



21st January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Free School Meals – Important Update

I am writing to give you some more important updates regarding free school meals. You may be aware in the press that the government have recently changed their stance on free school meals and are allowing schools now to issue vouchers to parents. I am pleased to be able to say we will be moving to the Edenred system we used during the last lockdown from **Monday 1st February**. Food parcels have been offered and supplies bought for the weeks commencing 18th and 25th January and these have been distributed this week for the 10 school days. If you did not request a food parcel we are unable to give vouchers as a substitute for this period.

IMPORTANT ACTION BE TAKEN:

Please ensure that you have Weduc installed on your phone – we need your permission to share your data with Edenred and can only collect this from our communications system Weduc from now on.

THIS COULD CAUSE DELAY TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF YOUR VOUCHERS IF NOT COMPLETED.

If you do not know your Weduc details, please email helpline@beaconhillacademy.org.uk with the subject Weduc login details and request these – you will need to give the name of your child and your name. Our team will then be in touch with these.

How do these vouchers work from Edenred?

You will receive £15 for each of your children that attends Beacon Hill Academy. The voucher is accessed through your email address. You will receive an email from Edenred with a link, you click on the link, request which supermarket you want your voucher for, then this will be sent to you. Sometimes there can be a delay with the vouchers activating. If it does not work straight away, please allow up to 3 working days for it to activate. Vouchers will be issued weekly. Please leave it at least 3 working days before contacting us if there is an issue with activation of vouchers. When redeeming in the supermarket please ensure your voucher is ready on your smart device or printed off.

What happens now?

If you received free school meals via the Edenred system in the spring last year and you have completed the consent form in Weduc – do nothing - your vouchers will be with you in your inbox week commencing **1st February**.



What if I did not have vouchers here in the spring last year?

We will be in touch to check that the email you provided on your child's data entry form is correct. This will be via phone call from the school and this will be a private number. If you do miss our call don't panic we will be in touch again to check this.

What do I do if I have changed my email?

We will be putting a form on Weduc for you to complete if you have changed your email since the last vouchers were distributed. Please complete this form on Weduc when you receive the notification.

What happens if my child is in school every day and has been accessing a free school meal?

You will be contacted and given the option as to what you want to do. You can either let your child have the school lunches and not receive the £15 voucher or have the £15 voucher and provide them with a packed lunch.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience with this ever-changing situation.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs H Shingler
Assistant Principal