



MANOR COURT Community Primary School

incorporating Manor Court Early Years Centre

A Member of Preston Primary Academy Trust

Head Teacher Mr L Talmage

Deputy Head Teacher Mr A Clode Assistant Head Teacher Mrs G Terry

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20th January 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians

Reference: Free School Meal (FSM) provision during the current National Lockdown

Our school ethos states that we 'care, learn and achieve together' and this ethos is the foundation of all our work. We know that all children will achieve their full potential when each child within our school is treated equally and is afforded the same opportunities. This universal offer and shared ethos ensure that Manor Court is the inclusive school that we all value.

This third National Lockdown announced by the Government and the knowledge that some parents of children who qualify for FSM did not use any of their vouchers that they were entitled to spend in the first lockdown, has helped us to make our decision about vouchers during this lockdown from a position of our school ethos and that each child should be provided for equally.

We will not be issuing FSM vouchers at any time soon during term time and will continue to provide the food packs provided by Aspens, our caterers, to those children entitled to them. These food parcels have improved in quality since the first lockdown and contain enough food for parents to make a healthy and nutritious lunch for their child between Monday to Friday each week. This decision is the Government's preferred choice of providing for FSM families, follows all Government guidance and in the knowledge that we must protect our hot meal provision (only three of the caterers employed at Aspens have retained their jobs since March 2020) for all children when they return to school after this current lockdown.

For those families who have been allocated a food pack, we appreciate that it may not have been easy to collect it at an allocated time, therefore we have reviewed the collection process and you can now collect at any time between 12.30pm and 3pm on Mondays at the back of the school. Please do remember to socially distance and wear masks.

We know that for many, money is tight at the moment and any food that is not collected by entitled families will be offered for collection at the end of the school day each Monday/Tuesday on a first come first served basis to the wider community. Please do take as much or as little that you can use and pass onto others who would benefit from it.

At the time of writing, the Government have stated that they will not be making FSM provision during the February half term. However, as we are all aware, the Government are prone to changing their mind and may well eventually make provision in the form of a voucher for this holiday week. If this is the case, we have been instructed to use the Government backed voucher scheme, Edenred. As things change quickly, we need to be able to readily supply them with a valid email address for each family entitled to free school meals and need your permission to be able to share this with them. Therefore, in preparation, if your family currently receive FSM, please email the school email address office@manorcourt.ppat365.org stating that you give permission to share the information needed.

The application process for FSM entitlement is managed by Somerset County Council. Please follow this link to make an application if your family would benefit from this support.

https://secure1.somerset.gov.uk/forms/PortalShowForm.asp?fm_formalias=freeschoolmeal



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If you are unsure of the criteria for applying for FSM, please read the following extract from the Somerset County Council website. If you would like additional assistance to complete the forms, please contact us and we will be able to guide you through the process.

“Children who attend a Somerset County Council school, whose parents or carers receive certain benefits may be entitled to free school meals.

Only the benefits listed here – and no other benefits – qualify you for free school meals for your children.

These are the benefits.

- Universal Credit with an annual household income of less than £7,400 after tax
- Income Support (IS)
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income related) – not Contribution related
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA) – not Contribution based
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit with an annual taxable income (as assessed by HMRC) of less than £16,190, as long as the family is not also in receipt of Working Tax Credit.

If you have recently become unemployed, but are still receiving Working Tax Credits, you may be entitled to free school meals.

During the coronavirus outbreak, the Government are temporarily extending free school meal eligibility to include children of families who have no recourse to public funds. Therefore, children will also be eligible for free school meals if their legal guardians' household income is £28,200 or below **and** they meet one of the following criteria:

- they are a Zambrano Carer
- they have the right to remain in the UK under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and are subject to no recourse to public funds
- they are supported under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (Children in Need)

They may also be eligible if they are supported under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

If you meet this additional criteria, complete the [Free School Meals Application Form – Covid-19 Additional Criteria](#) and send it in with the appropriate evidence.”

We continue to offer ongoing support throughout this lockdown and please do contact the school if you require our support.

With all kind regards,



Mr L Talmage
Head teacher



Mr Alan Clode
Deputy Head teacher/Inclusion Leader