



Dear Parents/Carers,

Are you and your children eligible for supermarket vouchers during the coronavirus?

I hope that you are all keeping well during this difficult time; it has been with great pleasure that I have seen the incredible child and family engagement with the Google Classroom. I hope you, and your children, are now looking forward to the holiday, albeit under these strange circumstances.

I am writing today to encourage anybody who feels they may be eligible for Free School Meals, but has never applied for this, to do so urgently, as this may entitle you to supermarket vouchers (£15 per child per week) during the coronavirus; an initiative organised recently by the Department for Education (DfE).

The entitlement criteria from 1 April 2018 is:-

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- eligible for Child Tax Credit **but not** Working Tax Credit and the household income (as used by HMRC to assess tax credits) is not more than £16,190. **Please note:** anyone eligible for Working Tax Credit, or if you have a partner and they receive it, regardless of Income, you will not qualify
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- In receipt of the 4 week run on of working tax credit (this is where someone becomes unemployed or reduces their hours and so is no longer entitled to working tax credit but will continue to receive it for a further 4 weeks and is entitled to free meals during that time)
- Universal credit (provided you have an annual net earned household income of no more than £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods). Your net earned income is your household income after taxes and deductions and does not include income from Universal Credit or any other benefits you may receive.

In order to support families in finding out whether they are eligible, we are able to check this at school and to do this we only need your First Name, Last Name, National Insurance Number and Date of Birth.

If you are interested, please send the above information together with your child's name(s) to the school office (office@worplesdon.surrey.sch.uk) and write 'FAO Mrs Sawkins/Mrs Ireland' in the subject box. We will then check this and let you know the outcome.

At this stage the government have indicated that those who apply for Free School Meals now will be entitled to the Supermarket Voucher scheme but the guidance during the coronavirus outbreak changes regularly so this is not something I can guarantee.

Wishing you all a happy break with your families. Keep safe, keep smiling.

With best wishes,

Mrs Karen O'Brien
Headteacher.