

## Coronavirus Update Number 8 – 23/3/20

### Free School Meals

If your child is currently eligible for benefits-related free school meals then they will continue to be entitled to some support while school is closed.

We have been working hard to get hold of vouchers from Asda that can be sent out to all of our families who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals. We are expecting these to arrive today or tomorrow and they will be sent out as soon as we have them. We have requested these vouchers to be sent to us as E-Vouchers. This will enable us to e-mail them directly to families who are eligible, speeding up this process. For families where we do not have your e-mail address we will print the voucher out and post it to you.

- **Please email Mrs Yamawaki if we do not have your e-mail address. This will enable her to be able to e-mail you your voucher when they are available. Her e-mail address is:**  
[y.yamawaki@st-james-rusholme.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:y.yamawaki@st-james-rusholme.manchester.sch.uk)

The vouchers will be in the amount of £12.50 per child, per week. The first voucher sent out will be in the amount of £25, covering two weeks per child. We have developed our system in order to provide support to our families as quickly as we can. The Government is currently developing a National Voucher system. I would expect this system to replace our system but am waiting to receive the relevant details. Once this is up and running we will contact you with as much information as possible.

**Please note – children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 who normally have a school meal through the Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme are not eligible for this support.**

I had thought these children would be eligible to be included but Government guidance states this support is for those who are entitled to “benefits-related free school meals”. Apologies if any confusion has arisen as a result of this.

#### **FSM Scams**

The DfE have been informed that some parents have received an email stating the following: ‘As schools will be closing, if you’re entitled to free school meals, please send your bank details and we’ll make sure you’re supported’

DfE have confirmed that this is a scam email and is not official. Please do not respond, and delete it immediately.

#### **Local Authority Support**

From today, the Council has also set up a scheme to help with food costs for families who are facing additional financial challenges due to the Covid 19 virus. This offer can be found on the reverse of this letter.

Take care,  
Mr Shortall

### **Manchester City Council Message**

#### **Hardship:- To support to families facing hardship**

Because schools have closed and some families are facing additional financial challenges due to the Covid 19 virus, we want to provide support to families, who most need it.

We are providing a financial grant to parents and carers of the following groups of children and young people.

To qualify the family must be:

- a Manchester resident or supported by our Homelessness Service; and
- whose family has been hardest hit by the recent issues and may be waiting for benefits to be assessed or have a gap in their income due to being laid off etc.

The contribution towards a lunchtime meal is £2 per day (£10 per week) for each school age child or young person in the household.

We will be able to pay this money within a few days by the following methods

- A bank transfer into a nominated bank account
- A secure text message that can be used to access cash from a range of Paypoint outlets in the city
- A voucher that can be printed and can then be exchanged for cash from a range of Paypoint outlets in the city.

To make an application, families need to submit a request via the Council's Welfare Provision Scheme

[MCC Apply for cash grant if you are in financial crisis](#)