



2nd April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Free School Meals

On Thursday 19th March, the Government published guidance for schools giving them the flexibility to provide meals or shop vouchers to the 1.3 million disadvantaged children entitled to free school meals if they are no longer attending school, either due to closures or as a result of self-isolating at home. During the first week of closure we posted a £10 (per child) voucher, to all the parents/carers of all our eligible children.

A national approach to providing these supermarket and shop vouchers, has now been developed by the Government. However St James' has not yet been able to access this system. The Government scheme will provide £15 a week to each family, for each child who is eligible for Free School meals. The vouchers will not be provided during the school holidays. Vouchers will be sent via email and will be sent via a company called Edenred. **We hope to have this system up and running after the Easter Holidays.**

To cover the period of delay we will be posting a second voucher out to you over the next couple of days. This voucher will be of the value, £20 per child.

Therefore in total you will receive, from St James' £30 per child in vouchers. These vouchers are to cover the periods of the week commencing 20th March and week commencing 27th March.

Following the Easter holidays please ensure that you monitor your emails and you should receive emails from Edenred detailing how you can download the vouchers which will be sent from the Government scheme.

If you have any questions please email the School Business Manager at the following email address:
j.doherty@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Doherty
School Business Manager