Dear Parents/Carers,

We have now been given full details about the Government system to pay for Free School Meals during the school closure period.

**What will happen about FSMs**
Essentially, you are the main contact for your child/children and will receive a redemption eCode directly from Edenred. Edenred is the provider that the Department for Education (DfE) is using to administer the FSM voucher system.

**How and when will I get the eCode?**
The FSM eCodes will be sent:
- To the email address that we have for the main contact for your child/children.
- Each week of term time that school is closed.
- Vouchers have already been sent for the first 4 weeks of the closure. The Government have today announced that they will also fund vouchers for the two week Easter break.

**What will the value be of each eCode?**
- Each eCode has a value of £15 per child, entitled to FSM, per week of term time.
- When parents/carers have more than one child, entitled to FSMs, then they will receive eCodes equivalent to £15 multiplied by the number of children they have. For example, for a parent with 3 children, entitled to FSMs, this will be £15 multiplied by 3 which is £45.

**What do I have to do when I get emailed the eCode?**
When you receive the eCode there will be instructions on how to use the eCode to create an eGift card for the supermarket of your choice, from the list below. This will require access to the internet. You should then receive an eGift card within 3 hours – it may not happen immediately.
**Where can I use the eGift card?**
The DfE have enable the eGift cards to be used at the following stores:
- Asda
- Marks and Spencer’s
- Morrisons
- Sainsbury’s
- Tesco
- Waitrose
If the DfE add stores to this list we will let you know.

**What items can I spend the eGift card on?**
The DfE is very clear that the eGift cards should only be spent on healthy and nutritious food for children entitled to FSMs – in the same sort of way that usually happens during normal term times. The funding for FSM comes from the taxes that the government receives and it is important that this is spent in the right way.

**What happens if I can’t access an email account or the internet?**
Please tell us as soon as possible. There is a process by which we can order a paper eGift cards for parents, in this situation. These would then be collected by parents or posted to them. If you think this could be needed for you, the earlier you tell us the more time we have to try and help you.

**What happens if this process does not work smoothly?**
In theory, the DfE and Edenred will have set up the system so that it does all run smoothly. However, as this is something new for them, schools, parents and supermarkets it is possible that there will be a few glitches along the way. If you have any problem at all, please do contact our office team who will do all they can to help but bear in mind that this is new for them and will not see any messages sent to you from Edenred.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Amery
Headteacher