

4th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Work hard. Be kind.

Food Support Update

Devon County Council have put in place arrangements to provide supermarket vouchers to nearly 15,000 children across Devon who currently receive free school meals, to help their families buy groceries over the Christmas holidays.



From Tuesday 8 December, they will send a unique code per child to all families known to the Local Authority, that are currently in receipt of Free School Meals. Each code can be used once on a [website called 'Hawk Select'](#) to redeem vouchers to the value of £30 per child (£15 per week for the two weeks of school holidays) for Sainsbury's, Tesco, Morrison's, Asda, M&S Food and Waitrose. When received, the vouchers can be saved to phones or tablets to use online (depending on the supermarket) or show at the checkout in store. Alternatively, vouchers can be printed to give to the cashier.



For more information about the scheme, please follow this link: [information about the scheme on our website](#).



If you think your child may now be eligible for free school meals due to a recent change in your family's circumstances, please check their eligibility and apply online through the [Devon Citizen's Portal](#) as soon as possible. This is the quickest and easiest way for their eligibility to be assessed and you will get an instant decision. Alternatively, you can call Devon County Council's **education helpline on 0345 155 1019**. To ensure that you receive the free school meals holiday vouchers for this Christmas period, families **must apply by Friday 18 December 2020**.



Finally, if you are worrying about money or struggling to pay for basic household essentials, you can also apply for help through the District Council hardship funds. You can find out about this support here: [financial and food support is available for families in Devon on our website](#).



Equally, if you need any support from the team here at St James, do not hesitate to contact at foodsupport@stjamesexeter.co.uk.



Stay safe and well.

Lindsay Skinner
Headteacher

