

RISE IN HUNGRY PUPILS COSTING UK ECONOMY IN LOST TEACHING HOURS

- **New survey reveals 38% of teachers saw an increase in children arriving at school hungry when schools re-opened last term.**
- **Hungry children are missing the learning equivalent of eight weeks over their entire primary school life.**
- **This could cost the economy at least £5.35 million a year, through the loss of teaching hours to cope with the needs of hungry children.**
- **Worryingly, 43% of teachers claim their Breakfast Club is facing closure.**

More than a third (38%) of teachers in the UK saw an increase in children turning up in class hungry last term following the school closures caused by COVID.

The *'No Fuel to Learn'* research, released by Kellogg's*, reveals that the impact on hungry pupils is a loss of education. Teachers reported that if a child has an empty tummy before lunch, they will lose one hour of learning time that day.

If a child was hungry in the morning once a week over a school year, that adds up to 36 hours of learning time – rising to 8.4 weeks for pupils aged between 5-11 over their entire primary school life.

As teachers face the challenges of home-schooling for the next month at least, and inequalities in the learning opportunities for children across the UK will be even more apparent, hunger in the morning could exacerbate this further.

Not only does the problem affect the education of children, the extra demands on teacher's time is costing the economy. According to the research analysis, hunger in today's classrooms could cost at least £5.35m** a year in lost teaching resources.

But, Breakfast Clubs in schools can help tackle the problem of children starting the day without the basic fuel to learn and many are still running now for the children of key workers or some schools are going to the effort of delivering food parcels to children's homes.

The teachers surveyed in December 2020 said that as a result of this increased hunger, 29% of schools had more demand for their Breakfast Club.

However, Covid restrictions made this harder and a quarter of schools had to put in more effort to provide breakfast provision for pupils by buying new equipment and keeping the club open for longer. A fifth (20%) even went to the effort of delivering food to children's homes in lockdown and 16% served breakfast in the classroom.

But sadly, the future of Breakfast Clubs is uncertain, 43% of teachers said there has been an increased risk to their school breakfast club stopping. The main reasons which contribute to the risk of closure were given as school funding (31%) and staff shortages (35%).

Chris Silcock, Kellogg's UK and Ireland managing director said: "The importance of breakfast clubs is proven, they provide the essential fuel children need to help them concentrate and learn in school. These pre-school clubs are also a lifeline for many working parents.

"That's why it's more important now more than ever that we keep Breakfast Clubs running in schools across the UK when they re-open again. This year Kellogg's will invest even more in

supporting school breakfast clubs in 2021 through our grants programme and charity partnerships.”

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Or Connect for political correspondents

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*Research carried out by YouGov Teacher Panel. 1002 teachers from primary and secondary schools in England, Wales, Scotland and NI took part between 27 November and 10 December 2020, Survey was carried out online.

** **YouGov calculation:** If a child arrives at school once a week hungry, teachers estimate on average (median) they will lose 1 hour a day. If this happens once a week for the school year they could lose 36 hours a year (1 hour a week x 36 school weeks). Which is equivalent to 7.2 days or 1.4 school weeks a year. The Institute for Fiscal Studies estimate that in England state school spend per pupil averages £6,100 per year (the research was UK wide, the Scotland figure on spend is a bit higher but maybe cleaner to just use the one figure for the majority of pupils) Pupils spend 6 hrs a day in school and average 195 days a year in school. Value of an hour’s school time can be calculated as £5.21 per child. Teachers estimate that that 10% of all pupils (1,032,000) arrive at school hungry once a week. Statistics estimate that there are 10,320,811 pupils at schools in the UK. This equates to c. 1m pupils are arriving at school hungry at least once in an average week. If they lose only one learning hour a week, which costs for each pupil £5.21 and at a national level this is £5.35m a year or £27.5k a day based on 195 school days

About Kellogg’s and Breakfast Clubs:

Back in 1998, Kellogg’s responded to the government’s extended schools programme by supporting schools with training, funding and supplies for the introduction of breakfast clubs. Over the last 22 years Kellogg’s has invested over £4 million and today, Kellogg’s is the largest corporate backer of school breakfast clubs, supporting more than 4,000 clubs across Britain. As well as providing grants to schools, Kellogg’s is also working with the charity Magic Breakfast to ensure all the schools they support are offered Kellogg’s Corn Flakes and Rice Krispies in the morning. This will feed 167,000 children in 960 schools. The Government has had its own National School Breakfast Programme which supported schools in social mobility and opportunity areas of the UK. This support is now winding down so Magic Breakfast is currently onboarding 500 of these schools to their programme so Kellogg’s is pledging more investment and food to help them with this. Kellogg’s is a founding member of England International footballer Marcus Rashford’s ‘Child Food Poverty Taskforce’