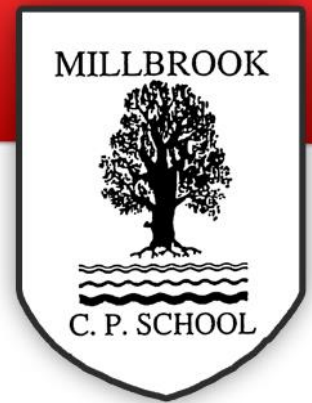


# Millbrook Community Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs J M Maloney



## **FREE SCHOOL MEALS INFORMATION**

Dear Parent/Carer (s),

Please see below the latest update from the Head of Commercial Services with regards to FSMs: As you know, since schools closed to most pupils on 20th March 2020 we have been providing free school meals to thousands of school children across the borough. Our current system involves issuing an e-voucher to parents / carers in advance for the following 2 week period. The next issue of vouchers is scheduled to take place on Monday 25 May. As you will also know, we have recently amended our offer (we no longer provide vouchers for pupils previously eligible for free school meals through the Universal Offer) to fall in line with Government policy. Reluctantly, we were forced to take this position as the ongoing cost to us, which was the Government had confirmed was non-recoverable, was approximately £56,000 per week. Since our last allocation of vouchers, the Government has also confirmed that its scheme will only pay for the cost of term-time only provision. That means that any Council or School providing free school meals through the half term holiday (commencing on 25 May) will not be reimbursed. Therefore, unfortunately we cannot afford to provide vouchers during the holiday period, in line with Government Policy. Furthermore, with schools looking at how they may be able to open to a wider number of pupils from 1 June we will need to develop a more bespoke approach to ensure those in greatest need receive the necessary help whilst we do not spend money we simply will not be able to recover. We will be working closely with our schools over the coming weeks to help them plan for a phased safe opening and will consider the provision of free school meals and the numbers we need to continue to cater for through our e-voucher system compared with the numbers returning to school. The next distribution of vouchers will cover the period from 11 to 22 May 2020 and we have been informed by Knowsley Local Authority that we will now only be able to offer vouchers to those children who have been means tested in line with the Government policy - solely be allocated to those pupils who receive a means tested free school meal.

This means that the Universal Infant Free School meal vouchers will not be available to all – only those who receive a means tested free school meal.

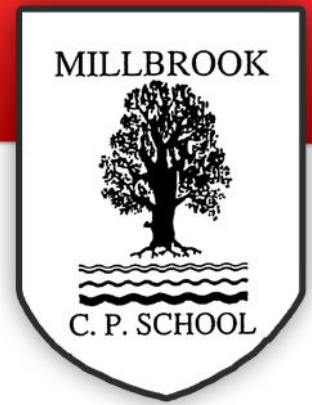


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We know that many parents and carers' work situations may have changed due to COVID-19, so we would ask you to apply for a free school meal for your child. Some parents/carers of infant children may not have applied previously as they are automatically entitled to free school meals under the Universal offer. We want to be sure that we are issuing as many vouchers as possible over the remaining period of the lockdown – maximising this uptake will help to ensure that no pupils who are eligible for a free school meal go without one. Please follow the link if you think you are entitled and submit your claim:

<https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/residents/education-and-schools/school-meals-and-menus>

Please also remember that any family in need of support, can contact the Knowsley Support and Volunteer freephone line on 0800 073 0043. Our staff are available to take their call 24/7 and will help people to access support during these challenging times.

A large number of our families have not downloaded their school meal vouchers this week. Mrs Benson has reissued them so please download these as the supermarkets have been paid for the vouchers and we want to ensure they get to the people who need them. If you have more than one child you need to download a voucher per child. Unwanted vouchers can be donated to The Big Help. Email any unwanted vouchers to [sue.torpey@big-help.info](mailto:sue.torpey@big-help.info)

## WARNING

DFE OR SCHOOL OR ANY AUTHORITY LINKED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS **WILL NOT ASK FOR YOUR BANK DETAILS**. IF YOU ARE ASKED FOR BANK DETAILS THIS IS A SCAM. IGNORE AND REPORT THIS

## [PARENT GUIDE FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS](#)

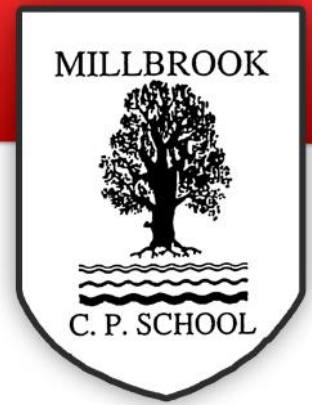


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