

Pear Tree Mead Academy

Educating children 2 – 11

Pear Tree Mead, Harlow, CM18 7BY

☎ 01279 836181 Fax 01279 423504

headteacher@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk



Head Teacher Mrs C. Peden BA(Ed) (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher

Assistant Head Mrs Rebecca Arnould BA (Hons) PGCE

Chair of Governors Mrs W Beckett

Mrs L Davies BA (ChEd)

SEND Co & Head of Early Years Mrs S Martin LLB (Hons) (PGCE)

Dear parents

We are pleased to announce that we have now been provided with the login information for us to be able to provide 'e-codes' (a 16-digit number) for families whose children are entitled to free school meals.

We are now in the process of logging pupils' details into the system so that if you are entitled you will be emailed an e-code for you to redeem into an e-voucher for you to be able to spend on food shopping. This becomes a digital gift card that will be sent to you via email for the shop of your choice. (from the following retailers.)

- Morrisons
- Tesco
- Sainsbury's
- Asda
- Waitrose
- M&S food

We need to know urgently if you have not provided us with a correct email address. If you have it will be the email address that you receive school communications from. Please email kate.townsend@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk if you need to provide us with an email address. If you received this letter today via email, then we will use this address. If you received this letter only via the app and not via email, then please send us your email address urgently.

We are going to provide you with £3 a day per child per week whilst the schools are shut. (This is not for the school holidays) The first e-code we are applying for will be the **20th April 2020**. We do not know how long this code will take to get to you, so please bear with the system as this will be a very busy day. If you do not receive your code within 48 hours please email kate.townsend@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk and we will look into this for you.

If your child is currently attending school provision as you are a keyworker and you are entitled to free school meals, your child will be fed at school.



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When you receive your code, you need to go to this website to redeem the code.

www.freeschoolmeals.co.uk

This will then let you choose your shop and then they email you your e-voucher that you can use in the shop of your choice.

We will be trying to match siblings up together so that you don't receive more than one code. Please let us know if we have made a mistake and we will try and change it. Until this happens, I don't know how easy that will be. Please bear with us this is a new system for us to use.

We will be applying for vouchers on a weekly basis for you. Please let us know if you do not need a voucher code and we will cancel the code for you.

If you think you are entitled to a free school meal (not Yr. R,1, 2 Universal free school meals) and you do not receive a code you may not have applied for Free School Meals. This website talks you through the criteria and you would need to apply.

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

Once you have applied and the application has come through then you will be entitled to a food e-voucher. We will add you to the system for e-codes once we have received notification of a successful application.

At the moment this is all the information that I have for you. As we find out any more information, we will send it to you as we get it.

Many thanks



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Mrs Peden

The website provides some more information for you.

Help and information for parents and carers

During these challenging times, many families have been concerned about how they will receive the financial support they need to feed their children at home without the free school meal entitlement during the partial closure of schools.

To help deliver this support, Edenred UK are working with the Department for Education (DfE) to deliver supermarket vouchers to those families, where schools are not able to make food available directly to families.

You will receive this support;

In the form of an e-Code that you can redeem online from a selection of supermarket 'eGift cards' if the school has a working email address for you,

Frequently asked questions about the free school meals voucher scheme

There is a full list of FAQs on the website.

<https://www.edenred.co.uk/reward-recipient/Free-School-Meal-Vouchers/>

What's the difference between an e-Code and an eGift card?



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e-Code – this is the 16-digit code which will be sent to you if you receive an email from your school administrator. You'll need this code to access www.freeschoolmeals.co.uk and choose your supermarket eGift card. You cannot use the e-Code directly with the retailer, it must be exchanged for an eGift card.

eGift card – each supermarket has their own eGift card. To order your eGift, redeem your e-Code at www.freeschoolmeals.co.uk. The eGift card will be sent to the email address entered during check-out and can be spent instore at the chosen supermarket. Your school may select your eGift card for you and either print it and post it to you or arrange for you to collect it.

What supermarkets are available?

- Morrisons
- Tesco
- Sainsbury's
- Asda
- Waitrose
- M&S food

How often will I receive the supermarket voucher?

The school will have flexibility in how often they send you an e-Code or an e-Gift card. The e-Code can be redeemed for a supermarket eGift card within 1 month. The eGift cards have different expiry dates – please see [the parent and carer FAQs](#) for further details

What is the value of the e-Code?

This is stated in the email sent by the school.

What can be purchased in store with the eGift card?



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The eGift card is issued to parents in respect of the free school meal benefit and will only be accepted in store for the purchase of food and groceries.

How do I use a supermarket eGift card?

A supermarket eGift card is a digital voucher. The eGift card email contains a link to a barcode which can be presented at the till in-store either on a smartphone screen or printed on a piece of paper, just like a gift card. Some eGift cards can be used to purchase online.

I'm not able to get to the supermarket?

You can forward the supermarket eGift card to someone else to purchase goods on your behalf if you're not able to get to the supermarket. The eGift card email contains a link to a barcode which can be presented at the till in-store, just like a gift card.

I have more than one child, will I receive multiple e-Codes?

This will be at the discretion of your school who may issue an e-Code for each of your children or, alternatively, may send one e-Code to you, for the total value of your children's free school meal entitlement.

