



To: All Headteachers

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Ask For: Mr Matt Dunkley  
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Dear Colleague

I would like to start by thanking all of you who made arrangements for their schools to be open over the Easter weekend. From the returns made to us it would appear that over 50 schools were open on Good Friday with 183 pupils attending, whilst on Easter Monday almost 40 schools were open to 154 children. I appreciate that the numbers attending were low, however this was an important service to key worker families at this challenging time. The commitment of staff is very much appreciated. I hope the staff in all schools managed to get some time to enjoy the good weather over the bank holiday period.

We are aware of the difficulties some schools have had accessing the DfE's free school meals vouchers via Edenred. We have been in contact with the DfE about this issue. Today the Department published a brief update for schools advising that the Edenred website had been upgraded over the weekend in an attempt to resolve the issues. The advice reminds schools to check their junk folders and to ensure the DfE holds the correct details for their schools. If your contact details need updating you should email Edenred at [freeschoolmeals@edenred.com](mailto:freeschoolmeals@edenred.com) to have the code resent. In the meantime the DfE has confirmed schools who are having to continue to supply supermarket vouchers to families will be able to recover their costs (£15 per eligible pupil per week).

Yours sincerely

**Matt Dunkley**  
**Corporate Director**  
**Children, Young People and Education**