



HECKMONDWIKE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

20 November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

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

We would like to bring to your attention details of our annual Christmas donation schemes, which we are participating in as a school in the coming weeks. Donations for both schemes will be donated to the Salvation Army in Heckmondwike.

'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.

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. Please **DO NOT** send perishable items, as these are unable to be donated.

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

Continuing the gifting theme, we are also hoping to help the local community via the Salvation Army with their Christmas Present Appeal. They regularly deliver Christmas gifts to children and young people who would otherwise not receive a gift. Each year they 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 continues to be 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.

If you are able to donate to these schemes, please send items into school with your son/daughter as soon as possible. Each form group will be encouraged to bring in items to put in a collection box, either in their form room or in reception. Donations are being accepted now, up until **Monday 9 December 9.00am** to allow us time to deliver the items.

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 black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Smith', is centered within a light grey diamond-shaped background.

Mrs Smith
Event Co-Ordinator