

27 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

Free School Meal support during school closure – update

It is of the utmost importance to me, Outwood Academy Bydales and Outwood Grange Academies Trust that we do everything we can to support children and families entitled to Free School Meals. Achieving this is clearly very challenging given we have been asked to close our school to all but a few students and maintain as much social distancing as possible. I write with an update, and trust that the new arrangements below will provide some extra help to families during these difficult times.

You will now be able to access an electronic voucher from a choice of supermarkets. We anticipate that this means that you will receive £11.50 each Monday of the week that the school remains closed. We will of course update you if this situation changes.

In the next 24 hours we will text parents a link to obtain an e-voucher where eligible:

1. Follow this link, choose which supermarket you would like an e-voucher for, and press submit.
2. You will then be sent an e-voucher to the value of £11.50 for your chosen supermarket. Please be aware that the timescale for this to be sent will vary by supermarket. If you make the supermarket selection by midday then the expected turnaround is:
 - a. **Tesco** - same day
 - b. **Morrisons** - same day
 - c. **Asda** - by midday the following day
 - d. **Sainsbury's** - by midnight the following day
3. At present these e-vouchers can only be used in the above stores but this may change in the future. Please use this e-voucher to help provide lunches for your children whilst the school is closed. This is in lieu of the Free School Meal that we would normally provide your son/daughter(s).
4. Each week we plan to send you another e-voucher but we will update you if this plan changes.

Please be aware that there are a number of illegal scams concerning Free School Meal vouchers circulating and you should be extra vigilant when any messages regarding Free School Meals. **Our process detailed above will never ask you to provide your bank or other debit/credit card details.**

Thank you for your continued support and patience with us, and I hope you feel these arrangements are useful. If you need any additional support during our school closure, the RCBC support page for Children & Families Services is here: <https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/coronavirus/Pages/Children-and-Families-Services.aspx> Family Hubs contact numbers are: **Greater Eston** area **07500606851**, **Redcar** area **07970371685**, **East Cleveland** area – **07966232823**. You can contact the school via email on enquiries@bydales.outwood.com, as our Reception and school is closed.

Yours faithfully



Seana Rice
Principal