



**Craig Whittaker MP**

**CALDER VALLEY**

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### **School Holiday Hunger Campaign**

Thank you for contacting me about school holiday hunger.

No child should have to go hungry and it is important to ensure that every child has the very best start in life.

The Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission recommended a number of measures to help children. Child poverty is best addressed by helping the parents find good jobs. That is why the Government continues to roll out the Universal Credit system, which provides personalised financial and other support for parents while helping them to find and stay in work. Other measures to help parents include the doubling of free childcare hours and the raised personal allowance which has lifted millions of the lowest paid out of income tax altogether.

Free school meals for infants help to boost educational achievement, especially for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, and save hard-working families hundreds of pounds a year. Many children from disadvantaged backgrounds are entitled to receive free school meals throughout their full time education.

The Government has announced that £10 million a year of the Soft Drinks Industry Levy will be used to expand breakfast club provision in up to 1,600 schools and encourage healthy eating among children.

Colleagues are considering the findings of the Hungry Holidays report and the contributions to the debate about the School Holidays (Meals and Activities) Bill introduced by Frank Field MP.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP