

31 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Coronavirus/Covid-19 - Free School Meals

Today the government have announced that they have developed a national scheme to provide supermarket vouchers via the Edenred online portal for those families whose child is entitled to Free School Meals. Schools will be sent the full details of how to activate the scheme by 2 April 2020 which gives us a good amount of time to set up vouchers for families of all of our children who are entitled to Free School Meals by the beginning of Term 5. Schools are not expected to provide Free School Meals in school holiday periods.

Once set up we will send a redemption eCode from the Edenred system directly to the parent or carers of the pupil eligible for free school meals. You will receive instructions on how to use this eCode to create an eGift card to the value of £15.00 per eligible child per week, which you should receive within 3 hours. Clearly this system relies on us having up to date email addresses for the families concerned. If you have changed your email address in the last week or two, please contact me directly by telephone, by letter or at <u>lpaylorsutton@langdon.kent.sch.uk</u> and I will update our records. If you do not have easy access to the internet, please also let me know this and I will arrange for an eGift card to be printed and sent to you by post.

The following supermarkets will accept eGift cards through this scheme:

Morrisons Tesco Sainsbury's Asda Waitrose M&S

Once families have received their voucher, they will be able to redeem it in-store at the selected retailer by either presenting the LYNN PAYLOR SUTTON <u>HEADTEACHER</u>

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voucher on a smartphone or tablet or by presenting a paper copy of the voucher. Families are free to select the most appropriate food and drink for their child. When selecting products we encourage families to consider principles of good health and nutrition. The vouchers must not be redeemed for any age-restricted items such as alcohol, tobacco or lottery tickets.

If your circumstances have changed and you think that your child may now be eligible for Free School Meals, you should contact Kent County Council via https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals The criteria for eligibility and the online application form can be found at this address. I would take this opportunity to remind parents that all pupils who receive Free School Meals (and for up to 6 years after receipt) bring additional funding into schools which, at Langdon, we use to help pay for our additional adult support through teaching assistants and intervention teachers. This is invaluable funding to our small school, so if you think your child might be eligible, even if you know you will not use this entitlement because your child prefers packed lunches, then I urge you still to claim for it in order to help the school.

As always, any questions then please ask and I will try to help.

Yours sincerely

Lynn Paylor Sutton Head Teacher