



Unit 20,
St Austell Business Park,
St Austell,
Cornwall, PL25 4FD

15th October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

FREE SCHOOL MEALS VOUCHERS – October half term holidays

The Aspire Academy Trust will once again be issuing October half term food vouchers via Wonde for children eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals.

If you think your child(ren) may be entitled to Free School Meals (not to be confused with the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) initiative), please visit <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools-and-colleges/school-meals/> to check your eligibility and to apply online.

Since the start of the previous 2020/21 academic year, the government has not directly funded schools to provide food vouchers during school holidays. However, Cornwall Council has used part of its allocations through the temporary Covid Winter Grant and the Covid Local Support Grant to provide schools and FE colleges with funding to issue vouchers to the value of £15 per week for each of their Free School Meal pupils during the Christmas 2020 holiday, and the February half-term, Easter, May half-term and Summer holidays in 2021.

Following the close of the Covid Local Support Grant it was anticipated that there would be no further funding that would enable Cornwall Council to continue to fund schools to provide holiday food vouchers. However, the government has now announced a new grant, *the Household Support Fund*, for local authorities to continue to support households with living costs during the COVID recovery period.

Cornwall Council has taken the decision that during this particularly turbulent period due to the ending of the £20 Universal Credit uplift, furlough and rising energy costs, provision should be made from this new temporary Household Support Fund to enable schools to provide holiday food vouchers for October half-term.

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As the Holiday Support Fund is a temporary grant, the provision of holiday vouchers this October half term 2021 is once again a temporary COVID-related measure and there is no guarantee that further school holidays will be similarly funded.

We will of course keep you posted with updates, as we receive them, and for all our entitled families, your child(ren)'s academies will be issuing vouchers shortly.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mrs Vanessa Bragg

CEO Aspire