

15 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Changes to free school meal supermarket vouchers from 20 April 2020, via Edenred**

The DfE (Department for Education) have now clarified the position regarding the ongoing provision of supermarket vouchers in lieu of free school meals (FSM). In short, the only option that will be fully funded is the NVS (National Voucher Scheme), administered by a company called Edenred. As a result, continuing with our current FSM arrangements is unfortunately not an option. From Monday the 20 April your weekly voucher will be provided by the NVS in accordance with the latest government guidance.

#### **Action required from you:**

**Vouchers will now be sent to you by email so it is critical we hold the correct contact email for you on our files. Please urgently confirm your correct contact email address by midnight tonight, Wednesday 15 April using the following link: <https://forms.gle/WjgLh4X8hg7r3dHD6>**

Please note that your bank or card details will NOT be requested at any point in this process. Unfortunately fraudsters are trying to use similar communications to obtain details that they can use to commit fraud, please remain vigilant against this.

I apologise for this necessary change, especially at such short notice, as we respond as quickly as possible to new guidance from the government. We had hoped we would be able to continue with our current e-voucher arrangements, already set up, but received final clarification from the DfE yesterday that only the NVS would be funded directly and fully. For transparency, please be aware that we will continue to receive FSM funding but this is not at the rate of £3 a day and we are also expected to use this funding to cover ongoing costs such as catering contracts and staffing. This will therefore not cover the new FSM voucher costs so the NVS is the only option we can reasonably take.

I hope that these new arrangements will provide the same benefit as you currently enjoy. Initially we do anticipate that there may be some delays due to the volume of vouchers being processed nationally. Part of our reason for not moving to the NVS sooner was to allow some time for this to settle. We have been monitoring the situation closely over the last few days and understand that significant investment and upgrades by Edenred have taken place over Easter to minimise any problems.

Further information about the NVS and how to redeem and use the vouchers will be included in the email sent to you, once you've confirmed your email address. Vouchers can be used in-store at the following: Sainsbury's, Morrisons, Tesco, Asda (also online), Waitrose (also online) and M&S Food. We understand that more supermarkets may be added over time by the government.

Thank you for your continued support and patience, it is always appreciated.

Yours faithfully



**Andrew Wappat**  
Principal

Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649.

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VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an exempt charity.

A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.