



Smart Schools – Provision of vouchers in replacement of packed lunches for children eligible for Free School Meals for financial reasons

3rd April 2020

The Government instructed that we close our schools from Friday 20th March 2020 to all children except those of key workers and/or those in need of additional support, where the school is still able to safely provide that support.

Since then, free school meals have been provided in the form of a packed lunch collected from the school.

The free school meal packed lunch will be replaced by an e-voucher for a supermarket of your choice from Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury or Morrisons. The voucher will be sent to your e-mail address and/or by text message to your mobile phone.

When will I get my e-vouchers?

Due to the Covid 19 virus situation, in addition to term time we are providing vouchers for **one** week of the Easter holidays too. We don't yet know if any other holidays will be included in the scheme.

You will be entitled to £15 per week for each child and you should receive the first voucher sometime between now and the end of next week. (Remember this is the only one which is for the Easter holidays.) We will try to issue vouchers going forward towards the end of each week ready for the following week.

What do I have to do?

The school will purchase the vouchers for you each week. Once we have done that, you will receive an e-mail or text from a company called Wonde asking you to choose the supermarket you want to use your e-voucher in. Please make sure you reply – if you don't, then the e-vouchers can't be issued to you. We understand that you should receive your e-voucher(s) that evening or the next day/evening if you have responded later in the day.

We believe that once you have selected a supermarket the details will be retained and the same voucher will be issued each week.

For how long will I get e-vouchers this way?

The Government has announced a national voucher system and we may need to move to that system which may change how you get vouchers. If we don't move to the Government system, you should continue to receive e-vouchers until the schools are able to provide meals in school for your children. We will keep you up to date with any changes.

Please bear with us as we all get used to the new system. If you have not received an e-mail or text asking you to choose your supermarket, we may not have the right details for you so please contact us using the school admin email address from our website.

If your child is not currently eligible for Free School Meals but your circumstances have changed recently and you think they may now be entitled, please apply immediately using the link below and once we receive confirmation of eligibility then we can arrange for you to be included in the voucher scheme:

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/help-school-and-learning-costs/apply-free-school-meals>