



8<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **COVID Summer Food Fund for pupils on free school meals (FSM)**

The school has continued to support those families in receipt of benefits-related FSM where the pupil is not attending school, through the government national voucher scheme.

Last month, the government launched a Covid Summer Food Fund which will enable children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals to be supported over the summer holiday period.

The school will be ordering vouchers on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July and eligible families should receive eCodes by email within 7 days of this date. The voucher will amount to £105 to cover the full 7-week holiday period. This payment will be in addition to the free school meals national voucher scheme which will continue until the end of term.

**Please ensure you redeem any outstanding eCodes before Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July, as the school will be unable to reissue any expired eCodes after this date.**

Any child currently in receipt of benefits-related free school meals or who becomes eligible during the summer term is eligible for the Covid Summer School Fund. Hackney Learning Trust will continue to accept and verify free school meal applications up until the end of summer term. The eligibility criteria for free school meals can be found at [apply for free school meals](#).

[Guidance](#) is available from Edenred for parents to help answer any questions. The voucher does not have to be spent in full, in one transaction. To check how much money is left on the eGift card, parents can ask the supermarket's customer service team when in store.

You can currently access eGift cards for the following supermarkets:

- Morrisons
- Aldi
- Iceland, including The Food Warehouse Stores
- McColl's
- Tesco
- Sainsbury's
- Asda
- Waitrose
- M&S food

Once you have received your voucher, you will be able to redeem this in-store at the selected retailer by either:

- Presenting the voucher on a smartphone or tablet
- Presenting a paper copy of the voucher

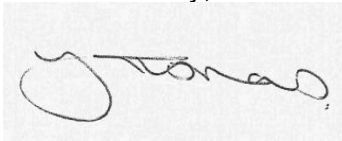
**A reminder that the vouchers must be used for food, and must not be redeemed for any age-restricted items, such as alcohol, cigarettes or lottery tickets.**

When using the vouchers, families are free to select the most appropriate food and drink for their child. We encourage families to consider making choices that contribute to a healthy balanced diet. The [School Food Standards](#) may act as a useful guide.

There are a number of ideas and tips available online to support you in preparing healthy meals, including the [Change4life recipes](#) and [NHS Eat Well website](#).

I have included the list of Frequently Asked Questions previously sent on 2<sup>nd</sup> April which are still relevant and I hope you will find helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Thomas', is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Mrs J Thomas  
Executive Head  
Daubeney Sebright & Lauriston Federation

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **Will every child at home due to school closures receive support?**

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. Hackney Learning Trust will continue to accept free school meal applications until the end of term (Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July). Use this [link](#) to apply and confirm your child's eligibility for free school meals. You only need to apply once for **each child**. If you are not eligible now, Hackney Learning Trust will continue to check your details for future entitlement against information held by the Department for Education. You can also use this [step by step guide](#) to help you apply for free school meals/pupil premium.

### **What is the eligibility criteria for free school meals?**

The eligibility criteria for free school meals can be found on the [Hackney Learning Trust website](#) and includes receipt of the following:

- Income support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- NASS support
- Guarantee element of State Pension
- Child Tax Credit, provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit for the four weeks after employment ends
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400

### **What about infants that receive a free school meal under universal infant free school meals in Reception class, Year 1 and Year 2?**

Only children in those year groups who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals will be supported. We would encourage you to apply for free school meals if your child is in one of the above year groups and you are receiving benefits. This will also allow the school to claim important extra funding that will benefit your child in the form of Pupil Premium.

### **What about children who are attending school?**

We continue to provide meals to those children in attendance.

### **What about families that do not have access to the internet?**

Where we provide supermarket eGift cards to families that do not have access to emails, we may choose to:

- Print and post the eGift cards to families
- Arrange for families to collect their vouchers