



Limehurst Community Primary School
Whitebank Road
Oldham
OL8 3JQ
Telephone 0161 770 3140

info@limehurst.oldham.sch.uk

Head teacher
Mr M Roberts

Dear Parent/ carer,

Re-COVID 19 and Free School Meals update

Limehurst will continue to provide a free school meal packed lunch to families of pupils eligible for this benefit-related entitlement during the period of 'school closure'*.

All eligible families (based on school and Local Authority information) were contacted (via phone) on Monday 23rd March by a staff member. Free school meal 'collection' information was given (either in person or via voicemail) on the 'first contact number' that school holds for your child. It is imperative that 'home' contact details are accurate and up to date.

At present free school meal collection rate is under 50 percent. We urge families who are eligible who have not yet collected a free school meal packed lunch to do so. If you have not yet collected a free school meal and you wish to do so please contact the school office or Mr Wilson (leadershipIW@outlook.com) by 10.00am, Monday 6th April to register a request and place an order. Packed lunches are prepared daily by the local authority kitchen staff who work at school.

In addition, we can confirm that school will continue to provide a free school meal packed lunch over most of the Easter Holiday. Packed lunches will be available for collection by eligible families on:

Monday 6th April (collection between 12pm- 1pm)
Tuesday 7th April (as above)
Wednesday 8th April (as above)
Thursday 9th April (as above)

Tuesday 14th April (collection between 12pm- 1pm)
Wednesday 15th April (as above)
Thursday 16th April (as above)
Friday 17th April (as above)

If you are eligible and have not yet received a free school meal packed lunch, please contact the school office or Mr Wilson by 10.00am, Monday 6th April to register a request and place an order.



At Limehurst we have a significant number of pupils who are eligible for benefit-related free school meals. Approximately 160 pupils are eligible, which is around 55 percentage of the school population. This percentage is much higher than National average and most schools in Oldham. As such, unfortunately 'delivery' of a free school meal packed lunch is not viable. However, if you are one of 1.5 million people contacted by the Government as being identified as 'extremely vulnerable' (defined as 'on medical grounds, extremely vulnerable from COVID19'), please contact school for further assistance.

Further guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulner>

Last Tuesday (31.3.20) the Government circulated information to all schools in relation to the potential roll out of a National Voucher Scheme for schools providing free school meals. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/voucher-scheme-launches-for-schools-providing-free-school-meals>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools>

This information states:

'Schools can continue to provide meals for collection or delivery themselves, but where this is not possible, the scheme will allow schools to provide vouchers to families electronically, or as a gift card for those without internet access.'

'Where schools are not able to provide eligible pupils not attending school with meals or food parcels through their current food provider, they can provide eligible families with supermarket vouchers in term time weeks.'

Limehurst is a Local Authority school and the catering provision is provided by Oldham. School has been assured by the catering team that the current arrangements will continue for the foreseeable future. As such there is no immediate plan to provide free school meal vouchers. This arrangement will be under regular review and if the situation changes you will be informed.

Free school meals will continue to be circulated after Easter, Monday to Friday, commencing Monday 20th April. Collection between 12pm and 1pm. If you have a question or query in regard a school prepared free school meal packed lunch, please contact school and ask to speak with Mr Wilson (or contact via email leadershiplw@outlook.com)

Stay safe.

Let's work together!

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Roberts
Head teacher

*'School is closed except for vulnerable children and children of key workers until further notice'.

