

Dear Parent/Guardian

Free School Meals during Easter Holidays

As you may be aware the council provided funding to support benefit related free school meals during the Christmas holidays and February Half Term by issuing vouchers to parents. The Local Authority is looking to provide similar support during the Easter half term.

You will recall that at February half term we changed the methodology of distributing the e-vouchers to ease the process for both parents/guardians and the Local Authority. For Easter we intend to follow the same process as the February half term.

For those parents / guardians who received a voucher at February half term they will automatically be sent an e mail that will ask if they wish to receive a voucher for their eligible children by clicking a hyperlink. This will generate a further email which will contain the links to the voucher portal where they can select the supermarket in the same way as happened previously. Parents/ Guardians will not need to reapply.

Please do not make an additional application if you received a voucher at February half term.

Parents and Guardians should receive an e mail during the week commencing 29th March. If you have not received this e-mail by the 6th April please check in your Spam folder before contacting the Benefits team on 01225 477777.

The Voucher value will be for £40 per child.

For parents / Guardians who are eligible for free school meals but did not claim a voucher at Christmas or February half term, you can make a claim through the council's web portal which will open on **26th March**, at around 12 midday.

The web link below will request you to submit an e-mail address and some details about yourself and your child /children including your National Insurance number. From this information we will cross check with the entitled to free school meals register and issue a voucher link back to your e-mail address. This may take a few days to complete.

Web Link <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-information-and-advice/help-parents-and-carers>

Once you have the electronic link you will be able to claim a voucher from a range of supermarkets including Tesco, Sainsburys and Morrisons. Please ensure you are happy with your choice of supermarket **before** you click on the relevant store option, as this **cannot be changed** once it has been picked. **It is also very important that upon receiving your voucher for your chosen supermarket that you download and save it to your smartphone or computer, as replacements will not be issued.** The voucher may be used in-store or on-line for some supermarkets, and can also be printed off before taking it to the supermarket. The voucher must be redeemed in full in one transaction and change will not be given.

If you do not have electronic means of contacting us, then please phone the Benefits team on 01225 477777. where you will be asked to provide the same data and a voucher will be made available to you via alternative means depending on your circumstances.

Yours sincerely
Bath and North East Somerset Council