



3rd December 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

Re: Free School Meal Vouchers

Our federation of schools will be participating in the Covid Winter Grant Scheme announced on 8th November. Hackney Council in partnership with Edenred will deliver food vouchers to families who are entitled to **Free School Meals only** over the school holidays 21st December 2020 – 1st January 2021.

During these challenging times, we want to ensure that pupil's eligible for free school meals can continue to access support if they are not in school. We will be emailing vouchers at the beginning of the break to all parents who receive FSM via a 16 digits code which you can exchange for goods online at the following supermarkets; M&S, Tesco, Asda (instore only), Sainsbury's, Morrison's, Waitrose, McColls. Please do keep an eye on your email account. In order for this to happen please ensure that you check we have the correct email address for you with the school office. Please note that the supermarket vouchers cannot be used to purchase age restricted products, such as cigarettes and alcohol.

The school office will be closed over the break so please do this as soon as you can. You can apply for one voucher per child receiving FSM in your household. Weekly vouchers are £15 per child and we will be providing vouchers for **two** weeks only. You will receive **one** voucher which will cover the whole of the two week period.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- 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 run-on-paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

You may apply online on the Hackney Education website if you feel you are eligible. I am attaching a step by step guide for you to follow:

<https://education.hackney.gov.uk/content/apply-free-school-meals>

Alternatively you can contact the school office who will be more than happy to help with applications.

Yours sincerely,

Alia Choudhry
Federation Business Manager