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Bolton Lunches

2020

A Message from our Food Team

As the summer holidays approach, we want to share with you our plans for the Bolton Lunches project. As many will know, the government have committed to continuing distribution of vouchers for those entitled to free school meals over the summer weeks whilst schools are closed. As a result we have had an opportunity to rethink how we do Bolton Lunches this year. We continue to live in extraordinarily difficult times with many households being thrown into financial hardship. We recognise this can be an incredibly anxious and stressful time. There will be families who will be applying for benefits, Universal Credit and other support who have never had to before.

Our aim with Bolton Lunches this summer is to focus our energy and resources on families who fall through the net of 'free school meal' voucher support. If you **are** entitled to free school meal vouchers over the summer holidays, and need further information as to how to access this, then please contact your local school. If you are struggling, have children in school, but are **not** able to receive the vouchers, you should ring the Local Welfare Provision team at Bolton Council on **01204 332772**.

Our staff and volunteers at the Food Hub will be ready to receive referrals from the Council. For each referral we will put together a weeks' worth of lunches for each primary or secondary school child in the household. Volunteers will deliver these weekly lunch parcels to families every Monday morning over the 7 weeks of the summer holidays (Monday 20th July- Friday 4th September). The lunch pack will look different to how it has previously as we are able to offer more variety for the lunches to be made at home.

If as a family, you need more support than just the lunches, you can ring the same number **01204 332772** to apply for a food parcel for the whole household, or gas and/or electric top-up's if you are on a pre-payment meter. You can also enquire about support in buying essential household white goods and furniture on this number.

The heart of our Bolton Lunches project remains the same - that no child should go without lunch over the summer weeks; and that families should be supported as best as possible, to provide lunches for their children. Our society may look very different but Bolton remains resolute - to look after one another so that together we can withstand the challenges that lie ahead. This is the Power of One and this is the power of community.

If as a volunteer, you are interested in getting involved in the Bolton Lunches this year, then please contact our offices on 01204 385848. We will take your name and contact number and then get back to you with further details. If you are wanting to make a financial contribution to Bolton Lunches, we explain how you can do this here: <https://www.urbanoutreach.co.uk/donate-money/>

Stay safe and have a fantastic summer!