

Walkley Primary School
Burnaby Crescent
Sheffield S6 2RZ

Tel: 0114 2340550

Fax: 0114 2310553

Email: enquiries@walkley.sheffield.sch.uk

Web: <http://www.walkley.sheffield.sch.uk>

Headteacher: Val Sian

Deputy Headteacher: Chris Wallis

Chair of the Governing Body: Andy Wilcock



'Enjoyment, Achievement, and Learning for life...'

Monday 6th April 2020

Coronavirus update – Monday 6th April 2020 Provision for Free School Meals

Free school meals vouchers update from Learn Sheffield

Dear Parents / Carers

Update on Free School Meals

On Wednesday 1st April the government announced the National FSM voucher service for families. This is a service available to families in place of food hampers which have previously been provided by school meal providers and delivered by Walkley staff to our Free School Meal families. The voucher scheme operates during term time only and, so, for most Sheffield schools on holiday this week and next, it will take effect in Sheffield **after the Easter weekend. Walkley staff will be delivering the food hampers this Wednesday (8th April) as usual.**

Andrew Jones, of the Inclusion Service at the Local Authority, has indicated that the scheme isn't perfect. The range of supermarkets where the vouchers can be used is limited and, by and large, the scheme relies on parents having an active and available Email address as the vouchers are E-vouchers. Not all supermarkets, especially smaller ones, are able to process the vouchers, which is why the range of supermarkets is more limited. However, the DfE took the view that it was better to launch the scheme rather than delay the start. Discussions are ongoing with the smaller supermarkets to get them included. There is also ongoing work to support parents without Email addresses, the vouchers can be printed and posted to those parents.

FSM Eligible pupils

The inclusion team at Walkley have been working hard to try and support families that we feel should be on the FSM list but are currently not, and we have encouraged these families to follow the relevant application process so they too can receive the E-vouchers after the holidays. We are also working hard to reach parents without an active email account who will not be able to receive the E-vouchers in the intended way.

So, bearing in mind that the supermarket list is set to increase, and work is ongoing to print the vouchers for parents without active Email accounts, Learn Sheffield are recommending that schools use the national FSM voucher scheme wherever possible from the week after the Easter break.

Also, as we continue to progress through the course of the pandemic, the use of the voucher scheme makes our community less reliant on food preparation and a physical local food chain. The government's guidance leaves the final decision of the adoption of the scheme with schools and Learn Sheffield believe that the national voucher scheme is the most resilient system moving forward.

Walkley Primary School has opted to use the voucher scheme.



Edenred, the Government's chosen E-Voucher provider, have sent our school an activation email, explaining how to access the portal and order vouchers. We have activated our account and are beginning to engage in the process to create vouchers. Edenred will provide our school with a step-by-step guide to ordering vouchers through their online portal. We are in the process of securing activation codes for all our families entitled to FSM. We are aiming to send a £15 weekly E-gift voucher per child when school reopens after the Easter Break. Rest assured that WPS are doing everything to make sure that these vouchers get to you as early as possible.

As soon as the DFE receive all of our relevant information and we have more clarity on how you will receive your vouchers we will contact you again. Stay safe

Many thanks to all of you for your kind messages, feedback and support for the staff at Walkley Primary School. We are passionate about the part we can play in the global fight against this pandemic by supporting our community of key workers and vulnerable families.

Kindest regards

Walkley Primary School Safeguarding Team