



HECKMONDWIKE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

2 November 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

'Reverse Advent Calendar' – food bank donations and Christmas Present Appeal

We would like to bring to your attention two donation schemes, which we are participating in as a school in the coming weeks.

'Reverse Advent' Food Bank

For the past few years, we have taken part in the 'Reverse Advent Calendar' scheme where, instead of the usual advent calendar countdown to Christmas, we have asked students and staff to bring in donations for a local food bank. In the past, we have been able to make a large delivery of goods, both food and toiletry items to local charities just before Christmas. This year, it is more essential than ever, with many more families in need.

Each form group will be encouraged to bring in items to put in a collection box, either in their form rooms or in reception, until **Monday 6 December** to allow us time to deliver the items. The items can include food or toiletries, but must be non-perishable.

What to donate: A typical food parcel includes: Cereal, Soup, Pasta, Rice, Tinned tomatoes/pasta sauce, Lentils, beans and pulses, Tinned meat, Tinned vegetables, Tea/coffee, Tinned fruit, Biscuits, UHT milk, Fruit juice.

Many foodbanks also provide essential non-food items such as toiletries and hygiene products, as well as household items, baby supplies and feminine products, helping people in crisis to maintain dignity.

Christmas Present Appeal

This year, we are also hoping to help the local Salvation Army branch, which regularly delivers Christmas gifts to children and young people who would otherwise not receive a gift. Each year the Salvation Army in Heckmondwike provide toy and gift parcels for local families in need, working in liaison with Social Services. Last year they gave approximately 150 parcels to families in need and this year has been very difficult for many families. We would welcome donations for this scheme of **NEW**, unwrapped gifts, which would be suitable for a range of ages.

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Suggested items would be toys, games, puzzle books, CDs, DVDs and stationery for younger children; but also gifts that would be suitable for older children, like toiletry and perfume sets, hats, gloves, vouchers etc. Some members of our Sixth Form Committee have already volunteered to help the Salvation Army to organise all the gifts into age group categories on Monday 14th December, so we would like donations for this scheme to be in school by **Monday 6 December**. Once again, these donations can be donated and collected centrally in school, at either reception or in the Key Stage rooms.

If you are able to donate to these schemes, please send items into school with your son/daughter as soon as possible. We appreciate any contributions or support you can give at this time.

The school is, as always, grateful for your support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'E Currie', enclosed in a light grey rectangular border.

Mrs E. Currie
Event Co-Ordinator