



# Somerford Primary School

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Headteacher : Mrs H Frampton

31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents

## Free School Meal Provision

The Government have published some guidance today which puts an expectation on all schools to provide meals for children in receipt on free school meals while schools are closed.

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

I am proud to remind you that Somerford Primary School has been providing hot meals for all eligible children since we closed and even the week before we closed for those socially distancing. So far we have been providing a hot takeaway lunch. These have been very popular but we do know that not every parent who is eligible to collect a meal has been able to do so. Therefore, we decided to move to a fortnightly food hamper from this week and I wrote to you about this via Marvellous Me.

As we can buy in bulk through our catering provider HC3S, these hampers are packed with food and we are sure you will be pleased with your selection. They are costed at £30 (meeting the £3 a day budget set by the DfE).

By providing these hampers we are meeting the expectations in the guidance which states: *You should speak to your school catering team or provider to see if they can prepare meals or food parcels that could be delivered to or collected by families.*

I know the press today has talked of a national voucher scheme, however the guidance to schools is clear that these vouchers should be used only if *you are unable to use your current provider to continue offering free school meals.*

As HC3S is able to continue offering these impressive hampers, we will not be accessing the voucher scheme.

The first set of hampers will be available to collect this week. Some reminders:

- To spread the number of people on site and to allow us to maintain social distancing, there will be separate collection days for year groups. Year R and 1 – Wednesday; Years 2, 3 and 4 – Thursday; Years 5 and 6 – Friday. **Collection is between 10am and 12pm.**
- On arrival, please leave 2m between you and any other person on the site
- Please only one adult to collect in order to limit the number of people on site.
- The boxes are very full and will be heavy – please consider this when collecting

Enjoy

Aspire

Achieve

- Only children registered for free school meals will be eligible for a hamper. The school will check your child's name off the list we hold. Please do not embarrass the staff by asking for a box if your child is not registered
- If you have siblings in different year groups, you can collect all hampers on the same day to avoid unnecessary trips out of the house (however, please remember they will be heavy)
- You can still register your child for free school meals online by visiting the BCP website

Some parents have emailed the school to say it will be difficult for them to collect a hamper from school and have asked if the school can deliver. We are trying to organise a team of volunteer staff to deliver to any parents in this position, however, **please can I ask you to come to the school and collect if it is at all possible or arrange someone else to collect on your behalf.** We have approximately 120 children eligible for a hamper. It would not be possible for us to deliver all of these and staff are already going above and beyond in these current circumstances.

Thank you for your continued support of the school in these challenging circumstances. I really appreciate your patience in matters such as these. Frustratingly, schools do not receive any information before anyone else, and in fact today, we received it approximately 12 hours after the press released the information! However, I am incredibly proud of the whole Somerford staff team, including HC3S and Two Counties Cleaning company for constantly rising to these challenges.

Finally, stay in – safe lives – and keep safe!

Best wishes

Helen Frampton

Headteacher