



2021-0013575VFPO

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/contactus/dfe

Emma Lewell-Buck MP

By email: emma.lewell-buck.mp@parliament.uk

25 March 2021

Dear Emma,

Thank you for your letter of 19 February, about school breakfasts. I would like to apologise for the delay in responding. I would be most grateful if you could share a copy of this reply with your co-signatories.

May I begin by wishing you well in these challenging times.

As you may be aware, I strongly agree with you on the importance of a healthy breakfast and can assure you that this government encourages a healthy, balanced diet and healthy life choices through school funding, legislation and guidance.

We know that a healthy breakfast can contribute to improved short-term cognitive performance, including increased concentration levels, alertness and memory performance. That is why we are investing up to £38 million in the National School Breakfast Programme (NSBP). Overall, this money has set up or improved breakfast clubs in up to 2,450 schools in disadvantaged areas, making them sustainable in the long run.

You may be aware of our intention to continue funding breakfast clubs from September 2021. On 15 March, we published an Invitation to Tender for a two-year contract worth up to £24 million, to deliver food to breakfast clubs in schools with high levels of disadvantage. This funding builds on substantial action throughout the COVID-19 outbreak to make sure children do not go hungry.

Thank you for writing about this important matter. I hope this reply is useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vicky Ford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a small dash at the end.

Vicky Ford MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families