



Ringwood School

Friday 11 November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As a group of local schools, we recognise that the current cost of living crisis is of concern to a significant number of local families and that everyday essentials are becoming increasingly difficult to fund.

The **Foodbank** continue to be able to offer food parcels to families and, if you feel this would be of help to you, please can you approach Sam Coombes directly (sam.coombes@ringwood.hants.sch.uk) and he will be able to make a referral for you to the Foodbank. You can collect your food from the Foodbank or they will deliver you a food parcel directly to your home.

The Foodbank are also able to issue **fuel vouchers to the value of £49**, towards your fuel costs. You can receive up to 3 vouchers within a 6-month period. Once again, if you feel that this would be of benefit to you, please approach Mr Coombes on the above details.

Our **local library** also has food vouchers that you can collect from them directly.

FareShare are a charity who look to redistribute food, primarily from supermarkets, that would otherwise go to waste. If you register the details of your family with the charity, then you will be able to attend the local FareShare market, which is held in the **Leisure Centre car park on a Friday**, and they will provide you with food to feed your family, for a minimal cost.

The **Connect4Communities scheme** from Hampshire County Council has provided a small amount of funding to schools to provide direct financial assistance to vulnerable families between now and the Spring. We will use this funding to provide all FSM eligible families with a one-off voucher valued £35 per Ringwood School student in the run up to Christmas. This voucher will be issued via the Huggg platform, and the notification email will provide details of how to claim your voucher. You can expect to receive your voucher around the end of November.

As local schools, we are very fortunate that a **local businessman has kindly agreed to donate regular sums of money** for us to use to support local families. In order to ensure that this money goes to those families who need it most, should you have any financial worries or difficulties, we would ask you to approach Mr Coombes. As a team we will then be able to discreetly identify the best ways we can provide you with support.

Some families have already contacted us to see if there is a way that they can offer support to other families within the community. As a school we would always direct this kindness toward the Foodbank so there is one central place for families to access support.

Should you have any further questions with regards to this, please do ask and if you'd like to complete the short survey please do follow this link: <https://tinyurl.com/RingwoodSchools>

Yours faithfully

Miss Clare Adams

Deputy Headteacher/DSL