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Headteacher: Brett Stevenson

31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

## Free School Meal Arrangements UPDATE

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you because your child is entitled to a free school meal.

This provision is only available to children who are eligible for FSM (free school meals) through financial circumstances, this is applied for via Gloucestershire County Council.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically qualify for a universal infant free school meal (UIFSM), regardless of circumstances. These children are not eligible for a hamper or any support offered to FSM children.

If you think you may be eligible for FSM, or circumstances change at any time; you can check via the Glos CC website.

The link is below:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

*At the time of writing this update, there are two initiatives being developed. School has no influence in this regard.*

### 1. Caterlink - Hampers

Gloucestershire County Council and Caterlink have decided to review their provision of free School Meals, in the light of the Coronavirus.

Caterlink will be providing a 'hamper' which will be intended to last for 10 days. A typical hamper will consist of:

| Item                | Pack Size | Number of items |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Baked Beans         | 415g      | 1 tin           |
| Biscuits/Digestives | 300g      | 1 packet        |
| Tinned fruit        | 822g      | 1 tin           |
| Cornflakes          | 500g      | 1 packet        |
| Wholemeal Pasta     | 500g      | 1 packet        |
| Tuna                | 185g      | 4 tins          |
| Tinned Soup         | 400g      | 1 tin           |

|                    |         |              |
|--------------------|---------|--------------|
| UHT Milk           | 1 Litre | 1 bottle     |
| Cheese (long life) | 80g     | 1 portion    |
| Fresh Sliced Bread | 800g    | 1 loaf       |
| Eggs               | medium  | Half a dozen |
| Tinned Tomatoes    | 415g    | 1 tin        |
| Fresh Fruit        | -       | 2 items      |
| Jacket Potatoes    | -       | 2 potatoes   |

There will be **one hamper per child that is entitled to a free school meal**. Therefore, if you have two children on a free school meal, you will receive two hampers and so on.

The hampers will then be ordered, and you will be notified of the time that you can arrange for them to be collected from Blakeney School. We will not be delivering them. It will be approximately 1 week, but please remember this is beyond our control.

If you are interested in receiving a hamper, then please contact:

[meals@blakeney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:meals@blakeney.gloucs.sch.uk).

Please put 'hamper' in the subject line.

## 2. Food Vouchers

This morning (31.03.20) the Government announced a 'Food Voucher Scheme' which they will be rolling out over the next few weeks. You may have heard it on the news. The key messages are (taken from the DfE website)

Children eligible for free school meals will benefit from a national voucher scheme allowing them to continue to access meals whilst they stay at home.

Schools can now provide every eligible child with a weekly shopping voucher worth £15 to spend at supermarkets while schools are closed due to coronavirus.

Schools can continue to provide meals for collection or delivery themselves, but where this is not possible, the scheme will allow schools to provide vouchers to families electronically, or as a gift card for those without internet access.

The vouchers can be spent on food at a range of shops including Sainsbury's, Tesco, Asda, Morrisons, Waitrose and M&S, with the Department working to get more shops to join the scheme as soon as possible.

Parents will receive the voucher through their child's school, which can then be redeemed online via a code, or sent to their house as a gift card and used at supermarkets across the country.

Please note:

- Each voucher is £15 per child. This increases with how many children per family are eligible.
- Lidl and Co-Op are not included. This may change
- The vouchers do **not** cover the Easter holidays
- We will process applications for vouchers in order that families can receive them after the Easter holidays. This process will be dependent on your prompt engagement with the process and school effort
- Vouchers cannot be spent on alcohol, cigarettes or other age restricted items eg lottery tickets
- Your patience will be needed. Experience tells me that this will be a difficult system to implement:  
**this is not a school initiative**

If you are interested in receiving vouchers, then please contact:

[meals@blakeney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:meals@blakeney.gloucs.sch.uk).

Please put 'Vouchers' in the subject line

Take care,

Brett

Headteacher