



## News from London schools and local authorities

Covid-19 school closures – Week One

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### Parent view

#### Mother in Hackney

##### On packed lunches:

“I really feel for the parents that are expected to go into school and collect a daily food package as not all live in walking distance so some have said they have forgo the packed lunch as it costs more to take the bus/petrol to go daily to the school to collect a £2.30 packed lunch, plus more importantly they do not want to risk catching the virus.

A sandwich everyday for the next goodness knows how many months doesn't even fall in line with the governments good practice for school dinners, so if they are going to insist on offering packed lunch rather than the vouchers, then there should be a hot meal available once or twice a week at least.”

##### On vouchers:

“We know the government mean well but they need to give stricter guidelines on what the schools should be offering etc [her school is offering £2.20 per day in vouchers] as it is putting families under more financial pressure needlessly.”

### Schools

#### Primary school in K&C

School has set up a food bank 'The Felix Project' has delivered a large food donation. FSM and pupil premium families invited to take what is needed first before it was offered to the larger parent community.

The Hubb Community Kitchen has offered free, pre-made meals for FSM families every Tuesday and Thursday. Teachers are supporting with the delivery of the meals to the front door of FSM families, in order to respect social distancing guidelines. This FSM families are collecting a lunch prepared by Caterlink from the school office but next week the school is moving to Tesco vouchers and vouchers will cover the cost of lunches until after the Easter holiday.

#### About the Hubb Community Kitchen

The Hubb Community Kitchen is a group of women who have come together to prepare fresh food for their local community. After being displaced following the Grenfell tower fire, some of the local women needed a place to cook fresh food for their families. They began to use the kitchen at the Al-Manaar, where the women who worked here had been using the facilities to cook for the community. They all shared the kitchen for two days every week, preparing food and eating together. Word spread and more local women began to join in, embracing community and supporting their neighbours in their time of need.

### **Primary school in LB Greenwich**

Six children of key workers at school receiving a cooked lunch

Only one FSM family collected a packed lunch so the school is now issuing vouchers for 88 children at £24 per fortnight – based on £2.30 for FSM. Vulnerable families are receiving Tesco vouchers too.

### **Two primary schools in LB Wandsworth**

Caterers Edwards and Ward prepared 200 packed lunches for FSM children across both schools. Very few families collected as they were anxious or confused about stay at home rules. Now reverting to the Wonde voucher scheme co-ordinated by Wandsworth Children's Services (see below)

### **Primary school in LB Richmond**

School has 60 key workers' children attending and caterers, Accent, are providing a hot meal service. There are only a handful of FSM children on roll who will be issued with vouchers.

## **Local Authorities**

### **LB Wandsworth**

Schools being directed by Children's Services to vouchers via Wonde for four major supermarkets. Schools submit lists of FSM, SEN and vulnerable young people to Children's Services and Children's Services will then co-ordinate the allocation of vouchers to families across all Wandsworth schools. This is unusual as Wonde usually deals with individual schools.

### **LB Kensington and Chelsea/LB Westminster**

Informing schools of government's voucher scheme, available from Monday. Vouchers are £15 per FSM child per week and will be managed by EdenRed. Many schools have already sourced their own vouchers via Sainsbury's etc. Caterlink is still providing hot meals to children of key workers attending school. Also producing packed lunches for FSM children in some schools and also hot meals for vulnerable families which are being transported by borough's transport service. Many schools are supporting FSM through the Easter holidays.

### **LB Newham**

Feeding a hot meal to key workers children in school and packed lunches for collection for children at home. Moving to weekly boxes to cover five meals. Plan is for schools to arrange/manage pick up.

### **Achieving for Children: LB Richmond and Kingston**

Across the two boroughs, all schools are operating. None have enough children to warrant a hot meal service, but remaining catering staff are preparing packed lunches in hub kitchens at six schools for children attending across both boroughs. SEN transport buses and ISS vans are delivering packed lunches from hub schools to individual schools for children attending.

FSM families are receiving food packs with enough food for 10 lunches based on spend of £2.30 per day which they collect fortnightly from their school. They'll add recipes and fun activities for children. Also working on a community shop for some school sites, using their wholesalers to supply goods for parents to buy.