



## St Thomas More Catholic School

*'Aspire not to have more, but to be more'*

Archbishop Oscar Romeo

CCA/RME/FSM

19<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

You will be aware that since returning to school in September, we reinstated our Asda card scheme to support families registered for FSM during enforced isolations, year group closures and more recently the national lockdown.

The Government have now confirmed the return of its FSM voucher scheme through a company called Edenred, the same scheme that was used during the summer term lockdown. As before, this scheme is fully funded by the Government.

Due to the large costs associated with the Asda cards we will be moving over to the Government scheme for the rest of this lockdown period.

**The Government scheme re-opened on Monday 18th January.** As the school was unable to order vouchers in advance of this date and because it can take up to 5 days to receive an eCode by email, **Asda cards have been topped up for one more week (until Friday 22nd January)** to assist during the period of changeover. Please note, we have no control over the delivery of eCodes, they are sent directly from Edenred, so please check your inbox and also your junk/spam box each day for your email.

Following this week, the Asda cards will no longer be used during this lockdown, however, **please do not dispose of your Asda cards as these may be needed once we return to school.**

Please follow the instructions below to obtain your voucher:

- You will receive an email (to the email address held by school, **please also check your junk/spam box**), which contains a 16-digit eCode and a link to the following website: [www.freeschoolmeals.co.uk](http://www.freeschoolmeals.co.uk).
- The email will state your child's name, this will help you identify which school the e-code has come from if you have children in more than one setting.
- If you have more than one child in our school the email will only state one child's name, as they are ordered per family. This does not mean you have not been paid for your other child(ren).
- The value of your eCode will be **£15 per child per week**.
- ECodes will be issued for a **period of 4 weeks. Your first eCode will cover the period of 18th January to 12th February**. If you have one child the value of your e-code therefore will be £60, two children £120, three children £180.
- Your email will state the value of your e-code.
- Once you receive your email click on **'Redeem your code'**.
- Enter the unique 16 digit-e code and click on **'Redeem'**.
- Select your chosen supermarket and the amount of money you want to order.

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[www.st-thomasmore.walsall.sch.uk](http://www.st-thomasmore.walsall.sch.uk)

- Click '**Add to basket**'.
- You may choose vouchers from more than one supermarket if you wish but you must redeem the full value of your e-code before you can check out.
- Click on '**Checkout**' and enter your email address.
- The eGift card (online voucher) will be sent to your email address within 24 hours. Please also check your junk/spam box.
- The eGift card has a barcode or a link to see a barcode online.
- If you can't see a barcode it could be because pictures are not showing, you may need to click on '**download images**' to see the barcode.
- You will need the barcode to use the eGift card (online voucher) to pay at the supermarket.
- Take the eGift card (online voucher) into the shop and show it at the till to pay. You can show it on your mobile phone or print it out.
- Some supermarkets (Asda, Sainsbury's and Waitrose), allow you to use the eGift card for online shopping, for this you will need to enter the bar code during the checkout process.
- Vouchers cannot be used to purchase any age restricted products such as cigarettes and alcohol.
- Current Government guidance states that vouchers will not be provided for February half term.

This scheme will continue until we have confirmation of when schools will re-open.

If you experience any difficulties redeeming your eCode or eGift card and need assistance you can contact a member of the finance team on 07895 531484.

Thank you for your support and co-operation once again during this change over, we hope that the Asda scheme has been of assistance to you in the meantime.

If you would like to discuss this initiative in person, or have any other concerns during this period of closure you are welcome to contact us via [postbox@st-thomasmore.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:postbox@st-thomasmore.walsall.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely

*Mrs S. M. Bowen*

Mrs S Bowen  
Head teacher

*M Atterbury*

Mrs M Atterbury  
Deputy Head teacher