



Somerville Federation

Somerville Primary School and Somerville Nursery School

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Executive Headteacher – Mr M J Forber

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Dear Parents and Carers

I felt compelled to write to you as a consequence of today's news items stating that vouchers will be issued today to parents for free school lunches. The breaking news is somewhat premature as the government only released their advice to schools at 15 minutes past midnight this morning. The government have also in their guidance stated that they would like schools to use a company called Edenred for the ordering, purchasing and distribution of the food vouchers. However after checking the Edenred website all morning and lastly at 10.30am, their website does not detail any information at all about the ordering of free school meal vouchers.

Rest assured that I have ordered vouchers for all of our free school meal registered pupils at both the Nursery and Primary School through a company called Wonde. We are just waiting for the local authority to send payment to this company in order for them to release the vouchers. This takes several days as it is a BACs payment. Unfortunately when I ordered the vouchers there had still not been any further updated advice from the government and so I ordered vouchers at a rate of £2.30 per day. The latest government advice is that each voucher should be for £3.00 to compensate parents who are not buying in bulk. Therefore the current position is that as soon as the vouchers become available I will send these directly to all parents who are entitled either by email or by text.

All Wirral schools (not nationally) have also been asked by Wirral Local Authority to provide free school meal vouchers during the two week Spring Break. This decision was made because the government at that time had not released any further advice. I have therefore ordered enough for this two week period as well in a separate order.

We will then calculate dependent on any further government advice about payment during the two week break, whether parents are owed any additional vouchers to make up the £2.30 to £3.00 or not. Moving forward vouchers will then be ordered at a rate of £3.00 per day.

I trust this information helps you understand the current position with regards to the vouchers for free school meals.

With regards

Mr M J Forber

Executive Headteacher