

25th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We know that times are hard for many families and individuals. The Government's "Covid Winter Grant Scheme" was announced in December 2020 to help those most in need during the winter months.

We are writing to let you know that you can apply for support from City of Wolverhampton Council, to help with the costs of buying food for your child/ren during the February half-term holiday week (15th -21st February 2021).

This support will be provided as an "eCode" which can be exchanged online for a supermarket voucher to spend with a participating retailer (£15 a week per child) or a school box food parcel containing a week's worth of breakfast cereals, healthy snacks and lunch items, delivered to your home address by Morrisons.

Your child **does not** need to be registered for benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM) to be able to receive this support.

You can **apply online between 30th January and 5th February 2021** at <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/freeschoolmealswinter> if you are:

- eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM) not Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)*; or
- entitled to Working Tax Credit with annual income less than £16,190; or
- receiving Universal Credit with take-home pay less than £1,233.33 a month; or
- waiting for your first Universal Credit payment

If you would like to apply for support but don't meet these requirements, please contact the school via freeschoolmeals@kingswolverhampton.co.uk or 01902 558333 to discuss your circumstances in confidence.

*UIFSM are free meals provided to all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, regardless of their family circumstances.

Help with your application

- Please **only apply once** – when your application has been submitted you will see a message on the screen and receive an email to confirm your application has been submitted

- If you **don't have access to the internet, or don't have an email address** please
 - Let us know – we can help you to complete your application
 - Or, call the Stay Safe, Be Kind Helpline on 01902 290241 from Monday 1st February. If you call before Monday 1st February, they will not be able to help you with your application.
- The closing date to apply is **Friday 5th February**. If you do not apply before this date, you will not be able to receive support during the February half-term holiday week, even if your child is eligible to receive support during term-time.

If your application is successful

- If your application is successful, you will receive a second email containing an eCode by Sunday 14th February.
- This email will include all the information you need to exchange your eCode for a supermarket voucher from Edenred.
- You will need to provide an email address to receive your supermarket voucher
- We would encourage you to exchange your eCode for a supermarket voucher as soon as possible so that you can buy the food your family needs during the half-term week.
- If you think that you should have received an eCode but you haven't by Sunday 14th February, please first check your 'junk/spam' email, then call 01902 290241 or email freeschoolmeals@wolverhampton.gov.uk after Monday 15th February 2021. You will need to provide a copy of the confirmation email you received when you completed your online application.

If your application is not successful, or you need urgent help in the meantime, please call 01902 290241 or visit the Council's Stay Safe Be Kind website (www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/staysafebekind) for information about other support that might be available to you.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Lingard (freeschoolmeals@kingswolverhampton.co.uk or phone 01902 558333) if there is any way in which we can support you further.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr J. Ludlow
Principal

