

15<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Free School Meals Update

I am writing to you today with an update on how we will arrange free school meals going forward during the current lockdown.

As an Oasis academy, and like all schools, we are committed to providing nutritious food to our pupils. Previously, in line with DfE guidance, we have been working with our catering partners to provide food parcels to those pupils who are eligible for Free School Meal (FSM).

You will have seen significant media coverage recently around school meals. The Government have now reopened a national voucher scheme like the one they ran in April 2020.

Oasis Community Learning has made the decision to switch to this national voucher scheme from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January. So, what does this mean for your child?

#### **My child is currently eligible to attend school**

If your child is currently attending school (as one of their parents is a critical worker, or your child is determined as 'vulnerable'), our kitchens remain open to provide a hot, nutritious meal.

Oasis Community Learning has made clear that if your child qualifies for FSM and is attending school, they will receive both a voucher and a meal at school.

#### **My child is not currently eligible to attend school, but qualifies for FSM**

If your child qualifies for FSM and is not attending school, they will now receive a supermarket voucher to the value of £15 per week. They will no longer receive a food parcel.

We will ensure all FSM pupils receive a voucher. If you have any concerns around your child's registration for FSM, please contact us by email at [byron@oasisbyron.org](mailto:byron@oasisbyron.org).

#### **My child is not currently eligible to attend school, but would normally receive lunch through Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)**

The Government is not asking schools to provide food to pupils who normally receive lunch through the UIFSM scheme, however we recognise the positive impact nutritious food has on all our children's well-being.



Therefore, we would like to offer our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children, who do not qualify for FSM and are not currently eligible to attend school, a nutritious food box once every two weeks delivered to your child's home address (you can see what is inside each box below).

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, they do not qualify for FSMs, and they are not currently eligible to attend school, you will be able to receive a food box. If you would like to opt into the food box scheme, please confirm with us the name of your child and the address to deliver to by contacting us at [byron@oasisbyron.org](mailto:byron@oasisbyron.org).

During the current lockdown, the boxes will be delivered every fortnight unless you ask us to cancel.

Thank you for your attention on this important issue. As ever, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours faithfully,

## Oasis Academy Byron

