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Thursday 14th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are aware that, during these difficult times, more and more people are struggling financially. We have put together the information below, with the Infant School, to help signpost you to support. Please contact school if we can help at all.

We have been told by the government that vouchers to cover free school meals will be starting the week beginning 18th January but we have yet to hear anything concrete. The food hampers distributed this week and next are to cover the first two weeks of term and the vouchers should cover from the 18th. If you are in receipt of free school meals, you will be contacted by school when we have more information about the vouchers.

We have a number of devices in school available for loan so your child(ren) can more easily access home-learning. Please contact the office or your child's class teacher if you think borrowing a device would be helpful for your child(ren).

Kind regards,

Ros Carter (Headteacher) and Jo Travers-Muir (Family Resource Worker)

Signposts for financial support

- **Free school meals:** D.C.C are urging all families whose circumstances have recently changed to check their eligibility and apply for free school meals for January to ensure they qualify for the free school meal vouchers during term time and half term. To do this please visit <https://apps.derbyshire.gov.uk/applications/formBuilder/free-school-meals/7471C40D-CA68-4B81-AA2D-32DCDA60CCC0>
- **Winter Fuel Grants:** The recent cold weather has triggered a Cold Weather Payment for people who are entitled to Income support, Income based Jobseekers Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance and Universal Credit. This will often be paid directly with your benefit payment, you can check eligibility at www.entitledto.com
- **Derbyshire Discretionary Fund:** Grants or emergency cash payments to those in urgent need of financial help following a crisis or disaster. This is available to people who currently or in the last three months are entitled to Income support, Income based Jobseekers Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance and Universal Credit. To apply call 01629 533399
- **High Peak Food Bank:** Support available to all who are struggling to feed their family due to circumstances including furlough, unemployment or financial problems. Please contact Jo Travers-Muir or Mrs Carter at school who can support with a referral.
- **Derbyshire Healthy Home project:** Support for those living in cold homes with a range of services to support those own or rent their houses, have a health condition made worse by the cold or struggle to afford to keep their houses warm. To contact the service call 01629 536919 or email healthyhome@derbyshire.gov.uk

- Warmer Derbyshire: Support with the management of rising fuel and energy bills as a result of spending more time at home due to the Covid-19 pandemic, support and advice open to all Derbyshire residents contact via telephone 08006771332 or email wdd@mea.org.uk
- Citizen's Advice: For information and vast range of advice on energy bills, debt management, income maximisation www.citizensadvice.org.uk
- www.workingfamilies.org.uk contains information about employees' rights to request furlough if they have to take care of their children who are at home as a result of school closures or if they are caring for a vulnerable individual in their household. There is no Derbyshire specific information available about this and, as yet, no Government department link, but we shall provide this information as and when it becomes available. I did find this article on Martyn Lewis's Money Saving Expert website but cannot guarantee how accurate it is
<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/2020/04/employed-help-coronavirus-furlough/#kids>