18th July 2024

**Subject: Free School Meals Summer Payment for Eligible Families**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to announce that Flintshire County Council will be providing financial assistance to families during the summer holidays to help with food bills. This initiative is part of our ongoing efforts to alleviate food poverty and support our communities.

Children who are eligible for free school meals during term-time are entitled to receive £50 per child during the summer break. This support comes in response to the closure of the Welsh Government scheme in June 2023, which previously provided direct payments, vouchers, or food to families facing financial difficulties during the holidays.

Up to approximately 5,000 pupils in Flintshire will benefit from this payment.

The financial assistance will be distributed in two instalments:

* **First Payment:** £25 will be processed during the week beginning July 22.
* **Second Payment:** £25 will be processed during the week beginning August 12.

Parents and carers do not need to apply for this payment. It will be made automatically and directly into the bank accounts of parents/carers of all children who are either eligible for Free School Meals (eFSM) or receiving eFSM under Transitional Protection.

Councillor Mared Eastwood, Cabinet Member for Education, stated: “As a Council, we are aware of the ever-increasing burden of the cost of living on our communities and want to help relieve some of the strain on household budgets. Following the withdrawal of the Welsh Government scheme, the Council stepped in to provide this payment at a time when the budget is already stretched. We are committed to lobbying Welsh Government to support the families who need it most.”

We hope this financial assistance will help ease some of the burdens on your household during the summer holidays. Should you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Davis.

Assistant Headteacher