UK government votes against free meals for poorer children

28th October, 2020

The UK government voted against giving poor children free school lunches during the school holidays. Only five politicians in the ruling Conservative party voted to help poorer children with a daily lunch. A huge majority of the government voted against the weekly $20-per-child food voucher. The government is now under pressure to make a U-turn. It made a U-turn in the summer over free school meals. The Manchester United footballer Marcus Rashford started a successful campaign to get the government to reverse its decision not to provide school lunches for poorer children during the coronavirus pandemic. Mr Rashford has started another campaign to pressure the government into another U-turn.

The UK government is under growing pressure to U-turn. The British public is furious that politicians are refusing to provide the food vouchers. For many children, the voucher would mean getting their only proper meal of the day during the holidays. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he would not U-turn. He said: "I totally understand the issue of holiday hunger". Many people on social media said Mr Johnson does not understand hunger because he comes from a wealthy family and has always had money. People are angry COVID-19 track-and-trace consultants are paid over $8,000 a day but children cannot have a $20 food voucher. Many stores across the UK are banning politicians from their businesses.

Sources: theguardian.com / *washingtonpost.com* / *inews.co.uk*

Writing

All governments should feed poor children. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

government / school lunches / politicians / majority / voucher / pressure / summer / U-turn / furious / proper meal / understand / hunger / wealthy / money / consultants

True / False

a) Five conservative politicians voted against free school lunches. T / F

b) Most Conservative politicians voted against free school lunches. T / F

c) The school-lunch voucher is just $20 a month. T / F

d) A famous football player made a U-turn over free school lunches. T / F

e) People in Britain are not happy children will not get free school lunches. T / F

f) For many children, school lunch is their only proper meal each day. T / F

g) The UK's Prime Minister said he would U-turn soon. T / F

h) People are angry that COVID-19 workers get paid over $8,000 a day. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**during**	a.	very big
2.	**ruling**	b.	completely
3.	**huge**	c.	drive
4.	**started**	d.	angry
5.	**campaign**	e.	launched
6.	**growing**	f.	rich
7.	**furious**	g.	throughout
8.	**totally**	h.	blocking
9.	**wealthy**	i.	governing
10.	**banning**	j.	increasing

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you think about what you read?

b) What do you think the UK government will do?

c) What did you have for lunch when you were at school?

d) Why do rich politicians say they understand poor people's lives?

e) What do you think of wealthy politicians?

f) Should track-and-trace consultants be paid $8,000 a day?

g) Are businesses right to ban politicians?

h) What questions would you like to ask the UK government?

Phrase Match

1.	voted against giving poor children	a.	of the government
2.	voted to	b.	meal of the day
3.	A huge majority	c.	pressure
4.	The government is now under	d.	pandemic
5.	during the coronavirus	e.	consultants
6.	The British public is	f.	free school lunches
7.	food	g.	wealthy family
8.	their only proper	h.	help poorer children
9.	he comes from a	i.	vouchers
10.	track-and-trace	j.	furious

Discussion – Student B

a) What was food like at your school?

b) How bad is it that children are hungry?

c) Are you surprised children in the UK are hungry?

d) Why do you think the UK voted against meals for poor children?

e) Should the UK make a U-turn and reverse its decision again?

f) Whose responsibility is it to feed hungry children?

g) Is it the parents' job to feed their children?

h) Who should and shouldn't get free meals?

Spelling

1. five aiscointlpi

2. A huge imoyrtja of the government

3. the weekly $20-per-child food uvheroc

4. under urpsrese to make a U-turn

5. started a successful mpgnaaci

6. reverse its incedois

7. The British public is fiosruu

8. their only prpero meal of the day

9. understand the isesu

10. holiday nhruge

11. he comes from a hwtylea family

12. track-and-trace ncnslttoaus

Role Play

Role A – Teachers
You think teachers should get the highest pay. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs shouldn't be paid as much. Also, tell the others which of these jobs should get the lowest pay (and why): soldiers, bank managers or soccer stars.

Role B – Soldiers
You think soldiers should get the highest pay. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs shouldn't be paid as much. Also, tell the others which of these jobs should get the lowest pay (and why): teachers, bank managers or soccer stars.

Role C – Bank Managers
You think bank managers should get the highest pay. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs shouldn't be paid as much. Also, tell the others which of these jobs should get the lowest pay (and why): soldiers, teachers or soccer stars.

Role D – Soccer Stars
You think soccer stars should get the highest pay. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs shouldn't be paid as much. Also, tell the others which of these jobs should get the lowest pay (and why): soldiers, bank managers or teachers.

Speaking – Pay

Rank these with your partner. Put the people who should be paid most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Soccer star
- Nurse
- IT consultant
- Pilot
- Teacher
- Prime Minister
- Soldier
- Bank manager

Answers – Synonym Match

1.	g	2.	i	3.	a	4.	e	5.	c
6.	j	7.	d	8.	b	9.	f	10.	h

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.