



Department  
for Education



Northumberland  
County Council

Northumberland  
**Holiday** Provision

**HAF Help: A Guide for Parents  
and Carers**

**Winter 2025**

**Contact us :**

**[haf@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:haf@northumberland.gov.uk)**

# Welcome to the Northumberland HAF parent and carer guide

**This guide is to support you to book activities  
during the school holidays.**

## **Contents:**

Activities and Camps

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Christmas food and Craft idea by Full Circle Food Project

Keeping warm this winter

Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) is funded from the Department for Education. Eligible children (those claiming benefit related free school meals) can access a range of funded activities during, Easter, Summer, Christmas school holidays.

This guide is to support parents and carers to access the programme.

**We have two types of activities available on the platform these are camps and family activities.**

## Camps

Camps are delivered by excellent providers, in various venues across Northumberland. These providers all follow a strict framework to ensure they are delivering high quality provision.

Children/ young people attend the camps without parents/ caregivers and take part in a number of activities, these are all specific depending on a camp chosen. These places are a value of £25 per head per day, which is fully funded through HAF. Children also receive a meal when attending. There is age criteria for each camp, this is shown on the booking system. If your child does not meet the age criteria, the camp will not be shown for you to book.

For winter, our providers include; Active Future, Apex Academy, Cramlington in the Community, Challenge Northumberland, Sports Camps NE, MJ Sports Stars, Time Step Training and Activity Centre, Hexham Youthy, Berwick Rangers (full information all camps are on the platform).

## Family Activities

Family Activities are activities that children and young people can take part in with their parent/ caregiver. We have a range of fantastic local offers for Winter 2025. These include, passes for all of the Places Leisure Centres where you can access, Swimming, Clip and Climb, bowling (site dependent). We also have pantomime tickets for the Phoenix Theatre in Blyth. Alnwick Garden/ Lilidorei and farming with Humbleswood Farm in Prudhoe.

These activities are also fully funded and include a food voucher to access food on site or a meal is provided.

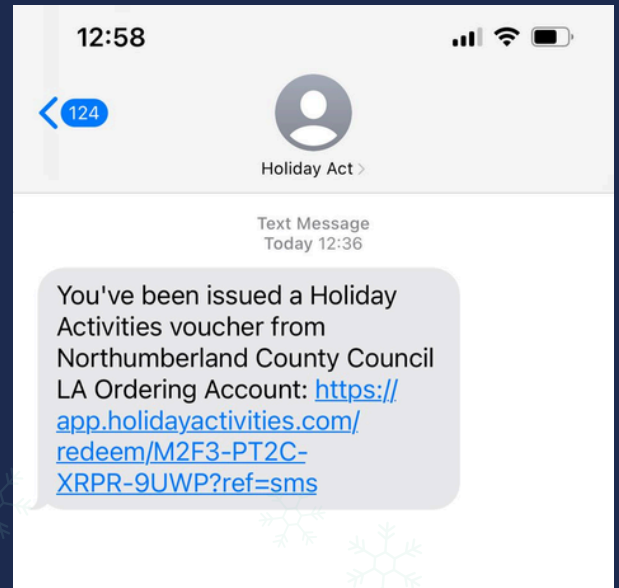
**We want to make our provision as accessible and inclusive as possible for families. If you would like to provide any feedback on the offer, or make a suggestion, please email us - [haf@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:haf@northumberland.gov.uk)**

# Booking Activities

You will receive a text message and email from Holiday Activities with your voucher and access to the booking platform.

This is an example of the text message.

Once you click the link, you will be sent a secure login link. You do not need a password.



Once you are in the system, you can view activities available to your child.

Each activity is worth 1 credit and you have a total of 8 credits per child. These cannot be shared and each voucher is unique to the child.

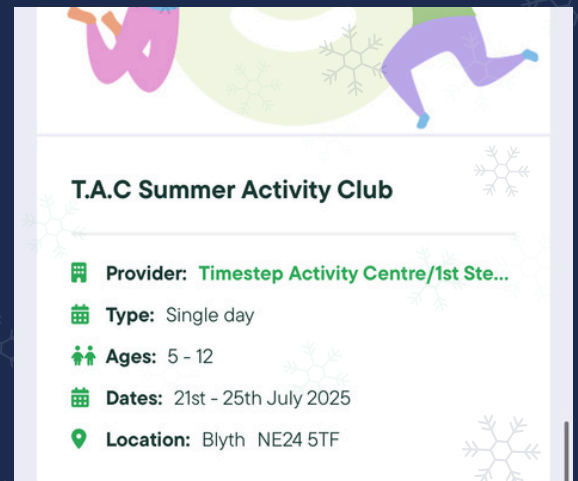
You have been issued a HolidayActivities voucher from Northumberland County Council LA Ordering Account for

Click [here](#) to claim your voucher.

This voucher will allow you to book your child onto free activities in partnership with your Local Authority. A free meal will also be provided as part of the provision. For more information on the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme please contact your local authority.

It is important you complete all of the information asked on the booking form, this helps the provider who is organising the activity and secures your child's place.

You can also filter the activities to show the activities within your area.



For additional support on booking, HolidayActivities have lots of useful guides including videos on their website- <https://help.holidayactivities.com/hc/en-gb/sections/12061341995153-Parent>

## Every child should feel included and comfortable when accessing HAF activities in Northumberland.

Most activities are open to all, and we also run extra options for those who need a quieter or a more supported setting. We work closely with Northumberland Parent Carer Forum and parents to gain tools and feedback that we can use to continuously improve our offering.

### Examples of activities through HAF include:

- Smaller SEN family swim sessions
- SEN Surf sessions in Easter and Summer
- Relaxed pantomime showing at Phoenix Theatre
- Specialist camps delivered by Unite Club, Seb and Olivia's Den, and Cambois Primary School
- Funded family days through Northern Lights Northumberland

When you book an activity, we ask some questions about your child's needs.

Please fill these in, as they help the activity provider understand your child better and plan sessions that support them. This information is not shared with anyone except, the provider you make a booking with and the platform. If a provider cannot meet your child's needs, or if they need more information, they will contact you before approving your booking. All provider contact details can be found on the platform.

We are always looking to grow our offer and ensure we are meeting the needs of children and families so please do share ideas with us at [haf@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:haf@northumberland.gov.uk).

# Frequently asked questions

<b>I am in receipt of FSM and have not received a voucher.</b>	Please check your junk mail, for an email from – <a href="mailto:hello@holidayactivities.com">hello@holidayactivities.com</a> or visit <a href="https://app.holidayactivities.com/login">https://app.holidayactivities.com/login</a> and enter your email address. If you have a code issued to your email, you will be sent a secure login link. If you do not receive a code, please email – <a href="mailto:haf@northumberland.gov.uk">haf@northumberland.gov.uk</a>
<b>I have a child under 5 who is in receipt of FSM and has not received a voucher.</b>	The HAF programme is for ages 5-16 (18 if SEND). Children who are under 5 can still take part in the family activities if they are attending with a sibling who has a voucher code. But these places must be booked.
<b>Are adults places funded?</b>	There is one paid for adult place per voucher code for the family activities. If you have booked for an activity such as Bowling through Places Leisure, this booking is for up to 6 people.  For any additional adult places on an activity, please contact the provider directly to book and pay for this place.
<b>Do adults also receive a meal?</b>	Only child places receive a voucher for a meal during the activity. In some cases, if the activity involves a meal this may be provided at the providers discretion.
<b>When do bookings close?</b>	Each provider has their own cut off for provision to be booked. We advise you place your bookings for activities as soon as you are issued your code. Places are also limited per activity, so by booking as soon as possible ensures you can secure your space on your chosen activities
<b>I have additional children who are not of school age can they attend family activities</b>	Yes- However, these must be booked directly with the provider ahead of the activity. If places are not booked, you may be refused on the day due to the capacity.
<b>I would like to see more provision that's suitable for my child or closer to my area</b>	We are always looking for new providers and feedback to meet the needs of children and families. Please email – <a href="mailto:haf@northumberland.gov.uk">haf@northumberland.gov.uk</a> with any suggestions/feedback.
<b>The platform has asked for a pin number</b>	This is a generic question on the form. We have a mixture of camp/family activities on the platform, please read each description as some activities may be child only, where you drop them off and collect them at the time on the booking.
<b>A provider has said I am unable to attend their provision</b>	Each provider has their own criteria. Some provision may only be available to children within their school or within their area. Providers will often source additional funding for their provision, which means they can only open to children within their area.

# Quick and Easy wraps



Grater



Spatula



Chopping Board



Knife



Frying Pan



Spoon

## Ingredients



4 tortillas / wraps



1 tbsp tomato puree



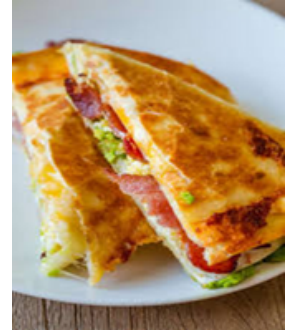
Mixed herbs



Grated cheese



Leftover ham, peppers onions etc.



## Method

- 1. Spread the tomato puree** on one of the wraps and place in the frying pan (no oil needed) tomato side up.
- 2. Sprinkle with ham, peppers, herbs, cheese** – anything to hand (but don't put too much on)
- 3. Put the other wrap on top and press down.** Pop the pan on a medium heat and toast until brown.
- 4. Check the underside occasionally** and when to your liking, flip over and do the other side. Cut into slices as you would a pizza.

**Tip:** You can turn almost any leftovers into a tasty wrap! Try using bits of roast turkey and cranberry sauce for a festive flavour, or add some shredded carrot and salad for extra crunch.



Full Circle Food, Growing Zone, Hirst Park House,  
Ashington, NE63 9BA  
[fcfp.org.uk](http://fcfp.org.uk)

Follow on Facebook for more recipes and activities!

# Salt Dough Crafts

Making salt dough is a fun and easy activity for kids and the chances are you will have all the ingredients in the cupboard ready to go on a rainy day.

Children will love using their imaginations to create all sorts of exciting objects (although simple shapes do seem to work best) and hours of fun painting their creations but do take care to remind little ones that the salt dough is not edible.



## Equipment



## Ingredients



## Method

- 1) Preheat the oven** to its lowest setting (around 50°C) and line a baking tray with baking paper.
- 2) Mix flour and salt in a bowl**, add water, and stir until it forms a dough. Use your hands to bring it together if needed.
- 3) Roll out the dough** on a floured surface to about ¼ inch thick. Cut out shapes with cookie cutters, or press a child's hand into the dough for a handprint ornament.
- 4) Make a hole at the top** of each shape with a straw or the end of a paintbrush so you can hang it later. Put the shapes on the lined baking tray.
- 5. Bake for 1.5–3 hours** (thicker pieces may take 4–6 hours) until completely hard. Flip them once or twice while baking so they dry evenly.
- 6. No-bake option:** Leave the shapes to air dry for 4–7 days, flipping occasionally.
- 7. Decorate once they are fully dry.** Paint them and then seal with clear acrylic spray or clear nail varnish.
- 8. Finish by threading ribbon** or string through the hole to hang your ornament.



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# KEEPING YOUR HOME WARM & ENERGY EFFICIENT



**Don't be left in the cold, we're here to help!**

Whether you're a homeowner, renting, or supporting a loved one, there is support available to help you reduce energy bills and improve your comfort.



## ✓ Energy Advice

Free, independent and expert advice on how to reduce energy and save money, including help maximising income, understanding bills, switching tariffs, and how a smart meter might benefit your home.

## 🏠 Home Energy Checks

Free Home Energy Checks - to assess how you might improve the energy efficiency of your home, and help with draught proofing and radiator reflectors. Tips to stay warm and save energy.

## 💰 Financial Help

Contact us for more information on Warm Home Discount, Winter Fuel, and Cold Weather Payments, Energy Grants, and local schemes.

## 🔧 Home Improvements

Home energy improvements advice about energy measures, such as for insulation or heating repairs, is available. We can help you understand what's available, and how to apply.



The Warmer Northumberland Partnership includes Citizens Advice Northumberland, Age UK Northumberland, Community Action Northumberland (CAN), Glendale Gateway Trust, Karbon Homes, and Northumberland County Council. Referrals can be made through any of the partner organisations.

# HOW YOU CAN SAVE ENERGY (AND MONEY!)



## SOME SIMPLE TIPS:

- Don't leave appliances on standby
- Turn down the thermostat
- Close curtains at dusk - Keeps heat in
- Use draught excluders
- LED Bulbs - They last longer
- Only boil the water you need in your kettle
- Keep shower times down to 4 minutes
- Switch off lighting and heating in rooms you don't use all the time

 **Don't wait for winter, act now!**

Keeping warm doesn't have to cost the earth. Get in touch today and find out what help is available through our partnership.

 **Warmer Northumberland**

 **01670 339749**

 **[energy@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk](mailto:energy@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk)**

## ENERGY SAVING TIPS FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS, INCLUDING HOW TO DEAL WITH COLD OR DAMP PROPERTIES

- Help with benefit checks and maximising income
- Support with Energy and other debts
- Free home energy visits with a friendly adviser
- Support to get help with heating repairs, or even emergency heaters
- Help understanding grants for energy improvements at home
- Help to apply for grants for white goods
- School holiday energy advice
- Support to tackle landlords about cold or damp homes