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The Federation of George Betts and Shireland Hall Primary Academies

Thursday 2nd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Free School Meal Vouchers to replace Packed Lunches

You may have heard that the government is starting to provide food vouchers for families who are entitled to free school meals. We have now received information about these vouchers and they are due to begin **after** the Easter holidays (**week beginning 20th April**). We will continue to provide a packed lunch throughout the Easter holidays which you can continue to collect from school.

In order for you to access these vouchers, we will need to provide an up-to-date, working email address to send your eCode to. We will be contacting you over the next few days to check we have the correct email address.

Redeeming the Vouchers

Once you receive your voucher, you will be able to redeem them in all major supermarkets (Morrisons, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda, Waitrose, M&S). You will need to present the voucher on a smartphone or you can print the voucher and take a paper copy. Families are free to select the most appropriate food and drink for their child and we encourage families to consider health and nutrition. There are a number of online resources available to support families in preparing healthy and nutritious food on www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well.

The vouchers cannot not be redeemed for any age-restricted items, such as alcohol, cigarettes or lottery tickets.

Q&A

Will every child at home due to school closures receive a food voucher?

This support focuses on those eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

Will pupils who become newly eligible for free school meals be supported?

Yes. Schools and local authorities should continue to accept free school meal applications. Parents should make contact with the school or local authority to verify eligibility and award free school meals.

What is the eligibility criteria for free school meals?

The eligibility criteria for free school meals can be found on www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals.

What about infants that receive a free meal under universal infant free school meals?

It is right that schools concentrate their effort and resources on those who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals at this time. There is no requirement to continue to provide universal infant free school meals to pupils in reception, year 1, or year 2 who are unable to attend school. Children in those year groups who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals will be supported.

Mr A Shephard
Executive Principal



Artsmark
Gold Award
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Leading Parent
Partnership Award

2017-2020