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Dear Homes,

We have been contacted by a few parents asking about the eligibility for the free school meals voucher scheme and the Government's COVID Summer Food Fund.

We thought it would be useful to share the Q&As from the DFE Free School Meal Guidance.

Covid Summer Food Fund

Due to the unprecedented nature of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, we are providing additional funding for a Covid Summer Food Fund which will enable children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals to claim vouchers for the 6 week holiday period.

If you think you could be entitled to these please ensure you apply no later than Wednesday 8th July so that your application can be processed by the Local Authority and notification can be sent to us. Government guidance states that schools must place voucher orders at least one week before their school term ends. For us, our order date will be Friday 10th July.

Q&A

Will every child at home due to school closures receive support? This support focuses on those eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

Will pupils who become newly eligible for free school meals be supported? Yes.

Schools and local authorities should continue to accept free school meal applications. Parents should make contact with the local authority, who will verify eligibility and award free school meals.

Click on the link below to find out if you are eligible

https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/

What is the eligibility criteria for free school meals?

The eligibility criteria for free school meals can be found at <u>apply for free school meals</u>.

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What about infants that receive a free meal under universal infant free school meals?

It is right that schools concentrate their effort and resources on those who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals at this time. There is no requirement to continue to provide universal infant free school meals to pupils in Reception, Year 1, or Year 2 who are unable to attend school. Children in those year groups who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals will be supported.

We hope this helps clarify the eligibility.

Mrs Fletcher School Business Manager

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