

15<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

The DfE (Department for Education) have now clarified the position regarding the ongoing provision of supermarket vouchers in lieu of free school meals. In short, the only option that will be fully funded is the NVS (National Voucher Scheme), administered by a company called Edenred. As a result, continuing with our current arrangements is unfortunately not an option. From Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2020 your weekly voucher will be provided by the NVS in accordance with government guidance.

**Action required:**

**Vouchers will now be sent to you by email so it is critical we hold the correct contact email for you on file. Please confirm the correct contact email using the following link by midnight tonight 15.04.2020:**

**<https://forms.gle/WJgLh4X8hg7r3dHD6>**

Please note that your bank or card details will not be requested at any point in this process. Unfortunately, fraudsters are trying to use similar communications to obtain details that they can use to commit fraud, please remain vigilant against this.

I apologise for this disruption and change, especially at short notice, as we respond as quickly as possible to new information. We had hoped we would be able to continue with our current arrangements but received final clarification from the DfE yesterday that only the NVS would be funded directly and fully. For transparency, we will continue to receive FSM funding but this is not at the rate of £3 a day and we are also expected to use this funding to cover ongoing costs such as catering contracts and staffing. It will therefore not cover voucher costs so the NVS is the only option we can reasonably take.

I hope that these new arrangements will provide the same benefit as you currently enjoy. Initially we do anticipate that there may be some delays due to the volume of vouchers being processed nationally. Part of our reason for not moving to the NVS sooner was to allow some time for this to settle. We have been monitoring the situation and understand that significant investment and upgrades have taken place over Easter to minimise this.

Further information about the NVS and how to redeem and use the vouchers will be included in the email sent to you. Vouchers can be used in-store at the following: Sainsbury's, Morrison's, Tesco, Asda (also online), Waitrose (also online) and M&S Food. We understand that more supermarkets may be added over time.

Yours faithfully

**Angela Hull**

Principal