

## We're still here!

Welcome to our first daily newsletter. We will be uploading a newsletter to the school website each school day for as long as the school is closed. We want everyone to know that we are still here and looking forward to hearing from you and filling our newsletter with some of the great learning families are doing at home and in school (for the few children who are still here.) If you need any general immediate advice or support please either call the school on **0161 205 3397** between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm or email to [familysupport@lilylane.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:familysupport@lilylane.manchester.sch.uk)

## The Big Draw

In the home learning pack, you will find information about the big draw. We are inviting all families with Y2 children upwards to take part in this. We have attached the information about the big draw to this newsletter.

Emma Martin visited Lily Lane recently when children took part in our first Mushaira. She will be posting daily films on YouTube from Monday 23rd – children can follow these videos or simply draw whatever they like. When schools do reopen, Emma will be collecting all of the children's drawings and will go on display as a takeover event when Manchester's Museums and galleries re open as a celebration of togetherness. **YouTube search:** *Building the Bridge- Drawing Us Together.*

## Free School Meals and hardship payments

Free school meals Help with food costs while schools are closed. Please see below the following important information from Manchester City Council regarding arrangements for Free school Meals and hardship payments.

## Home learning packs

Most of our home learning packs have now been collected. Thank you. It has been good to see people (however briefly). Thank you for adhering to the new guidance on keeping your distance. It all feels very strange. If you have not collected your child's pack, there will be another opportunity to collect this morning between 10.30 and 11.30. After this time, we will start delivering packs using the school minibus. We will phone first to let you know to expect us.

Please note: These are not new packs. Many children took their packs home last week before school closed. It is helpful if just one person comes per family if possible. Also, children should not come on their own.



## Teacher phone calls

Over the next few days your child's teacher will be making a brief call to say hello to you and to give advice and information about home learning.



# Free School Meal and hardship payment information

## FSM Pupil information-

### Children who would normally receive a free school meal from the school, based on household income or due to being an asylum seeker

The government has advised that they expect to have a new scheme up and running in the near future. They intend to issue vouchers directly to families. This will not be up and running for a few weeks.

Because of this, we will have to make local arrangements to support families until the **national voucher scheme is in place**. Some schools are picking this up by providing lunches and vouchers and other schools have asked the Council to make payments on their behalf.

**Please note we cannot make a payment if your school has alternative arrangements in place.**

The contribution towards a lunchtime meal is £2.00 per day (£10 per week) for each school child or young person in the household.

We will be able to pay this money within a few days by the following methods

- A bank transfer into a nominated bank account
- A secure text message that can be used to access cash from a range of Paypoint outlets in the city
- A voucher that can be printed and can then be exchanged for cash from a range of Paypoint outlets in the city.

Parents can make an application, please submit a request via the Council's welfare Provision Scheme. [MCC On-line Application FSM Voucher](#)

## Hardship:-

### To support to families facing hardship

Because schools have closed and some families are facing additional financial challenges due to the Covid-19 virus, we want to provide support to families, who most need it. We are providing a financial grant to parents and carers of the following groups of children and young people.

To qualify the family must be:

- a Manchester resident or supported by our Homelessness Service; and
- whose family has been hardest hit by the recent issues and may be waiting for benefits to be assessed or have a gap in their income due to being laid off etc.

The contribution towards a lunchtime meal is £2 per day (£10 per week) for each school age child or young person in the household.

We will be able to pay this money within a few days by the following methods

- A bank transfer into a nominated bank account

- A secure text message that can be used to access cash from a range of Paypoint outlets in the city
- A voucher that can be printed and can then be exchanged for cash from a range of Paypoint outlets in the city.

To make an application, families need to submit a request via the Council's Welfare Provision Scheme. [MCC Apply for cash grant if you are in financial crisis](#)

**Note:** costs of supporting families facing hardship will be met by the Local Authority, and will still be offered after the national voucher scheme for FSM is launched.