community who are impacted the most. If you're struggling with your finances, please do get in touch to let us know, as there may be things we can suggest which will help. We want to do everything we can to help you and your child through this difficult winter.

## Contact your local Citizen's Advice Bureau or Family Hub

### Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB)

You don't have to be a UK citizen to get support from your local CAB, you just need to be a resident of the local area. The CAB can help you with:

- Getting benefits or other financial support organised
- Accessing support for essential costs (food, bills, rent)

Visit the [Citizens Advice](#)'s website or contact your local branch to book an appointment [Citizens Advice Thanet, 2nd Floor, Mill Lane House, Mill Lane, Margate CT9 1LB, Phone : 0808 278 7998, **Advice Line for general advice** - 0808 278 7998 - Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm].

## Check you're paying the right amount of tax

Make sure you're on the right tax code. If you aren't you might be due a refund. Use the [Money Saving Expert's](#) free tax code calculator to find out.

## Claim any benefits you're entitled to

Use 1 of these benefits calculators to determine whether there are any benefits you could be claiming:

- [Turn2us](#)
- [Policy in Practice](#)
- [Support for migrant families](#) – use this calculator if you are a migrant family, or if you have no recourse to public funds

You may be able to get benefits paid early if you're already feeling the squeeze - this is known as 'a short-term benefit advance' - you will need to contact the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) office [QUEENS HOUSE, QUEEN STREET, [Ramsgate](#), Kent England, CT11 9EW, <http://dwp.gov.uk/>] that's dealing with your claim.

## Check you've received all the government's cost of living payments

The government's [cost of living payment](#) is available for those receiving certain benefits or tax credits. You don't need to apply for these – if you're eligible the money should go straight into your account.

If you think you're due a payment, but haven't received one – [report a missing payment](#) to the government here.

**Be aware of scams!** If you receive any emails, texts or phone calls asking you to fill in an application form or asking for your bank details to receive a cost of living payment, **do not talk to them or send a reply**. Get more information on [cost of living scams](#) on the Money Saving Expert's website

## Find out what help you can get with your energy bills

Take a look at these resources from [Simple Energy Advice](#), the [British Gas Energy Trust](#) and the [Money Saving Expert](#) website.

## See what other support you can get from your local authority

[County councils are responsible for services like: education, social care, transport- Kent County Council, Website: [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)]

Local authorities have lots of different schemes that you might be eligible for, including:

- The [holiday activities and food programme](#) – access to food and activities over the school holidays
- [Help with transport to school](#)
- [Help with the cost of uniform](#)

## Get free or low-cost food

If you're worried about not having enough food to feed your family, you're not alone. There are a number of places offering support.

- [Small Haven School provides all children with tea and toast every day]
- If you have a child under 4, and meet the eligibility criteria, you may be entitled to [healthy start food vouchers](#)
- [Unit 4, St Johns Court, Ashford Business Park, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0SJ  
Tel: [01233 500477](tel:01233500477), Email: [familyfoodbank@children-families.org](mailto:familyfoodbank@children-families.org)]
- Find a local foodbank with these websites: [Bankuet](#), [The Independent Food Aid Network](#), the [Trussell Trust](#), or your local [community fridge](#)
- Use food waste apps and websites like [Olio](#) (for free food and household items from your local community), [Too Good To Go](#) (for low cost food from local restaurants), or [Low Price Foods](#) (food that has passed its best before date, but is still safe to consume)

## **Community Church, Ramsgate, Broadstairs & Margate are HERE TO HELP**

They provide a friendly safe space to meet as a Church family every Sunday as well as working with other professional services to help the people of Thanet, for further details see the list below.

Christians against poverty – CAP are on a mission to release Thanet families from grinding poverty through award winning debt counselling and community groups. Find out more: [capuk.org](http://capuk.org)

Debt Help- Call free on: 0800 328 0006

Money Management- 3 Free courses each year to help you manage your money: Contact Kara on: 07497 142832

Fresh Start- Change habits and find freedom: 8 Free sessions at the Corner CT12 6DF, Contact Amy on: 07398 132272

Top Up-Increasing incomes, improving outcomes: Contact 07393 726832 or message on Facebook: 'topUP'

Community Allotment- Find out more: email: [hello@ccbroadstairs.org.uk](mailto:hello@ccbroadstairs.org.uk)

### **Further information**

- Contact [StepChange](#), if you're struggling with debt
- Contact [Shelter](#) if you're having issues related to housing
- Get free household goods on [Freecycle](#)
- Contact the [Salvation Army](#) for emergency assistance
- See if you're eligible for [grants from Turn2us](#)
- Single parents can get support from [Gingerbread](#)