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To all Headteachers and School Business Managers

COVID Winter Grant and Vouchers for Free School Meals

Colleagues may be aware that Waltham Forest will receive a one off payment of £945,547 as part of the Government's COVID Winter Grant scheme to cover the period from December 2020 to March 2021.

The grant is to support those most in need across England with the cost of food, energy (heating, cooking, lighting), water bills (including sewerage) and other essentials with at least 80% of the total to support households with children.

In Waltham Forest we have identified a variety of initiatives to support the most vulnerable in our communities. As a key part of this, that incidentally utilises around half of the total grant we have determined to provide Vouchers to all pupils eligible to benefits related Free School Meals that attend a school in Waltham Forest.

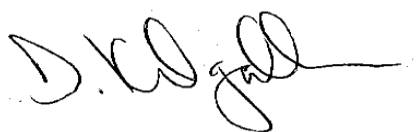
We have today completed the procurement process with Edenred our provider of vouchers and expect to be in the position to circulate these on either Friday 4th or Monday 7th December. For information we will be providing vouchers to the value of £30 per child to cover the two-week Xmas closure.

We are aware that many of you will have experience of using the Edenred platform as a legacy of the Government summer voucher scheme. We have been advised however that ALL schools will need to set up NEW accounts to access these Winter Grant vouchers.

We have assumed that your School Business Manager will be the school's single point of contact for the Edenred voucher process, but this can be amended later if necessary.

Thanks in advance

Yours sincerely



David Kilgallon
Director of Learning and Systems Leadership