

# Grove Street Primary and Nursery School



Grove Street, New Ferry, CH62 5BA

Headteacher: Mrs L Walsh

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Dear Parents / Carers,

I know this is a really difficult time for everyone, worrying about health and finances. A couple of parents contacted me today and made me aware of some confusion around the FSM food vouchers, so I thought I'd write a quick update for you.

When the Government announced school closures they indicated there would be a scheme for food vouchers to be issued to families entitled to FSM, at that time there were no further details, or an indication of how long it would take to put the scheme in place. Our school business manager immediately began contacting various companies to buy vouchers. At the end of the first week, the LA suggested the company Wonde to supply the vouchers to enable you to select the supermarket of your choice. We were also advised that all Local Authority Primary Schools would pay for £11.50 worth of vouchers per child, per week. I'm aware that Co-op Academy Bebington School have issued Co-op vouchers of a larger amount as they are managed by the Co-op not the Local Authority.

The vouchers are for families entitled to FSM, there has been no Government guidance as yet to provide vouchers for universal free meals for infant children, but we will update you if this changes.

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, the Government announced that they now have a voucher scheme in place (see attached guidance) and they will fund £15 per week, our business manager has been working to set everyone up on the new scheme that will begin on Monday 20.4.2020. To support our families we will continue to purchase Wonde vouchers for the 2 week Spring break. Thank you to the parent who made me aware this morning that you haven't received the 'back payment' for the first week, we've chased that up today and you will receive double vouchers next week.

To summarise:

- You should have already received 2 x vouchers, £11.50 per child. One last week and one this week.
- Next week you will receive 2 x vouchers, £11.50 per child. This covers next week and the first week back payment.
- From 20.4.2020 you will receive £15.00 per child, per week from the Government scheme 'Edenred'

If you think you may be entitled to free school meals (especially if your circumstances have changed recently) then please contact our school office email ([schooloffice@grovestreet.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@grovestreet.wirral.sch.uk)) with your National Insurance number and your date of birth to enable us to check the online system. Also contact us with any queries regarding the vouchers and we will try our best to help.

If you are struggling please let us know, our ELSAs have been taking out food parcels to those in need. I hope this helps, please let me know if there is anything else we can support with.

Take care and be safe,

Mrs Walsh x  
Head Teacher

