



Vicky Ford MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

1st March 2021

Dear Emma Lewell-Buck and Robert Halfon,

School Breakfast Provision

Thank you for your letter of 17 February on school breakfast provision.

I strongly agree with you on the importance of a healthy breakfast and the positive impact it can have on pupils. I can assure you that this government wants pupils to be healthy and well nourished, and we encourage pupils to adopt a balanced diet and healthy life choices through school funding, legislation and guidance. I understand the benefits breakfast clubs can offer for enhancing pupils' learning potential. That is why my department is investing up to £38 million in the National School Breakfast Programme (NSBP). This funding has enabled breakfast clubs to be set up or improved in up to 2,450 schools in disadvantaged areas, making them sustainable in the long run.

During the pandemic, the NSBP has continued to work closely with schools to provide healthy breakfast food to as many pupils as possible, in the way that works best for them. This may include parents collecting food parcels from schools or 'drop offs' to target families.

We have recently extended the NSBP until July 2021 to provide further support to up to 650 additional schools that have recently joined the programme from September 2020. The majority of the schools on the programme have received a full package of support since March 2018 and have worked on sustainability plans with our suppliers, which is a key component of the NSBP, to keep their breakfast clubs sustainable in the long run. They will receive a sustainability grant of £500 by the end of the financial year provided they continue with their breakfast club provision.

We are considering options for breakfast provision once the current contract ends and are engaging the market to help develop those options.

You will have seen that our meeting scheduled on 22 February was cancelled. This will be rescheduled at the next available opportunity.

Thank you for writing to me on this important matter.

Yours sincerely

Vicky Ford MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families