

## Houghton Regis

Headteacher: Mr J Edwards BA  
(Hons) QTS  
Deputy Head: Mrs R Parmar BA  
(Hons) PGCE

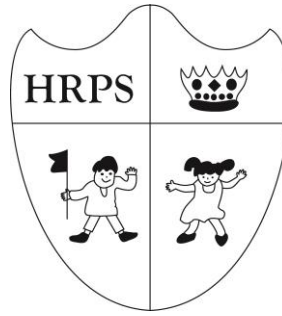
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## Primary School

St Michaels Avenue  
Houghton Regis  
Dunstable  
Beds  
LU5 5DH

25th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

**RE: Important Finance Information**

We are becoming increasingly aware that a number of our families are experiencing hardship as a result of COVID, particularly with redundancies, ending of zero hour contracts and extended furlough. We know that, for some of you, this is only temporary but is making your current financial arrangements very challenging.

As a school we are able to offer a comprehensive level of support to you, possibly providing additional holiday supermarket vouchers, support with fuel bills, rent arrears, Christmas presents and any benefits claims.

I have attached a flyer giving you contact information of organisations to speak to, who may be able to help. Firstly, I would urge you to contact the Central Bedfordshire Free School Meals hotline on 0300 300 8306 or Luton Borough Council Free School Meals hotline on 01582 510346. (even if your child gets a free lunch in Years Reception one and/or two already)

Our local Children's Centre is excellent at helping families sort out benefit claims, fuel bills, rent arrears etc. and also provide a really supportive environment to talk you through your current situation. They can be contacted on 0300 300 8115.

If you are unsure about any of the support the school can offer, please call to talk through your situation in confidence with either me or Ms Hewer.

Yours sincerely,

Deborah Pargeter MBE  
Executive Headteacher



## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you are eligible for any of the following benefits, then you may be eligible for Free School Meal Vouchers. During the COVID-19 lockdown, families are currently receiving £15 vouchers per child, per week – to spend in most major supermarkets.

### **Qualifying benefits to receive free school meals**

The qualifying benefits to receive free school meals for children in Year 3 and over are:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are **not also entitled to Working Tax Credit**, and your annual gross income does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (during the initial roll-out of this benefit)

Please call

0300 300 8306

### **Universal Credit helpline**

Telephone: 0800 328 5644

<https://www.gov.uk/how-to-claim-universal-credit>

Help with Fuel bills

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/get-help-paying-your-bills/you-cant-afford-to-top-up-your-prepayment-meter/>

**Citizens Advice Bureau** may also be able to help with applications for benefits:

Tel: 0344 411 1444

A new **Help to Claim** service to **support** you in the early stages of your **Universal Credit claim** has been launched by **Citizens Advice**.

You can call one of their helpline:

- England: 0800 1448 444

**The Houghton Regis Children's Centre** offer help to families with children up to 12 years of age.

**Tel: 0300 300 8115**

