03/04/2020

Dear Parents,

I still can’t quite believe that I am having to write letters like these to you during this extraordinary time – I hope you are all safe and keeping well.

School has been open every day so far as we provide childcare for our key workers and we will continue to do so over the Easter break. We are posting some of our activities on Twitter - @Mount\_Carmel1 if you want to follow us.

This is a difficult time for all of us and I want to repeat some of the information that I gave you a fortnight ago and add some more.

**The Bread and Butter Thing**

This is an organization that works with supermarkets to cut down on waste food. They work all year round to provide food to families at knockdown prices. You would get three bags of shopping, one of fridge goods, one for the cupboard and one full of fruit and veg. There is no choice, you get what you are given but all of this costs only £7.00! Three bags for £7! (they are looking to raise this to £7.50 soon but is still incredible value)

If you would like to take advantage of this please text your **full name, your postcode** and the name of our hub which for us is **MCA** to **07860063304** and they will get in touch with you.

**Food Club**

Launched in June 2018, you become a member for £1 a year and the weekly cost is £3.50. For that you get a range of quality food (about 2 bags worth) and you can pay a little bit extra to get more.

Our closest Food Club is at Collyhurst Children’s Centre and is open on Fridays – you must call for a time to visit on **01612051744.** I have visited here already as they also open for Key Workers on another day to get things for our children who are still in school. (biscuits etc, stuff our normal suppliers have stopped supplying!) You get lots for your money!

**Free School Meals**

At last the government has launched the free school meals voucher system. It has taken a lot of work to set it up but hopefully the voucher codes should be in your email inbox very soon. Instructions will come so that you can convert them into vouchers for the supermarket of your choice. You must ensure that we have an up to date email address to send it to.

**If you think that your children may now be eligible for a free dinner, please apply directly on the council’s website. Please note that this voucher scheme is benefits related and does not apply to the universal infant free meals scheme that runs in school.**

Thank you all for staying at home – an unusual message from me who is usually telling you all to come in! We will get through this and the more we all stay at home, I would like to think, the quicker it will all end.

I will miss our usual Holy Week activities and we will try to send out some that you can do at home. In the meantime, stay safe and keep well.

Best wishes and God Bless,

Jacqui Potts