

18<sup>th</sup> October 2021

MD/ajb

### FSM Vouchers over Half Term

Dear parent/carer,

The Government has now announced a new fund, The Household Support Grant. Oldham has been allocated £2.4m of funding to Oldham to support vulnerable residents until 31 March 2022. The Council wants to utilise some of this funding to ensure families of children eligible for free school meals on the grounds of low income receive a £15 voucher per eligible child to cover the October half term. Financial support will also be available to cover the Christmas holiday 2021 and the February half term of 2022.

We want to ensure that those eligible for free school meals on the grounds of low income receive a food voucher to cover October half term at £15 per week per child.

The most effective way of ensuring vulnerable families receive the vouchers that can be used in the Oldham supermarket of their choice is via a third-party online hub – known as Wonde. Wonde is a data integration company already used by many schools in Oldham who offer a free school meal voucher system. This voucher system has a live link to your school's data therefore automatically recognises the students who are eligible for Free School Meals. The system should be quick and easy to use and produces the vouchers that can be used in most Oldham supermarkets.

If your child is entitled to income based free school meals, please look out for an email and/or text confirming that your voucher has been issued.

For more information go to: <https://help.evouchers.com/hc/> - this includes a step by step guide of how to access the vouchers (once your school has issued them to you)

If you have any questions, please contact the school in the first instance.

For any families that are really struggling for food and provisions over October half term, please visit the Oldham Council website <https://www.oldham.gov.uk/wecanhelp> which lists several support and benefits that are available.

Yours sincerely



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