



Dear Parents and Carers

Summer Term

We can all appreciate that this is an unusual start to the summer term. I would firstly like to thank our staff who continue to work behind the scenes to provide schooling for the children of key workers and to develop home learning tasks which are uploaded to the COVID-19 section of the school website every Monday morning. Special thanks to Miss Buchray who is in regular contact with our vulnerable children and providing support as required.

Whilst we know that the current lockdown is continuing for at least another 3 weeks, it is unclear as to how the situation will change, if at all, following the end of this three-week period. Rest assured that we are already planning on how we can manage the transition for when school re-opens. Please note there will be plenty of opportunities for re-visiting content covered during school closure in the traditional classroom setting. Teachers will address any misconceptions or gaps in knowledge and basic skills, to ensure that all pupils have a firm foundation for further knowledge to be built upon.

Edenred Update

As you may be aware, the Department for Education has partnered with Edenred to develop a digital supermarket voucher scheme for children entitled to a free school meal, which is sent to the parents of eligible pupils via email. The vouchers are for a value of £15, slightly more than one week of free school meal entitlement. We are sending out the vouchers, through the Edenred system each Friday, so please check your email accounts from Friday afternoons onwards, including the junk folder. It is imperative that the school has an up to date email address from you and therefore if your details have changed, please inform us at the earliest opportunity by emailing enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk. Unfortunately, due to the scale of this task nationally, the Edenred system has experienced issues over the past two weeks, meaning that there has been a delay in some of the vouchers being sent. This is not a fault with the school, but with the system which distributes the vouchers themselves. Guidance of how to redeem your vouchers can be found in the COVID-19 section of the school website and was emailed out to the parents of eligible pupils on Friday 17 April 2020.

Covid 19 - Change in Circumstances and Eligibility for Free School Meal (FSM)

For those families who have suffered a change in their employment status, applications for Free School Meals can still be made, but there has been no change or update to the criteria for those who qualify. We recommend that if you have had a change in circumstances and you believe you may qualify, that you check by copying and pasting the link below:

Web Link to Free School Meals Eligibility Checking Service : www.link2ict.org/fsm

If you do apply and are now eligible for Free School Meals, please send a screenshot of the decision to enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk so that we can get FSM vouchers to you.

Please do not apply if you are already in receipt of Free School Meals. Additionally, pupils in the Lower School who receive Universal Free School Meals do not necessarily qualify for the voucher scheme.

No Recourse to Public Funds Eligibility

If you have suffered a change in your employment but do still not qualify for receipt of Free School Meals, the Department for Education have secured funding for children with no recourse to public funds. The Government have decided to temporarily extend free school meal eligibility to include some children of groups who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF). These groups are:

WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTROBUS ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM, B21 9NT TEL: **0121 554 0999** FAX: 0121 554 6332
EMAIL: enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk WEB: www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk
HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH



- children of Zambrano carers
- children of families with no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- children of families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are also subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction

These groups are also subject to a maximum household earnings threshold of £7,400 per annum.

The Government is also temporarily extending eligibility to children of a subset of failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. This group is not subject to a maximum household earnings threshold.

Please read the government guidance using the following link to check if you are eligible before applying:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/guidance-for-the-temporary-extension-of-free-school-meals-eligibility-to-nrpf-groups>

If you qualify as one of the groups highlighted above please email Mrs R Pemberton on enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk who will be able to provide you with an application form including a self-declaration form.

Birmingham City Council Update

Furthermore, Birmingham City Council are accelerating plans for a new model of connected services and communities to help families in ten locations across the city, with these being the following; Edgbaston, Northfield, Erdington, Hall Green, Hodge Hill, Ladywood, Perry Barr, Selly Oak, Sutton Coldfield and Yardley. A map of these localities and the city-wide contacts can be found at the following www.birmingham.gov.uk/Covid19CYPF

These new models aim to assist in the following ways;

1. Each of the ten localities will be led by a voluntary sector and public sector partner. There will be frequent partnership meetings to coordinate support.
2. There will be resilience funding available for individual families in the week commencing 27th April. The money is for emergency help such as food, nappies, medicines, supplies.
3. There is a community grant fund for voluntary, community and faith groups who are supporting vulnerable families during the Covid-19 emergency.

Netflix

Please find attached to this email some information from the National Online Safety organisation regarding Netflix that you may find useful.

Stay safe. Stay well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Singh'.

Mr M Singh
Headteacher