

## FREE HEALTHY MEALS FOR THOUSANDS MORE CHILDREN

Charities Family Action and Magic Breakfast, delivery partners for the National Schools Breakfast Programme (NSBP), are delighted that thousands more children across the country will get a healthy and nutritious breakfast, setting them up for a school day ready to learn, thanks to an additional investment of up to £11.8 million by the government to support disadvantaged families.

So far the NSBP has created or improved around 1,800 school breakfast clubs in disadvantaged areas. Thanks to this additional investment, up to 650 more schools will benefit in the next year, with resources once again specifically targeted at the most disadvantaged areas, helping make sure every child gets the best start in life.

### **Schools Minister Lord Agnew said:**

*"We want every child to lead a healthy, active and happy lifestyle regardless of their background. That's why we are giving thousands more children in disadvantaged areas the opportunity to attend a breakfast club, which will help boost attendance, behaviour and attainment, helping them to achieve their best in school."*

Family Action, in partnership with Magic Breakfast, will continue to run the National School Breakfast Programme until March 2021. This one-year extension will kick-start or improve breakfast provision in schools in disadvantaged areas. So far the two charities have recruited over 1,800 schools in disadvantaged areas, and report that over 280,000 breakfasts are served in these schools every day through the programme.

### **David Holmes CBE, Chief Executive, Family Action**

*"Thanks to the successful National School Breakfast Programme, we are already providing a free, nutritious breakfast every school day to over 280,000 children in some of the most deprived areas of England. Family Action is delighted that the new funding announced today by the Department for Education ensures that the NSBP will now continue for an extra year. The new funding means that we can offer an additional term of support to more than 1,800 existing NSBP schools and support up to 650 new schools to kick start or improve their breakfast provision. Every single meal that is being provided through this programme is making an immediate difference to children across the country every day. It is literally fuelling learning."*

### **Carmel McConnell, MBE, founder of Magic Breakfast, said**

*"A hungry pupil cannot learn, simple as that, so in the spirit of levelling up and unleashing Britain's potential, it is great news that NSBP funding has been extended. Head teachers tell us that the Magic Breakfast model creates improvements in pupil behaviour, punctuality, attendance and wellbeing as a result of the NSBP. This funding allows the award-winning Family Action and Magic Breakfast NSBP partnership to reach even more hungry schoolchildren with the nourishment they so urgently need. It's a fantastic investment in their future and the future of this country."*

**-END-**

## What schools are telling us

### **Sean McGillan, Associate Assistant Headteacher of Parkwood E-Act Academy (Secondary) in Sheffield:**

"It has completely transformed our morning culture and ensured our student have a settled start to their day. Behavior incidents have decreased, punctuality has improved and students enjoy coming to school in the morning."

### **Mo Andrews, Headteacher, Pye Bank C of E Primary School, Sheffield:**

*"The National School Breakfast Programme motivated us to improve our breakfast provision. The breakfast club has become more inclusive and has a lovely atmosphere, every child can have a bagel and there is a very relaxed feel to the start of the day. In class we have seen an improvement in focus and concentration."*

## Short Case Study

### **Deaf Hill Primary, Durham, Deputy Head - Peter Atherton**

There is a large family of children who have been involved with social services, all the children have benefited from the National School Breakfast Programme (NSBP). Prior to the NSBP they would arrive to school hungry and late. Now all the children have bagels when they come to school and are always first in line, going to class ready to learn and feeling far more settled. Our parents have noticed their children enjoy getting to school on time and the mornings are less stressful.

### **Further information:**

Family Action and Magic Breakfast will continue to run the breakfast clubs programme until 31 March 2021. This represents a one year extension to the original contract, which is designed to kick-start self-sustaining clubs in schools in disadvantaged areas. The total investment to the programme will be up to £35 million.

To find out more about the breakfast clubs programme and how to take part please visit the link <https://www.family-action.org.uk/what-we-do/children-families/breakfast/>