16 December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

On behalf of Hampshire County Council, we have been asked to make you aware of the 'connect4communities' programme, which is providing financial support to households with food, energy and water bills this winter.

As part of the programme schools have been given funding to provide Food Vouchers to families with children and those who may be struggling financially - perhaps due to loss of income because of the COVID-19 pandemic - during the Christmas and February school holidays.

If you have been provided with an eVoucher, you can use it at a supermarket or in our **Munch Community Food Pantry** which is in the Dickinson Centre at the front of school. At our community pantry your £15 voucher will enable you to choose £45 worth of food. There is a range of fresh, frozen and general foods therefore giving you better value than going to a supermarket.

Munch Community Food Pantry is open Monday – Friday 11am – 2.30pm. Access to the pantry is normally through membership. However, families using their eVoucher in a community pantry will not have to pay the usual £5 weekly membership fee as part of the exchange for purchasing at least £15 worth of food and supplies.

Other projects in the connect4communities programme. include:
• Support from Citizens Advice to help those struggling with energy and water bills
• Christmas school holiday food and activity clubs (which includes a daily hot meal and fun)
• Food and fuel vouchers available from Family Support Services and Community Pantries
• Slow cookers for families without basic cooking facilities
• Setting up a 'connect4communities' online directory for residents to search by postcode to find financial and other support and subsidised food

If you have any queries whatsoever, please email connect4communities@hants.gov.uk

To find out what support and activities are available locally search the Hampshire Family Information and Services Hub (FISH): Family Information and Services Hub (hants.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully

The connect4communities Team

Success for All through Attainment, Resilience and Autonomy

Park Community School
Middle Park Way, Havant, PO9 4BU
Headteacher: Christopher Anders BA(Hons) MA
T: 023 9248 9800 W: pcs.hants.sch.uk E: info@pcs.hants.sch.uk