

Principal's Message - Week Ending 17 12 2020

Dear Parents and carers

We have made it to the end of term!

COVID-19 update

There were 4 new reported positive cases of COVID-19 in school this week, 2 affecting Year 10 students, 1 affecting Year 9 students, and one member of staff. As of today, we had had a total of 17 positive student cases of COVID-19 since September, representing 0.8% of our overall student number.

Contact-tracing during the Christmas holiday: The Government has asked schools to help identify close contacts for up to 6 days after the final day of school before the Christmas holiday. As our last day is today, 17 December, this means that in the event of a reported positive case, the school must continue to contact-trace up to 23 December. Contact-tracing through school will only apply where a member of staff or a student tests positive for Coronavirus having developed symptoms **within 48 hours of last being in school**. For example, if your child is in school today, 17 December and they develop symptoms on 19 December, you should seek a COVID-19 test for your child and if the test result is positive, you should immediately contact the school using the email address, communications@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk, marking your email Positive COVID-19 case and the name and Form Class of your child, alongside a telephone number on which the school can contact you. It will also be very helpful if you can put in your email the day and the approximate time when your child's COVID-19 symptoms started. School staff will be monitoring the communications email address until 23 December for this purpose and a senior member of staff will be in contact with you as part of the contact-tracing process.

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 **after** 48 hours from last being in school (for example, if your child is in school today but they develop symptoms in 3 days' time), you should seek a test for your child but in the event of a positive result there is no need to contact school. Instead, you should notify close contact family and friends and follow advice as per NHS COVID-19 guidelines at:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Outdoor Seating Project – message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

Thank you so much for all the generous donations you have made to our outdoor seating fund. There is still time to contribute to this project, if you wish, and we will be sharing plans with you in the new year about how this money will be spent.

<https://www.rocketfund.org/hinchingbrooke-school-outside-seating>

Free School Meals Provision – message from Ms Nightingale

Information went home last week regarding the Winter Voucher Scheme (attached again for your convenience). The scheme is being organised by Cambridge City Council. If you have not received your voucher by the 18th December and meet the criteria, please contact the COVID-19 Coordination Hub directly by emailing communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or by phoning 0345 045 5219.

Please also be aware that we have been made aware of a scam surrounding Free School Meals circulating on social media. The government voucher scheme as mentioned above **DOES NOT** involve the transfer of money or the requesting of bank details. If you are asked for either please ignore and do not feel pressured. Again contact the email or number above if you are in any doubt.

Start of next term arrangements

I am aware, as I type, of a possible announcement from the Government about schools in January. Next term at HBK begins on Monday 4 January, at the normal time; clearly, if any Government announcement affects our normal routine in January, we will send you a ParentMail to tell you about this as soon as possible but, in any event, before the scheduled restart on 4 January 2021.

Thank you

What an extraordinary term this has been! I would like to pay tribute to our wonderful students and staff for their resilience and their good cheer, in very challenging circumstances, and I would like to thank all HBK parents and carers, too, for the support you have given our school – we very much appreciate it.

On behalf of all of the staff, I would like to wish HBK families a safe, relaxing and fun holiday. Happy Christmas!

We are HBK.

Best wishes

Mark Patterson

Principal

My ref: Winter Grant Scheme – School (CCC)
Date: 1st December 2020
Contact: communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



To parents/carers of pupils in
Cambridgeshire / Peterborough Schools

People & Communities
Education Directorate

Dear parent/carer

In November, the government announced funding for Local Authorities for the COVID Winter Grant Scheme. This grant is intended to provide a range of support to families over Christmas and February half term when schools will be closed and are not able to provide free school meals for those families who need additional support at this challenging time.

As a result, we are making two offers for families –

1. Direct Food Voucher Scheme

A supermarket voucher will be made available to parents or young people who meet the criteria for;

- Funded Childcare and Education for 2-year-olds under the income based criteria (children aged 2)
- Early Years Pupil Premium under the income based criteria (children aged 3 and 4)
- Free School Meals (children and young people aged 4 to 16)
- 16-19 students in Sixth Forms eligible for Free School meals or for the 16+ bursary (young people aged 16 to 19).

A detailed list of criteria is attached to this letter (appendix 1) or alternatively, please ask your school / college if you need clarification on your eligibility. Further information on how to apply for free school meals can be found at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals if you have not previously claimed.

It is our intention to automatically issue each eligible child/young person with a £15 supermarket voucher for each week of the Christmas holidays. We will use information held by schools and the Local Authority to allocate the vouchers using a system called Wonde. They can be issued either by email or by text. Schools may be able to help you if you cannot access the vouchers by this route. Details of the supported supermarkets and how Wonde works can be found in the frequently asked question document sent with this letter. Please note that all vouchers issued in December will expire on **31 January 2021**.

If you **do not** wish to receive a food voucher please let your school know as soon as possible so that we can reallocate the voucher to someone else in need.

If you have not received your voucher by the 18th December and meet the criteria, please contact the COVID 19 Coordination Hub directly by emailing communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or by phoning 0345 045 5219.

2. Accessing additional support for families

We understand that families who are eligible for the Direct Food Voucher Scheme may need further support. We also know there will be families who don't meet the above criteria but are in need of help. Therefore the network of coordination hubs run by the city and district councils will help you to access support, this may include:

- Access to Food
- Support with utilities e.g. help with bills or making your home more energy efficient
- Household items relating to warmth, hygiene, and cooking

If you need additional support with any of these, please complete the simple online form below – www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/wintersupport

Once you have submitted the form, your local hub will be in touch to discuss what support is available and how it can best help. The hubs have been set up during this time to ensure that all residents of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have access to the support that is available. If you are unable to complete the online form, please contact your school who, with your permission, can make a referral on your behalf. Alternatively, you can call your local hub on 0345 045 5219 and they can complete the form with you.

The welfare of our children and young people will always be our top priority. If you or your family needs support over the winter, please do not hesitate to reach out to us and we will do our best to help.

We wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Simon Bywater

Chairman of the Children and Young People Committee



Councillor Steve Criswell

Chairman of the Communities & Partnership Committee

Cc

Clr Steve Count, Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council

Gillian Beasley, Chief Executive – Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council

Appendix 1 – Eligibility for Direct Voucher Scheme

Parents eligible for Funded Childcare and Education for 2-year-olds under the income based criteria (children aged 2)

In order to qualify you must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
- Tax credits, and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

<https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-2-yearolds>

Parents eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium under the income based criteria (children aged 3 and 4)

In order to qualify you must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- [Income Support](#)
- Income-based [Jobseeker's Allowance](#)
- Income-related [Employment and Support Allowance](#)
- Support under [part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)
- The guaranteed element of [State Pension Credit](#)
- [Child Tax Credit](#) (provided you are not also entitled to [Working Tax Credit](#)) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- [Working Tax Credit](#) run-on, which is paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

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- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year after tax not including any benefits you get

<https://www.gov.uk/get-extra-early-years-funding>

Parents eligible for Free School Meals (children and young people aged 4 to 16)

In order to qualify you must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit □ Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get) Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

If you wish to apply for a free school meal, please apply online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals/

www.peterborough.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Eligible for 16+ bursary (young people aged 16 to 19)

- You're in, or have recently left, local authority care
- You get Income Support or Universal Credit because you're financially supporting yourself
- You get Disability Living Allowance (DLA) in your name and either Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or Universal Credit
- You get Personal Independence Payment (PIP) in your name and either ESA or Universal Credit

<https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund>

Eligible for 16-19 Free School Meals

Free meals in further education defines disadvantage as students being in receipt of, or having parents who are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC))
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after someone stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit

- Universal Credit with net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400 pa (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

[Free meals in further education funded institutions: guide for the 2020 to 2021 academic year - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/free-meals-in-further-education-funded-institutions-guide-for-the-2020-to-2021-academic-year)

FAQs for Parents – Winter Support

What kind of support is available?

We want to ensure that throughout winter any family that needs support is able to access it. We can help you with:

- food support
- utility bills (such as water and electricity bills)
- other essential household items or concerns, such as (but not limited to) hygiene items, white goods, and boiler services.

How do I access the support?

The Council is working with schools and education providers to ensure families are supported during this time. Therefore, you can get supported by completing the online form on one of these webpages www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/wintersupport

www.peterborough.gov.uk/wintersupport Alternatively, you can call 0345 045 5219 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Do I need to fill this online form out if I want a food voucher?

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, Early Years Pupil Premium, a 16-19 Bursary, or Funded 2-year-old support you will automatically receive a voucher.

If you haven't received contact by the 18th December but feel you should have received this, please contact your school or setting alternatively you can call the hub on 0345 045 5219 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm. They will be able to confirm whether you have received a voucher and how to access it.

If you're not eligible you can access support by completing the online form on one of these webpages:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/wintersupport
www.peterborough.gov.uk/wintersupport

Alternatively, you can call 0345 045 5219 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

What if I don't want my voucher?

If you do not want/need your voucher, please do not activate it. Either delete or ignore the email/text you receive, or do not open the link and download the voucher. This way, we can reallocate your voucher to another family in need. Alternatively please let your school know and they will notify the Local Authority.

How do I use my voucher?

You will receive a text or email to choose your supermarket choice for the voucher

- Text message from 'SchoolMeals'
- Email from 'vouchers@wonde.com'

Once you have chosen your supermarket, you will receive your voucher by text or email.

You can then click the link in the text or email and download your voucher code.

You can then use this voucher in your chosen supermarket.

You must choose your supermarket before you can receive your voucher.

I have made my supermarket choice, but I'm yet to receive my voucher. There may be a number of reasons for this such as:

- If you selected your supermarket choice after 12pm that day, your voucher will arrive the following day.
- You made your supermarket choice after 12pm on a Friday. You'll receive your voucher on Monday.

How long does it take for the voucher to be received?

Most vouchers are received within 30 minutes after the retailer is selected. If the parent selects Morrisons or Asda then the following timings apply:

- If selected before 1 pm, the voucher will be received that evening. ☐ If selected after 1 pm, the voucher will be received the following working day.

If I don't spend the whole voucher in one visit, can I keep it to use on my next shop?

Yes, you can. If your shopping comes to more than the voucher total, you will need to pay the remaining balance using another method (i.e. debit card)

When will I get my voucher?

The vouchers will be available from the 16th December but may take until the 18th December to arrive.

How long have I got to spend my voucher?

The vouchers will be valid until the end of January 2021.

I'm yet to receive a text or email to choose my supermarket choice.

It looks like you haven't been assigned your vouchers yet or your details may be. If you have any queries, please contact your school in the first instance. Alternatively, you can call 0345 045 5219 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Where can I use my voucher?

The following supermarkets will accept the voucher:

- ASDA
- Morrisons
- Tesco
- Aldi
- Sainsbury's
- Iceland
- McColl's

Can I use the voucher online?

Asda are the only supermarket that currently allow vouchers to be used online. This is due to the supermarket systems. We appreciate that parents may prefer this to be an option moving forwards, and we are working closely with the supermarkets to try and achieve this. In the meantime, if you're unable to leave the house then you're able to forward the voucher onto others are able to use the vouchers on your behalf.

Can I use the voucher on my mobile phone?

Yes, you can.

What can I spend the voucher on?

The voucher is intended to be used to purchase food to support families.

Are there any restrictions on what the vouchers can be used for?

The restrictions for each supermarket are listed below:

- **Asda:** Cannot be used in Petrol stations or to purchase tobacco products, stamps, lottery or phone top-ups.
- **Morrisons:** Cannot be used online or for gift-card or lottery purchases.
- **Aldi:** Cannot be used for the purchasing of gift cards, lottery tickets, scratch cards (or related material), alcohol or anything through ALDI's website.
- **Tesco:** Cannot be used in petrol stations.
- **Sainsbury's:** Cannot be used in petrol stations, pharmacies, branded gift cards, scratch cards, LPG autogas, infant formula, tobacco and related products, BT phone cards, E top-up, savings stamps, postage stamps, National lottery products, online delivery charges, concession coffee shops and restaurants □
- **Iceland:** Cannot be used online or for alcohol.
- **McColl's:** Cannot be used to purchase branded gift-cards, Pay Point products and services, E top-up, postage stamps and National lottery products (including scratch cards).

What happens if I have multiple children at the same school?

You will receive a voucher for each child separately.

How much money will be on my supermarket vouchers?

You will receive £15 per week of the Christmas Holidays. However, if you still feel you need more help, please either complete an online form: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/wintersupport

www.peterborough.gov.uk/wintersupport

Alternatively, you can call 0345 045 5219 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Links to Wonde help

[FAQs for parents \(supermarket voucher\) | Help Centre \(wonde.com\)](#)