



11th April 2020

Dear Parents

Re: APPLICATION FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

I have received notification that the Government will process new applications for free school meals status. The current COVID-19 crisis has impacted on everyone's lives and many families have been severely affected financially, with not being able to work or access support.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties and need help and support, please do contact me on: head@st-josephs-jun.croydon.sch.uk and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

If you are currently in receipt of free school meals, then you do not need to apply as vouchers, benefits and support will continue as normal.

If you feel you may now qualify for free school meal status, please see the information below.

Parents of children living in Croydon can personally apply online by visiting: <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/education/schools-new/free-school-meals>

Lambeth and Southwark do not have online application (<https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/schools-and-education/financial-support>)

In normal circumstances, parents would complete a form and the office would send it to **FoodIn.Schools@croydon.gov.uk**

To speed up the process, you can provide us with your National insurance number, name (as it is used on their claims for tax credits/universal credit) and your date of birth. Mrs Johnson is happy to process these new applications and send the information on.

If your application is successful, we can then apply for vouchers for you to use towards the cost of your groceries

I understand it is a difficult time, but we are here to help you. Please do not feel you are alone. We can also direct you to other groups who can offer additional help even if you do not qualify for free school meal status.

School will be open on Monday, 20th April but **only for key worker children**. Government guidance still states, it is better for a child to remain at home, if child care is available. This will help to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus. However, should you require child care, please email me as soon as possible on head@st-josephs-jun.croydon.sch.uk. You will need to bring proof of key worker status when you come to school.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and blessed Easter.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Fernandes
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs L Fernandes

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