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Dear Parents & Carers

Free School Meals

We understand that for some of you, your financial circumstances may have changed during the current coronavirus pandemic, which may mean that your child is now eligible for Free School Meals.

In addition to receiving free school meals when your child is at school (via an automatic top-up on their payment card) - over the forthcoming Christmas holiday, thanks to additional government funding, parents and carers of children registered for Free School Meals will also be provided with a supermarket voucher to help with food costs at home.

To apply for free school meals, you just need to complete the attached 2-page form and return it to Leicestershire County Council. You can also download the form directly from:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/social-care-and-supporting-families/free-school-meals>

Your child may be eligible if you receive ANY of the following:

- Universal Credit - and your household income is less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the government are temporarily extending free school meal eligibility to include some children of groups who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF). These groups are:

- children of Zambrano carers
- children of families with no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- children of families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are also subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction

Unfortunately, the school cannot apply on your behalf; and your details ARE NOT passed over automatically when you apply for any of the above credits and allowances; or if you are part of any of the above groups.

Once your application is approved, the school is notified automatically. If you require any assistance with applying, or advice about your eligibility, please contact School Catering Services on 0116 305 5000 or email freeschoolmeals@leics.gov.uk

Please note that if your circumstances change, and your child is no longer eligible for Free School Meals, you must inform School Catering Services.

If your child already receives Free School Meals, we will be in contact before the end of term with details of the supermarket voucher for the Christmas holidays.

Yours sincerely

Mark Twitney
Finance Manager