

Foodchain

» Campaign



Ending food poverty in Gloucestershire is the aim of public health charity The Wiggly Worm, which is busy this summer

One in four children only ever get a hot meal at school. Imagine no hot food for six weeks over the long summer holidays. And, consider what the education chances are for children who return to school for a new term in September hungry and unfed.

That's why The Wiggly Worm will be busy this summer, with feeding stations in Cirencester to ensure as many children as possible are served hot, nutritious meals.

"We have witnessed food and working poverty with some of our pop-ups in the past," says Sue Guilding of The Wiggly Worm. "We hear stories of children without good food day after day, being fed cold rice sandwiches. It's not our place at The Wiggly Worm to judge, but we believe its common decency and humanity to make sure our society is fed, clothed and housed to have an equal start and do better."

Last winter, the charity, which was founded by Rob Rees MBE, launched the No Child Hungry Gloucestershire

campaign. Working with companies to use their surplus food (still fresh, but with limited shelf-life remaining), The Wiggly Worm team cooked and served 9,500 healthy, nutritious, tasty and often locally sourced meals to children who would have otherwise gone without.

Now, with the #feedmethisummer campaign, Wiggly Worm will feed 2,000 more. Breads from Hobbs and milk from Cotteswold Dairy will be used, alongside fruit and vegetables.

The stark facts are that 3.5million children live in poverty in UK (63% of whom have working parents) and malnutrition in UK has grown by 19% in the last year alone.

"We are a behaviour-change organisation committed to improving public health and supporting those who find life trickier for many reasons," says Rob.

● To donate or find out more about the campaign, call **01242 237802** or visit **www.thewigglyworm.org.uk**

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