18 January 2021

**Re: Free School Meal Supermarket Voucher Scheme**

Dear parents and carers,

Late last week, the Department for Education announced that they are re-introducing the free school meal voucher scheme to families eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

These will be processed in the same way as last time – either through paper vouchers sent in the post or collected, or via an eCode sent directly to your email address.

Due to the exceptionally high demand to access the website, Edenred (the voucher providers) have announced a phased roll-out of access throughout the week. They have informed me that Worth Valley Primary will be granted access from Wednesday. Subsequently, it is unlikely that the vouchers will be processed before the end of this week and therefore I will endeavour to process two weeks’ worth of vouchers to families once I have access.

For things to run as smoothly as possible, I would be grateful if all parents or carers eligible for free school meals could confirm whether you would prefer the voucher codes to be sent directly to your email address or sent by post, specifying your preferred supermarket. The process of ordering codes, exchanging them for vouchers, receiving, printing and distributing vouchers in school can be quite time-consuming. Though this isn’t a problem, sending eCodes directly to your email address is definitely the most efficient option!

**Please contact me via email at** **c.lodge@worthvalleyprimary.co.uk** **or contact the school office on 01535 604240 with your preference by 5pm On Tuesday 19 January.**

In the meantime, packed lunches can still be ordered for collection via the school office; please phone by 11am each day.

Kind regards

Miss Lodge

Headteacher