

Principal: Mrs K Radford

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Dear Families,

We understand that some of you may have been badly affected in terms of your work situation, by the Covid 19 crisis. Some of you have lost your contracts altogether, whilst others are working on significantly reduced hours.

For those children already meeting the criteria for Free School Meals, we have issued vouchers for the past 9 days. The next phase of the scheme begins on April 20<sup>th</sup> (the day we would have returned to school after the Easter break).

We would like to remind you that you may now be entitled to apply for Free School Meals for your child or children.

## Who can apply?

We recommend that you apply AS SOON AS POSSIBLE if;

- You have older children who already qualified some time ago, but you now have younger children who are in in Nursery, Reception, Y1 or Y2.
- Your work circumstances have changed recently or within the past year.
- You are in work but your earnings are low you will not lose anything by applying anyway.

If you meet the criteria for FSM, whilst we are in shut-down, you will receive food shopping vouchers for each child you have applied for. At the moment, these vouchers are to the value of £15 per week, for each child. Once we return to school, their meals will be provided via the school kitchen and you would be able to order via the usual school system but without any cost to you.

There are also important funding benefits that come into our school budget in the longer term linked with those children who qualify which mean we can access funds to support your children in other ways – such as supporting learning needs, subsidizing trips or supplying some basic school uniform for your child.

If your child qualifies for Free School Meals, we will receive notification from the Local Authority so there is nothing further you need to do.

You can apply more than once. If your application is rejected now, you can try again in a week's time or at any point at which your circumstances change.

Please do this even if you have not been successful in the past, as you may now be eligible.

## **How to Apply**

To use the Parent Portal you will need a valid E-mail address and to create a memorable password. You will also need your National Insurance Number, or your NASS number.

The address you need to type into your browser is (or you should be able to click on the link itself...);

## https://lcc.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/SynergyWeb/Parents/default.aspx

This is also the site you use for applications for Reception class and for Secondary School places when the times comes. Some of you may already have an account if you have recently applied for a school place.

You will need to create an account with each child's details. Once the account is created, your child's name appears with the 'Apply For Free School Meals' tab next to it. The instructions are easy to follow.

## What do I do now, if I am struggling NOW to provide food for my family?

If you cannot wait for the time delay between applying and receiving the vouchers, please do contact Mrs Croxford as a matter of urgency via the email below. She may be able to refer you to the Foodbank for support in the meantime.

If you require any further further assistance please do not hesitate to contact the Seathorne on the Xpressions app or via <a href="mailto:admin@seathorneprimaryacademy.org">admin@seathorneprimaryacademy.org</a>

Best wishes

Mrs Kris Radford Principal