

## Autumn Update 7

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### Arrangements leading up to Christmas (and a little bit beyond!)

I have tried to hold back on sending a newsletter specifically referencing Christmas as long as possible but can resist no longer. As we head into the last three weeks of a very productive but most atypical term, some of the usual arrangements have been tweaked.

#### Christmas Cards

It was clear from chatting with groups of pupils, that they are still keen to have the opportunity to send Christmas cards in school to their friends, some of whom will not be in their class or year group bubble. We have therefore come up with a plan to allow this to happen as 'safely' as possible and within the current DfE guidance.

Pupils will be able to bring in cards from **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December**. Please make sure that they are addressed correctly, with the recipient's name (given and surname if possible) and their class. Each year group will have a collection point close to their classrooms in which they can 'post' the cards. Staff, this year, will act as Santa's Helpers to sort and deliver. To make the process as safe as possible, cards will undergo a period of quarantine before being delivered. This will mean a lag between bringing in the cards and distributing them and, for that reason, the last day to bring in cards will be **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December**.

#### Christmas Lunch

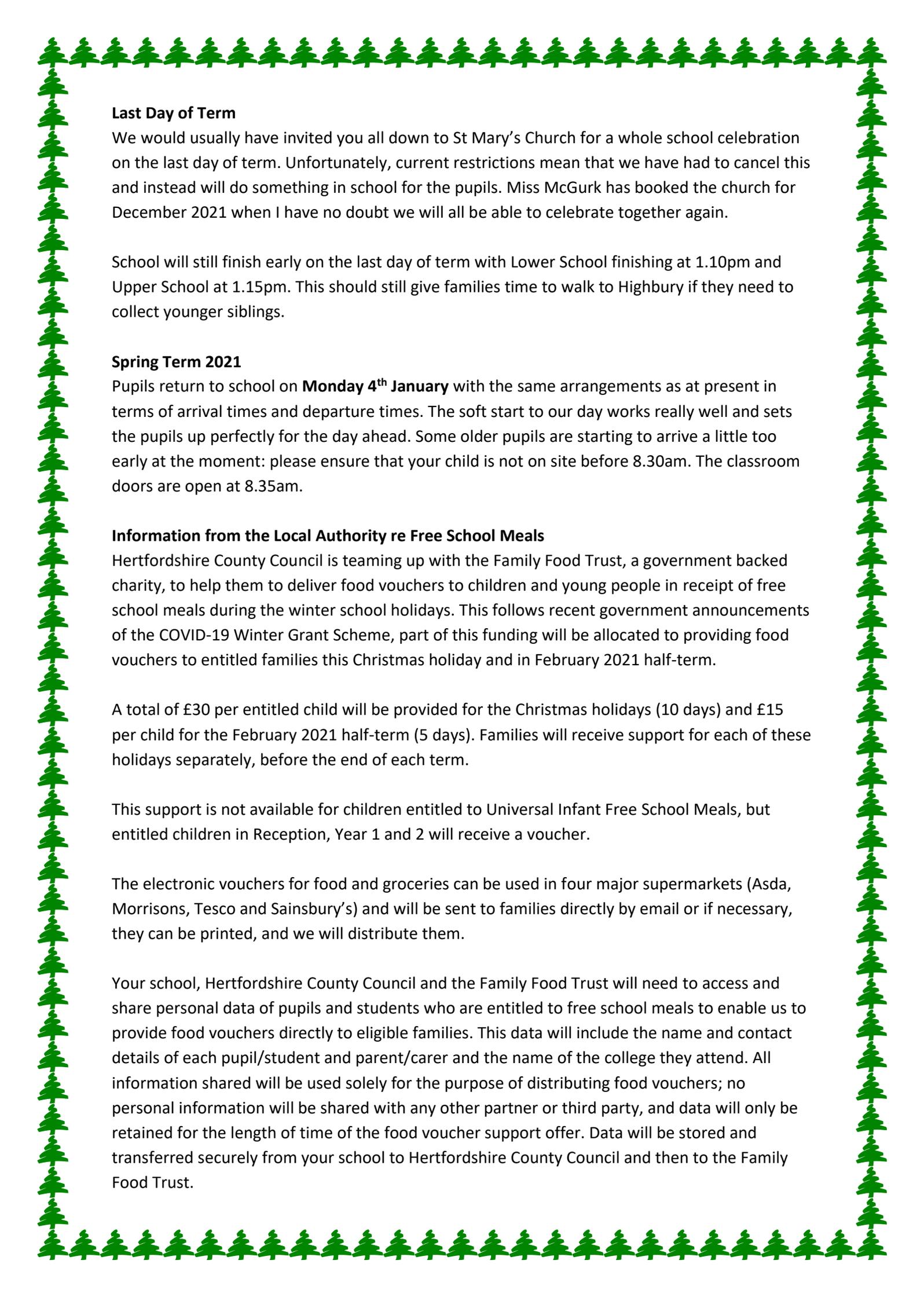
Christmas lunch is on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**. Please make sure you have picked for your child to have a school Christmas lunch, particularly if they are usually packed lunch. To do so, please go to School Grid, a link for which is on the school website. Any problems, please contact Mrs Lanni in the school office.

On this day, we would like to invite pupils to wear a suitably festive jumper or decorate their school sweatshirt as well as wear a hat. Of course, there is no requirement to do so.

#### Year 3 Production

For those of you with children in Year 3, you will no doubt have heard a great deal about the filming of this year's Christmas production. With no opportunity to put on a whole year group play, the Year 3 team are producing three short films which will be released to the school community on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December**. It is likely we will use our school website to share these with you and they will be password protected. Details as to how to access them will be sent home nearer the time.

We usually hold a charity collection at the live performances and therefore the staff and pupils might suggest a way we can still support a local deserving cause when these films are released. Again, we will let you know what is decided.



### **Last Day of Term**

We would usually have invited you all down to St Mary's Church for a whole school celebration on the last day of term. Unfortunately, current restrictions mean that we have had to cancel this and instead will do something in school for the pupils. Miss McGurk has booked the church for December 2021 when I have no doubt we will all be able to celebrate together again.

School will still finish early on the last day of term with Lower School finishing at 1.10pm and Upper School at 1.15pm. This should still give families time to walk to Highbury if they need to collect younger siblings.

### **Spring Term 2021**

Pupils return to school on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January** with the same arrangements as at present in terms of arrival times and departure times. The soft start to our day works really well and sets the pupils up perfectly for the day ahead. Some older pupils are starting to arrive a little too early at the moment: please ensure that your child is not on site before 8.30am. The classroom doors are open at 8.35am.

### **Information from the Local Authority re Free School Meals**

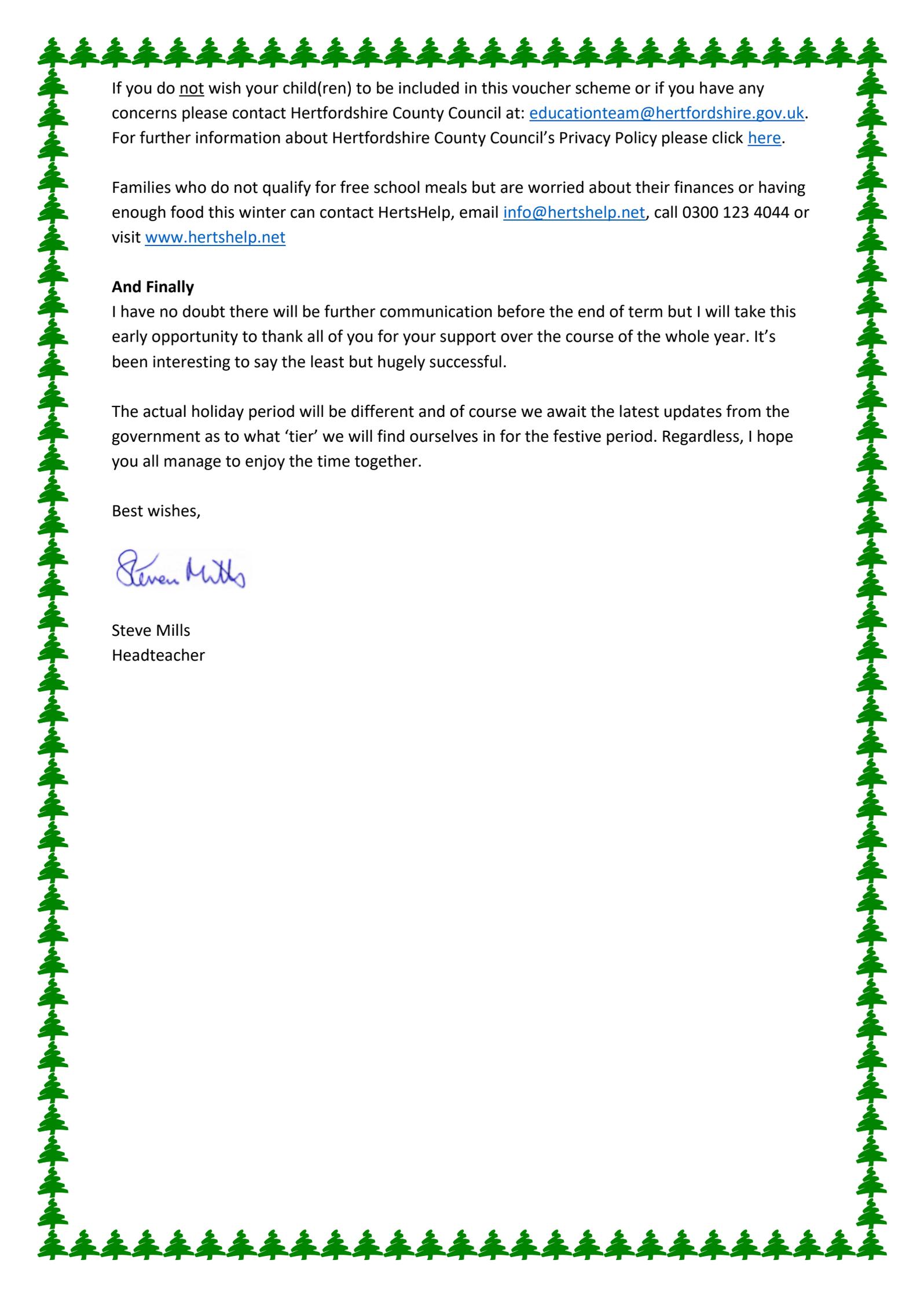
Hertfordshire County Council is teaming up with the Family Food Trust, a government backed charity, to help them to deliver food vouchers to children and young people in receipt of free school meals during the winter school holidays. This follows recent government announcements of the COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme, part of this funding will be allocated to providing food vouchers to entitled families this Christmas holiday and in February 2021 half-term.

A total of £30 per entitled child will be provided for the Christmas holidays (10 days) and £15 per child for the February 2021 half-term (5 days). Families will receive support for each of these holidays separately, before the end of each term.

This support is not available for children entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals, but entitled children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 will receive a voucher.

The electronic vouchers for food and groceries can be used in four major supermarkets (Asda, Morrisons, Tesco and Sainsbury's) and will be sent to families directly by email or if necessary, they can be printed, and we will distribute them.

Your school, Hertfordshire County Council and the Family Food Trust will need to access and share personal data of pupils and students who are entitled to free school meals to enable us to provide food vouchers directly to eligible families. This data will include the name and contact details of each pupil/student and parent/carer and the name of the college they attend. All information shared will be used solely for the purpose of distributing food vouchers; no personal information will be shared with any other partner or third party, and data will only be retained for the length of time of the food voucher support offer. Data will be stored and transferred securely from your school to Hertfordshire County Council and then to the Family Food Trust.



If you do not wish your child(ren) to be included in this voucher scheme or if you have any concerns please contact Hertfordshire County Council at: [educationteam@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:educationteam@hertfordshire.gov.uk). For further information about Hertfordshire County Council's Privacy Policy please click [here](#).

Families who do not qualify for free school meals but are worried about their finances or having enough food this winter can contact HertsHelp, email [info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net), call 0300 123 4044 or visit [www.hertshelp.net](http://www.hertshelp.net)

**And Finally**

I have no doubt there will be further communication before the end of term but I will take this early opportunity to thank all of you for your support over the course of the whole year. It's been interesting to say the least but hugely successful.

The actual holiday period will be different and of course we await the latest updates from the government as to what 'tier' we will find ourselves in for the festive period. Regardless, I hope you all manage to enjoy the time together.

Best wishes,



Steve Mills  
Headteacher