

#VotingToryStarvesChildren

Teachers report "heartbreaking" increases in the numbers of poor children at primary schools going hungry

Over half of surveyed primary school teachers have **children in their school who go hungry during school holidays**, when no school meals are available. Most of those teachers also see children **arrive at school hungry**. Many teachers also report seeing children return from school holidays with **signs of malnourishment**.

One teacher said: "In addition to holiday hunger I have families who cannot cook a meal because **their oven is broken and they cannot afford to get it repaired**. I have families with disabled children who cannot easily leave the house and shop for affordable healthy food because it is too difficult and **they have no help**."

Another teacher said: "It's heart-breaking to hear **children not wanting holidays because they don't get to eat enough**."

The **Tory Government** has been **slashing services** which help families to help themselves. One teacher noted: "I believe our local Sure Start children's centre used to remain open during school holidays to support families until it was **closed down last year**."

Compared to other developed countries, the UK has a very **unequal distribution of income**. The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has predicted that if the Tory Government's planned benefit cuts go ahead, **inequality will rise even further**. The IFS also predicts "**low-income households with children will fare worse** than other households".

Source: National Union of Teachers survey, March 2017

<https://www.teachers.org.uk/news-events/conference-2017/nut-survey-holiday-hunger>

Plus **The Equality Trust:** <https://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/scale-economic-inequality-uk>

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