

Wednesday 1st July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to give you details about the government 'Covid Summer Food Fund'.

Due to the unprecedented nature of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, we recognise families will face increased pressure on household budgets over the coming months. That is why we are launching a Covid Summer Food Fund which will enable children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals to be supported over the summer holiday period. The payments for the Covid Summer Food Fund will be met centrally by DfE.

Over the last two months, schools have been directed to use their caterers to provide food hampers to fulfil the free school meal allocations. The Covid Summer Food Fund scheme is different in that it has been designed to offer a £90 voucher for the school summer holiday.

Before ordering vouchers through the Covid Summer Food Fund, the school has to check which pupils are eligible and in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. Only those parents who are entitled to income related free school meals are eligible at this current time. This means that if your child receives Universal Free School Meals as a result of being in EYFS or KS1 then you are not eligible. If your child currently receives benefits related free school meals then you do not have to do anything. However, we appreciate that over the lockdown period many people's employment and financial situations may have changed. In order to check if you may now be eligible for free school meals, please consider if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (not Working Tax Credit), with an annual income below £16,190
- Pension Guarantee Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance, income related
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999
- Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit, with a household income of £7,400 or less (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Please register at Hertfordshire Free School Meals. If you need support, please email or phone the school and they will support you in applying.

The Government has introduced temporary measures of support by extending FSM eligibility to include some children of groups who have no recourse to public funds and who are subject to a maximum household earnings threshold of £7,400 per annum. These groups are:

- children of Zambrano carers
- children of families with no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- children of families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are also subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction

Please let the school know by Thursday 2nd July if you are now eligible for income related free school meals and you will be included in the scheme. Vouchers will be sent to you before the last day of term.

Yours sincerely,



James Roach
Chief Executive Officer
Inclusive Multi Academy Trust