



COVID-19- School Meal Provision and Easter Provision

Dear Parent/Carer

We recently received information from the Government regarding the publicised Free School Meals voucher scheme. We are working closely with the Local Authority to ensure we follow the guidance in terms of School Meal Provision.

Who will be able to receive vouchers after Easter?

Vouchers will **ONLY** be available for children whose families are registered as being entitled to benefits-related Free School Meals.

Who will NOT be able to receive vouchers after Easter?

If you have a child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 who usually gets a school meal but you are not registered for benefits-related Free School Meals then you will **NOT** receive vouchers. However, in the short term, and as a safety net, we have offered a packed lunch to pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 which you can collect from the main gate – see information sent out by email.

What can you do if you think you might be eligible for benefits related free school meals (now given in voucher form) but are not yet registered?

For some parents, the current, challenging, situation may have changed your financial situation and you may now be or become eligible.

The eligibility criteria for Free School Meals can be found on the North Tyneside Free School Meal Webpage. Please register to see if you are eligible for Free School Meals. School will then register you for the voucher scheme and you will receive them by email. (Please note there may be a short time- lag but office staff are working remotely and will process any eligible families as quickly as possible

How will the voucher scheme work?

We have registered any existing families on the portal and ordered vouchers. As part of the registration process, we contact those eligible and ask for the email address of the primary carer for each child. Vouchers are purchased by each school for those who are registered as eligible using the Government's online portal.

When will vouchers start to be sent out?

Vouchers will only be issued during term time. We are working hard with the aim that the first vouchers will be sent out early in the first week after the Easter holidays (20th April 2020).

Easter Arrangements

We have targeted communication about Easter holiday provision to those families where both parents are working on the front line Covid 19 response. Communication has been made directly with those families with all of the arrangements (opening times, contact meals etc). If your requirements change over the holiday (such as being called in to work as part of the COVID-19 response) please contact us and we will do our best to support you and your family. During the Easter holiday the school office will not be staffed to the normal level so if you try phoning the school number it is likely that it will not be

answered. If you need to contact us urgently then email is the best method – office
@southridge.org.uk

We know that this is likely to be very different Easter period for all of our school community. Our whole school community have pulled together and we know you are all supporting each other whilst at home. Stay as safe as possible, try to enjoy Easter – for our children, you are all the best example of our school core values that we could ever wish for.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Hall

Headteacher