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Dear Parents and Carers,



COLLECTION FOR BROMLEY FOOD BANK - **Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th December**

On **Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th December** we will be collecting for Bromley Foodbank. We would normally do this as part of our Harvest Festival Assembly, but we were asked once again this year to delay our collection and collect closer to Christmas for the Foodbank's Christmas hampers.

The Foodbank is preparing Christmas hampers to donate to those in need and they have asked that we collect suitable long lasting food items that would be a Christmas treat for a family in need. If you feel that you are able, please send your child to school with an item of food suitable for a hamper of some kind, for example crackers, biscuits, chocolate, sweets, mince pies, stuffing, cranberry sauce and nibbles e.g. pringles.

You will have seen in the news, the shocking statistics about the increasing numbers of people in this country who are living below the poverty line and the huge numbers of people who have been financially affected by the pandemic. This year, more than ever, Bromley Foodbank needs our help. Please see below some information about Bromley Foodbank or visit their website:

<https://bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk/>

In order to reduce the pressure for our families (we know that we ask you for a lot at this time of year) there will be no incentive (e.g. an own clothes day) for the children to bring something in. We know that you have already been asked to bring things for the Christmas Fair and so we want the Foodbank collection to be something that you contribute to only if you feel that you are able. There will be a box in every classroom to collect donations on both Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th December. The Foodbank will be collecting our donations on Wednesday 8th December.

To be clear, Friday 3rd is when we are collecting a bottle and sweets for the fair and this is an own clothes day with the exception of Year 4 due to Roman Day. The collection for the food bank on the following Monday (6th) and Tuesday (7th) are NOT own clothes days.



We appreciate that the Biggin Hill Community is diverse and that there are people in need in our own school community. We hold food vouchers at school; please see Mrs Sargeant in confidence if you are in need of this service and we can help.

Yours sincerely,



Hannah Freeman
Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead



How Foodbanks Work

Providing emergency food to people in crisis.

Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. A simple box of food makes a big difference, with foodbanks helping prevent crime, housing loss, family breakdown and mental health problems.

Food is Donated

Schools, churches, businesses and individuals donate non-perishable, in-date food to a foodbank. Large collections often take place as part of Harvest Festival celebrations and food is also collected at supermarkets.

Food is Sorted and Stored

Volunteers sort food to check that it's in date and pack it into boxes ready to be given to people in need. Over 40,000 people give up their time to volunteer at foodbanks.

Professionals Identify People in Need

Foodbanks partner with a wide range of care professionals such as doctors, health visitors, social workers and police to identify people in crisis and issue them with a foodbank voucher.

Clients Receive Food

Foodbank clients bring their voucher to a foodbank centre where it can be redeemed for three days' emergency food. Volunteers meet clients over a warm drink or free hot meal and are able to signpost people to agencies able to solve the longer-term problem.

