

Oxfordshire County Council Early Years Team County Hall New Road Oxford OX1 1ND

Kevin Gordon Corporate Director of Children's Services

11 October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers of FSM/EYPP eligible child/ren,

## Household Support Fund: support for families this winter

This term families and schools have continued to see significant disruption due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. I remain incredibly grateful for the ongoing efforts of parents, carers, school leaders and staff and of course our incredible children and young people.

Last week, the Department of Work and Pensions announced a new Household Support Fund aimed at supporting families at risk of economic hardship with food and basic utilities during the winter period. In response, Oxfordshire early years settings, schools and colleges have been provided with funds to distribute in the form of a supermarket voucher or equivalent support for the October half term holiday period. The purpose of this voucher is to go towards the costs of food shopping.

Eligible children in schools are those entitled to a benefits related Free School Meal. In Early Years Settings, children accessing the Early Years Pupil Premium or funding for a 2 Year Old Place are eligible.

As your child/ren meets the eligibility criteria you are entitled to the £15 per-child grant in the form of a supermarket voucher.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Gordon

Corporate Director of Children's Services

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