

For Immediate Release 12th January 2021

Chartwells Free School Meals Food Parcel Provision Second Statement

Having fully investigated our free school lunch food parcel provision during the last 24 hours, we can provide a further update:

- Where our food parcels have not met our usual high standards – we will be refunding the costs.
- We will be contacting every school to understand where any shortages may have occurred and we will apologise to anyone affected.
- **From Monday 18th January we will ensure our food parcels reflect the additional £3.50 funding allocation communicated by the government and that every penny goes into the provision of the food.**
- Chartwells is committed to continuing to work with all stakeholders to ensure the best possible provision for children in schools.

Previously provided....

A spokesperson for Chartwells said:

We have had time to investigate the picture circulated on Twitter. For clarity this shows five days of free school lunches (not ten days) and the charge for food, packing and distribution was actually £10.50 and not £30 as suggested. However, in our efforts to provide thousands of food parcels a week at extremely short notice we are very sorry the quantity has fallen short in this instance.

Our ten-day food parcels typically include a wide variety of nutritious food items to support the provision of lunches for children.*

We are further enhancing our food parcels following the Department for Education's additional allowance of £3.50 per week per child in line with nutritional guidelines, in addition we welcome the DfE procurement notice for schools issued today.

We would like to thank Marcus Rashford and the Permanent Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, Vicky Ford, for their collaboration as we navigate these difficult times.

Notes to Editors:

- In the majority of cases food parcels provide two weeks of food, some schools are providing food parcels weekly
- Not all images circulating on digital media are related to Chartwells
- Specifications for food parcels can be found here: DfE guidelines - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools>

**Food parcel quantities are for one child's lunch for ten days (these are reviewed on a regular basis in light of supply availability)*

Cheese (200g)	2
Red Apples	6
Oranges	4
Bananas	4
Cucumbers	2
Carrots	4
Baked Potatoes	8
Lettuce	1
Tomatoes	2
Baked Beans (cans)	4
Pasta – 1kg	1
Chopped Tomatoes Tinned	4
Tuna (tinned)	2
Green Peas (tinned)	4
Loaf of bread	1
Children malt loaf snack	3

ENDS

For further information please call 01895 554 999 or email uk.communications@compass-group.co.uk

About Chartwells

Chartwells is the leading provider of catering and support services to schools, colleges and universities in the UK. Chartwells works with over 3,000 education units including primary schools, secondary schools, academy schools, independent schools, colleges and universities.