

How Can We Help?

There are times in a families life when they just need a little help.

There are many agencies that may be able to offer you and your family support that you were not aware about.

This leaflet includes information on various agencies, what they do and how to get in contact with them.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the School Office on

01342 712372

office@copthornejunior.co.uk



Benefits and Tax Credits:

All local governments offer a benefit system. There are various benefits that can be applied for these include **housing benefit** and **council tax benefit**. Please log on to your local council's website, search benefits and apply online. If you do not have access to the internet your local Job Centre or Housing Office will be able to apply for this with you.

Universal Credit can also be claimed if you are on a low income.

A helpful tool is the online benefits and tax credits calculator. Please log on to the below link to see if you are eligible:
https://www.entitledto.co.uk/?utm_source=BADviser&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=GovUK



Free School Meals:

You can apply for free school meals for all children of school age, if you are in receipt of certain benefits or on a low income. If you do qualify, not only does this give your child a free school meal, it also provides the school with an annual lump sum to aid your child's learning and help support families with subsidised uniform and school trips.
<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/free-school-meals-online-application/>

Turn 2 Us

Turn2us is a national charity that helps people in financial hardship gain access to welfare benefits, charitable grants and support services.

Further information can be found on the below website.
www.turn2us.org.uk



Home Start Crawley, Horsham and Mid-Sussex

Home-Start is one of the leading family support charities in the UK. Home-Start volunteers help families with young children deal with the challenges they face. They support parents as they learn to cope, improve their confidence and build better lives for their children. Families struggling with post-natal depression, isolation, physical health problems, bereavement and many other issues receive the **support of a volunteer** who will spend around two hours a week in a family's home supporting them in the ways they need. They can be contacted on 01293-416327.

DHP – Discretionary Housing Payments:

Your local council have an allocation of money to help families on a temporary basis. They do this by **topping up your housing benefit** for a fixed period or giving temporary **payments towards rent** for families that are in arrears with their vital bills.

In order to apply, you need to log on to **your local authorities' website**, type Discretionary Housing Payment into the search bar and either apply online or call the benefits office for an application form.

Food Bank:

We have vouchers available for the East Grinstead Food Bank.

Due to the current Covid-19 epidemic, East Grinstead Food Bank are offering a delivery service but only under specific circumstances. You are also able to collect from various Food Bank locations.

If you would like a voucher, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office and they will be able to arrange this on your behalf.

The Food Bank do not only offer food, they also offer a local **Citizens Advice Service** including money management, **Furniture Help** in connection with Furnihelp and 'tasty Team' help to support with nutrition and cooking on a budget.

MASH – Multi Agency Safeguarding Hob.

The **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** was developed by the police, Local Authorities and other **agencies** to co-locate **safeguarding agencies** and their data into a secure, research and decision making unit.

If you have any concerns or if you would like advise please contact them on the below link:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/keeping-children-safe/raise-a-concern-about-a-child/>



Citizens Advise Bureau.

In a majority of towns you will find citizens advise bureau.

They can help you with many aspects of family life including benefits, searching for employment, housing and debt.

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>



Warmer Home Discount and Water Rates Discount:

WaterSure Plus is just one of the ways you can get help to make things easier, by reducing qualifying customers' bills. It is available for all our household customers who meet certain criteria, whether you have a water meter or not and regardless of who sends you the bill.

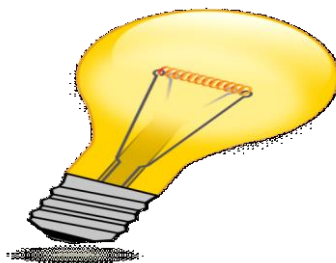
If you are eligible for Watersure *Plus*, you will receive up to a 50% reduction to your future charges from the date we receive your application. To Apply please contact them on the below link:

<https://www.thameswater.co.uk/My-Account/Billing-and-payment/Help-paying-your-bill/Watersure-Plus-scheme>

You could also get up to £140 off your electricity bill under the Warm Home Discount Scheme.

The money isn't paid to you - it's a one-off discount on your electricity bill, between September and March.

You may be able to get the discount on your gas bill instead if your supplier provides you with both gas and electricity. Contact your supplier direct to find out how to apply.



Copthorne CE Junior School
Church Road
Copthorne
RH10 3RD

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office@copthornejunior.co.uk