



Star

22 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Free School Meals

We are committed to ensuring that pupils who are entitled to benefits-related free school meals continue to receive this support, even if they are no longer attending school due to the coronavirus outbreak.

We are currently finalising a voucher system with Tesco, which we hope to implement over the course of next week. Through this scheme, Tesco vouchers will be sent to the parent or adult with caring responsibility for all children who are currently eligible for free school meals. The vouchers can be only be used to purchase food and will be issued every two weeks during term time, whilst schools remain closed. Vouchers will not be issued to cover the previously published school holiday periods, such as the Easter holiday. Each fortnightly voucher will have a value of £25 per eligible child (£2.50 per day).

Vouchers will be emailed directly to parents and carers of eligible children to the email address held by the school for the primary contact. Please email your child's school to inform them if your email address has changed (you will find the school email address on the contact page of the school website). Alternative arrangements can be made for parents without access to email. If your child is eligible for free school meals, your child's school will be in touch with you again this week with further details about the scheme.

Whilst the arrangements outlined above will only be in place for pupils eligible for free school meals, we recognise that some of our families may struggle to afford everyday essentials over the coming weeks, particularly those who are self-isolating. If you require support with the cost of food and other essential items for your family during this difficult time, please email info@staracademies.org and include your child's name and school. We are here to support the Star family through this difficult time and will try to support you as best we can.

I am very grateful to you for continuing to work in partnership with your child's school, particularly during these very challenging times. I hope that you and your family stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely,

(Mufti) Hamid Patel CBE
Chief Executive