



MONTGOMERY

INFANT SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Tuesday 31st March 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well and you are coping during these extraordinary times. We have been cheered by the many posts on tapestry and the ingenuity you have exhibited home schooling your children. We all miss you dearly and look forward to a time in the future where we can get back to some kind of normality.

We have had news today regarding the governments issue of vouchers for families eligible for benefits-related free school meals. I have copied some of the information below and more information can be found here

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/voucher-scheme-launches-for-schools-providing-free-school-meals?utm_source=1e8e0f2f-de27-4ddc-8bb7-4c57b4725211&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

We apologise for not being able to support our families in receipt of FSM last week but can assure you that Mrs Whittam has been doing her utmost to source provision whilst waiting for the government to launch this scheme.

We are currently awaiting the email from the government which will enable us to source the vouchers and will keep you updated. Mrs Whittam has already been in touch with our known families in receipt of FSM. If you believe you are eligible or have recently become eligible but have not been contacted please email finance@montgomery-inf.essex.sch.uk. We will be in contact with you shortly and have been informed that vouchers will be made available to the adult with caring responsibility for that child.

Please continue to use tapestry to keep in touch. It has been lovely seeing all the amazing things you've been up to at home also lots of you have been logging in to Purple Mash to complete some of the tasks set by teachers whilst also exploring the rich learning materials that are available. Teachers are currently busy creating more materials for you to access from our website and we are hoping to make further learning packs available for you to collect very soon.

Please email me if you need any further help and we will do our utmost to try and support you during these difficult times.

Stay safe and keep well

Miss Bridgeman

Head Teacher

head@montgomery-inf.essex.sch.uk

Information regarding the issue of vouchers for families eligible for benefits related FSM

Below is a brief summary of the information:

Children eligible for benefits-related free school meals will benefit from a national voucher scheme allowing them to continue to access meals whilst they stay at home.

Schools can now provide every eligible child with a weekly shopping voucher worth £15 to spend at supermarkets while schools are closed due to coronavirus.

The scheme will allow schools to provide vouchers to families electronically, or as a gift card for those without internet access.

The vouchers can be spent on food at a range of shops including Sainsbury's, Tesco, Asda, Morrisons, Waitrose and M&S, with the Department working to get more shops to join the scheme as soon as possible.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

No child should go hungry as a result of the measures introduced to keep people at home, protect the NHS and save lives. That's why we are launching this scheme to make sure children who usually benefit from free school meals still have access to healthy and nutritious meals while they are not attending school.

Parents will receive the voucher through their child's school, which can then be redeemed online via a code, or sent to their house as a gift card and used at supermarkets across the country.

Schools can provide eligible families with supermarket vouchers in term time weeks.

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.

There are a number of online resources available to support families in preparing healthy and nutritious food, including on the NHS Eat Well website.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/?tabname=recipes-and-tips>