



Thurton

Church of England VC Primary School



23rd November 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Support over the Christmas holiday for pupils eligible for free school meals

Norfolk County Council is currently working with food voucher company, Edenred, to provide support for all families with children eligible for free school meals, including children in the early years who receive pupil premium, and all council care leavers. They will be providing us with more guidance over the next few days to help us ensure that all eligible families are able to get their food vouchers for Christmas.

We have already asked families to register for free school meals and would encourage them to do this again. The council is raising awareness about the free school meals scheme via a targeted 'Free school meals' Facebook campaign to encourage eligible families to sign up and apply. Parents will have direct access to apply on the norfolk.gov.uk site should they meet the eligibility criteria, which is available by clicking on the link below. By signing up to the programme families will be given automatic eligibility to the holiday food voucher schemes that are being planned for the Christmas holidays.

Please see the link below for further information about this:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk>

Anyone will be able to ask for support as part of the overall package of schemes, but the free school meal vouchers will only be available to those who are eligible and have registered.

Families in hardship and needing wider support

There is also support available for families who are facing hardship and need support now. Information on how to access support for those in need is available at www.norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus or by calling **0344 800 8020**.

Anyone experiencing hardship can also receive support through the Norfolk Assistance Scheme, which already provides support for food, fuel, clothes and other essential household items to families experiencing hardship. The easiest way to get in touch is to visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/NAS or if you are unable to access the internet, you can call **01603 223392 (option 5)**. If the line is busy, please leave a message and the team will call back. Further details about the wider package of support that will be available for families experiencing hardship this winter will be shared in due course.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Barber
Headteacher

**Thurton Church of England
VC Primary School**

Ashby Road, Thurton,
Norfolk, NR14 6AT
e. office@thurton.norfolk.sch.uk
t. 01508 480335

Headteacher:
Mr Jonathan Barber

Deputy Head:
Mrs Esther Scorey

Chair of Governors:
Mrs Maggie Coe

Rector:
Revd. Chris Ellis

