



Dear Parent/Carer

This has been a hard year for many families and individuals. The Government recently announced a “Covid Winter Grant Scheme” to help those most in need during the winter months.

We are writing to let you know that you can apply for support from City of Wolverhampton Council, to help with the costs of buying food for your child/ren during the Christmas holidays.

This support will be provided as an “eCode” which can be exchanged online for a supermarket voucher to spend with a participating retailer (£15 a week per child).

Your child does **not** need to be registered for benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM) to be able to receive this support.

You can **apply from 5 to 11 December 2020** at

<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/freeschoolmealswinter> if you are:

- eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM) not Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)*; or
- entitled to Working Tax Credit with annual income less than £16,190; or
- receiving Universal Credit with take-home pay less than £1,233.33 a month; or
- waiting for your first Universal Credit payment

If you would like to apply for support but don't meet these requirements, please contact the school office to discuss your circumstances in confidence.

*UIFSM are free meals provided to all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, regardless of their family circumstances.

Help with your application

- Please **only apply once** – when your application has been submitted you will see a message on the screen and receive an email to confirm your application has been submitted
- If you **don't have access to the internet, or don't have an email address** please
 - Let us know – we can help you to complete your application
 - Or, call the Stay Safe, Be Kind Helpline on 01902 290241 from Monday 7 December. If you call before 7 December, they will not be able to help you.
- The closing date to apply is Friday 11 December. If you do not apply before this date, you will not be able to receive support during the Christmas holidays

If your application is successful

St Matthias School | Head Teacher: Mr D Coombes

Deans Road, Wolverhampton, WV1 2BH | T: 01902 556400 | F: 01902 556401

E: enquiries@st-matthias.com | W: www.st-matthias.com

LOOK UP

- If your application is successful, you will receive a second email containing an eCode by December 20
- This email will include all the information you need to exchange your eCode for a supermarket voucher
- You will need to provide an email address to receive your supermarket voucher
- We would encourage you to exchange your eCode for a supermarket voucher as soon as possible so that you can buy the food your family needs over the Christmas holidays
- If you think that you should have received an eCode but you haven't by 20 December, please first check your 'junk/spam' email, then call 01902 290241 or email freeschoolmeals@wolverhampton.gov.uk with the name(s) and date(s) of birth of your child/ren

If your application is not successful, we would encourage you to visit the Council's Stay Safe Be Kind website (www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/staysafebekind) for information about other support that might be available to you.

The Council will be closed over the Christmas holidays from 24 December to 3 January 2021 inclusive.