



Grange View C.E. First School
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We aim to SPARKLE!

COVID-19- FREE SCHOOL MEAL(PP)VOUCHERS

Dear Parents and Carers

Tuesday 31st March 2020

Thankyou to everyone who has Stayed Safe at home following government guidelines.

Thankyou for being so patient with this voucher system.

We have had confirmation from Co-op that £30 vouchers paid for by the school budget will be here this week for collection by a parent from each family. The school will let you know as soon as we can do this and get them out.

Early this morning the government announced early a new voucher scheme to support all Free School meal families who have to stay at home. This is as follows:

Under normal circumstances, schools are not expected to provide free school meals to eligible children who are not attending due to illness or if the school is closed. However, during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak we expect schools to continue to provide support to these pupils if the school is:

**only open for certain groups
 closed**

We understand that schools will have different approaches to how they currently provide free school meals to eligible children. Where schools are not able to provide eligible pupils with meals or food parcels through their current food provider, they can provide eligible families with supermarket vouchers in **term time weeks only.**

The Department for Education (DfE) has developed a centrally-funded national voucher scheme to support schools with this process. The School will receive an email today from DfE's supplier Edenred regarding how to access and administer the voucher scheme.

The DfE have developed a national scheme to provide supermarket vouchers via the Edenred online portal. Schools will not have to pay for these vouchers as the costs for this scheme will be picked up centrally by DfE.

Vouchers will be made available to the adult with caring responsibility for that child.

Each eligible family will:

- Receive a single voucher to the value of £15 each week for every child eligible for benefits-related free school meals who is not attending school
- Be set a weekly £15 rolling voucher



- Be able to combine funding where there is more than one child eligible for benefits-related free school meals

School will:

- send an 'eCode' directly to the parent or carers of the pupils(s) eligible for free school meals - they will need to choose an eGift card from a range of supermarkets

Through Edenred, you can currently access eGift cards for the following supermarkets:

Morrisons

Tesco

Sainsbury's

Asda

Waitrose

M&S

The government recognise that it may not be convenient or possible for some families to visit one of these supermarkets, and they are working to see if additional supermarkets can be added to this list.

Sending eCodes to families

We will send a redemption eCode from the Edenred system directly to the parent or carers of the pupil(s) eligible for free school meals. They will receive instructions on how to use this eCode to create an eGift card, which the family should receive within 3 hours. The family should have a working email account which they can access.

Redeeming the vouchers

Once families have received their voucher, they will be able to redeem them **in-store** at the selected retailer by either:

presenting the voucher on a smartphone or tablet

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 health and nutrition. The School Food Standards may act as a useful guide for families.

The vouchers should not be redeemed for any age-restricted items, such as alcohol, cigarettes or lottery tickets.

Help for those who need it!

The parish council are also offering support in the village for all families who are self-isolating if they are requesting assistance with shopping or medication:

Contact Numbers – Parish 07391548264 and Gareth Tait 07811130808. Please call them if you need them.

Thank you for your patience and understanding, and for the work you're doing to help in the fight against COVID-19. We just want to keep all our families and staff safe.

EASTER TREAT BAGS- these will be available to all families between 2-3pm Thurs 2nd April from school kitchen door . Please remember the social distancing rules and stay 2m apart . Thankyou.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Stay Safe- Mrs L Laskey – Head teacher