Claire Hazelgrove

MP for the Filton and Bradley Stoke constituency

Summer 2026

Dear Parent or Carer,

RE: Supporting local families

With the summer holidays fast-approaching, I wanted to share some updates that I hope will be useful for you and your family.

One of my biggest priorities as an MP is making sure every child across our Filton and Bradley Stoke constituency has the best possible start in life.

Summer savings for you and your family

Summer holidays are important family time and a great opportunity to create lifelong memories, but I also know they can bring extra pressure with costs. That's why **I'm pleased to see the Government's Great British Summer Savings scheme providing free bus travel for children aged 5–15 throughout August, alongside savings on children's meals, attractions, and family activities.**

There are also plenty of family-friendly activities taking place across South Gloucestershire across the summer months. **Our local libraries are once again running the free Summer Reading Challenge**, and this year's theme is 'Tales Through Time', combining books, activities and crafts, with small rewards along the way, to help keep children motivated and enjoying reading throughout the break.

Free school meals

From September 2026, **the Government is expanding Free School Meals** so that all children in households receiving Universal Credit will become eligible. We know how important a good meal is for concentration, behaviour, and overall wellbeing in school. While eligibility should be automatic, it really helps if parents and carers **let the school know** if their child is now eligible to make sure they get what they're entitled to.

SEND support

Last month, I met with the Schools Minister, Georgia Gould, again to discuss the Government's proposed SEND reforms, following on from the views that many of you shared with me at my previous 'Coffee with Claire' events and online surveys. I'm grateful to all of you who have done so on this vital issue - which I, like many of you, have family experience of, so that I can make your voices heard at the heart of government.

Sign up for my newsletter!

clairehazelgrove.co.uk/newsletter/

Be the first to hear about my local events

Sign up using the link below to hear more about my upcoming events:

clairehazelgrove.co.uk/coffee-with-claire

clairehazelgrove.co.uk/pub-politics

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I'm pleased to share that the Government has allocated South Gloucestershire over £2 million to set up a new 'Experts at Hand' offer, providing schools access to specialist health and care support such as speech and language therapy for children. This will allow children to get early, targeted help without a statutory SEND assessment. There's more to come, but I'm glad to see this boost to funding and support locally.

Social media ban

Over recent months, I've been listening to local parents, teachers, and young people on an issue many in our community feel strongly about: children's use of social media and online safety. Following my 'Coffee with Claire' event on this, as well as an online survey, **I took your views directly to Government Ministers** to make sure local voices were part of the decision-making processes.

The Government has now announced plans to introduce a ban on social media access for all children under 16. Thank you to everyone who fed in locally.

Free Community Advice Drop-in

I know the summer can be expensive, so my team will be hosting a **free community advice drop-in event in Patchway on 1st August, 10am-12pm, with local advice organisations** there to make sure that you are getting the support and help you need.

There will be free expert advice on bills, benefits, preventing scams, energy, water, fire safety and local services. You are very welcome to drop by any time.

Full venue details will be provided following your RSVP here: clairehazelgrove.co.uk/advice-drop-in or on 0117 370 8645

I hope that some of this support helps, and that you and your family have a lovely summer. As always, please get in touch anytime.

Yours,

Claire

Claire Hazelgrove MP
Member of Parliament for the Filton and Bradley Stoke constituency

More generally

If you need help or support, please do get in touch anytime. My office is easily contactable and I always welcome hearing from fellow residents.

I also hold advice surgeries every month and I'm out knocking on doors to listen regularly.

How to contact Claire:

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