

Dear Parent or Guardian

COVID Winter Grant Scheme

We have received funding for the COVID Winter Grant Scheme. This funding is to support families with children and other vulnerable households particularly affected by the pandemic through the winter months from December to 31 March 2021.

Part of this funding is being used to provide support to families in receipt of Free School Meals throughout the Christmas School Holidays by providing a Christmas Grant, the grant will include:

- £30.00 for each child in receipt of free school meals (£15.00 per week per child)
- £10.00 Christmas food grant bonus per household to help support with the additional costs for food over the festive period.
- £20.00 Christmas Gas and Electric grant to support with the extra energy costs over the holidays
- £10.00 Christmas Water Grant to provide support towards your water bills.

Our systems show that your household is in receipt of free school meals, to access the COVID Winter Grant please complete the online form by visiting www.wigan.gov.uk/wintergrantscheme

The form will take 2 minutes to complete and payment will be made directly into your bank account.

To help us make the payment in time for Christmas it is important that you complete your form straight away and no later than the **14 December**. Forms received after this date will still receive the grant but may only receive it in the New Year.

There are other ways that we can help you too.

Please see enclosed details of this support and how you can access it.

We are here to help.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr David Molyneux
Leader of Wigan Council

Help and support available for residents

If you're struggling financially or need additional support please contact our helpline on 01942 489018 or one of our services listed below.

For up to date information about coronavirus please visit www.wigan.gov.uk/coronavirus

Help through Benefits

- Get an estimated assessment with our online calculator
- If you are on a low income you could qualify for help towards rent and Council Tax through Housing Benefit and further Council Tax Reduction
- If you already receive some Housing Benefit or Universal Credit but not enough to cover all your rent, you could qualify for extra support through Discretionary Housing Payments

To check if you could be entitled visit www.quickcalc.co.uk/wigan

For more information and to apply visit www.wigan.gov.uk/benefits or phone 01942 489002

Help through Discounts and Exemptions

There are several Discounts and Exemptions that can reduce your Council Tax bill if you meet the qualifying criteria. For more information and to apply visit www.wigan.gov.uk/counciltax or phone 01942 489001

Help through Welfare Support

If you find yourself in crisis our Welfare Support Team can provide help with:

- Emergency gas and electric vouchers
- Furniture packages
- Food parcels

Please note that we do not make cash payments or pay out crisis loans.

For more information and to apply visit www.wigan.gov.uk/localwelfaresupport or phone 01942 705221

Help through Welfare Rights and Debt Advice

Our Welfare Rights Team can offer:

- Advice and support on a range of welfare benefits
- Help with completing claim forms
- Guidance and support when making appeals
- Make a referral to Citizens Advice Bureau if you need debt or money advice

For more information and to apply visit www.wigan.gov.uk/localwelfaresupport or phone 01942 705221

Help with your payments

If you are finding it difficult to make your payments, please contact us and we will do everything we can to help:

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|------------------------|---|---------------------|
| • Council Tax: | email: revenues@wigan.gov.uk | phone: 01942 489001 |
| • Wigan Council Rents: | email: myrent@wigan.gov.uk | phone 01942 486865 |
| • Business Rates: | email: businessrates@wigan.gov.uk | phone 01942 489015 |

Be Kind.

www.wigan.gov.uk/coronavirus



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