

Young Carers Newsletter

Dear Young Carers

Please see below activities and information for our young carers...

[Summer Savings](#)

HAPpy Camps

HAPpy Camps provide a range of fun experiences, including physical activity, enrichment, a healthy meal and snacks for eligible children.

The next HAPpy programme will take place in Summer 2026.

Unique Booking codes and booking instructions will have been shared with eligible families from Thursday 18th June.

Specific details of camps and activities will be available when bookings open 12 Noon on Monday 6th July.

Young Carers do not automatically receive the HAPpy Camps code as their families still have to be in receipt of benefits related free school meals to qualify for these. (*Note: All children (regardless of family income or benefits) receive Universal Infant Free School Meals in KS1 - **this does not count***). However, if the young carer does not qualify, the Young Carers team can speak to Herts Sports Partnership on their behalf if the young carer thinks it would benefit them, and request one from the HAPpy camp team. Please let the Young Carers Team know if this is the case.

VAT cut on children's days out - Reducing VAT from 20% to 5%

We're cutting VAT to reduce the cost of children's restaurant meals, children's tickets for theatres and cinemas and all tickets for attractions like soft play, amusement parks, and museums. That means lower prices at the till, automatically.

[Find attractions near you offering the VAT reduction→](#)

Free bus travel for children - Free travel on local bus services in August

Children aged 5-15 travelling on local bus services in England can travel free in August. Whether it's going on a day out, visiting family or just getting around, the bus is on us. This applies to local bus services in England. It does not apply in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, where travel support is devolved.

[Find bus routes near you →](#)

Free and low-cost things to do this summer

Alongside the new savings measures, there's a range of free activities available to families across England, from museums and parks to holiday food programmes and reading clubs.

- **Free museums and galleries** – some venues across England offer free entry all year, with special summer programmes for children. [Find museums near you](#)
- **Summer Reading Challenge** – free at your local library for children aged 4–11. [Find your nearest library](#)
- **Holiday Activities and Food programme** – free holiday activities with meals for children on free school meals. [Find a place near you](#)
- **Parks, nature and the outdoors** – national parks, beaches and local green spaces with free ranger-led events. [Browse outdoor activities](#)