

Dear Parents & Carers

Free School Meal Vouchers

As you are aware, much has changed over the past 24 hours, as we enter lockdown again. In the statement from the Prime Minister yesterday evening, he mentioned the continuing provision of Free School Meals; but schools are awaiting further information; and whether this will mean a return to the 'Edenred' voucher scheme used during the first lockdown and again over Christmas.

As an individual school we can't provide vouchers via the 'Edenred' scheme. Therefore, for this week beginning Monday 4th January, later this evening I will send a £15.00 voucher for each eligible student at Wreake Valley via the 'School Vouchers' scheme - some of you will have received vouchers via this scheme before, if your child was off school due to Covid 19 reasons in the Autumn term. If you have multiple eligible children, you will receive multiple £15.00 vouchers.

As always if you have any problems or queries with the Free School Meal vouchers, please contact me directly by email. I will update you all next Monday 11th January on how we will provide the voucher for that week, by which time I hope we will have received more information from the government.

Below is a guide to how the 'School Vouchers' scheme works, if you've not used it before:

Once allocated, the system will send you an automated email and text message. If you have not already done so, you will need to register an account; then you can then select your supermarket from the list below and receive your voucher to your email / phone:

- Aldi (please note Aldi vouchers must be printed in advance and cannot be redeemed in store from a smartphone)
- Asda
- Iceland
- McColl's
- Morrisons
- Sainsbury's
- Tesco
- Waitrose

A video overview of the process is here -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2hZg2OI7Cs&feature=emb_logo

According to their website, most vouchers are received within 30 minutes after the retailer is selected - EXCEPT if you select Asda or Morrisons when the following timings apply:

- If selected before 1pm, the voucher will be received that evening.
- If selected after 1pm, the voucher will be received the following working day (in the evening)

Once you receive the voucher, this can then be scanned from your smartphone at the supermarket till (except Aldi) or alternatively you can print the email in advance. The voucher will be valid for a minimum of 12 months and currently only the Asda, Sainsbury's and Waitrose vouchers can be used for online shopping. The vouchers can only be used to purchase groceries; and cannot be used to purchase age restricted products.

In line with government advice, we would recommend that when spending the voucher, only one person visits the supermarket and where possible this voucher is used to buy food for several days or weeks at a time; to limit the need for multiple visits. If you and your household are in self-isolation the voucher can be forwarded to someone else to get shopping for you. Please note each voucher is unique, so the money on it can only be spent once.

If you have any questions, please get in contact with me directly.

Yours

Mark Twitney

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