



Worthington Primary School

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"We Only Reach for The Highest"

Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

School Update - Next Week in School

As of this moment (2.40 pm) I still have not been sent a list of Key Workers whose children will be allowed to attend school next week if they are not ill or self-isolating. We had been promised this list this morning, but as yet, there is still no word from the government. All children who currently have a social worker and all children with Education, Health and Care Plans will be eligible to attend next week.

I do hope to bring you clarity as soon as possible with regard to whether or not you fit within the list of key workers.

However, some news is trickling from the Department for Education regarding those children eligible for Free School Meals (NOT those having Universal Free School Meals).

Children eligible for free school meals will be offered vouchers if they can no longer attend school due to coronavirus measures.

Low-income families whose children are eligible for free school meals will be offered vouchers to make sure they continue receiving this support, even if they are no longer attending school due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The Government has today published guidance for schools giving them the flexibility to provide shop vouchers to those children entitled to free school meals if they are no longer attending school, either due to closures or as a result of self-isolating at home. If you are a key worker, or your child is vulnerable, and your child is eligible for free school meals and is attending school next week, then they will continue to receive a free school meal.

At some point in the very near future, we will be able to provide vouchers for supermarkets or local shops, which will be sent directly to families who are either self-isolating at home or whose schools are closed on government advice.

This follows the Education Secretary's announcement on Wednesday that schools will close from Monday until further notice, except for children of key workers and vulnerable children.

The Government has also confirmed that the total value of vouchers offered to each eligible child per week will exceed the rate it pays to schools for free school meals, recognising that families will not be buying food in bulk and may therefore incur higher costs.

Yours sincerely