

## Supporting our Families

### Food Bank

15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

This message went out to the Nursling community in the newsletter.

#### Supporting our families

You may have been aware of the news this week regarding the content of hampers for the Free School Meals families. Quite rightly, it certainly is a hot topic of conversation!



As a Hampshire school, we do not use the company that has been in the news but as a school, realise that what is often put into a hamper is not necessarily a direct comparison in value as to what can be purchased in a store. This is due to factors such as contractual costs and distribution. Don't get me wrong, I am not condoning that this is acceptable just being informative.

I have had many conversations with lots of people this week; families who were dissatisfied with their hampers, some terrified that they really do not know where the next meal is coming from, and with the people who put the hampers together. I am hoping to see changes and an improvement to the content but as I can't rely on the changes coming in quickly enough for our families and nobody knows what the changes may look like yet, I have been to the shops to purchase food to subsidise our families hampers for this week.

This got me thinking. Wouldn't it be great to get a Nursling Food Bank started!

Since the first lockdown back in March 2020, the families that now need support has more than doubled. This is nothing to be ashamed of, it is a horrible, negative impact of this pandemic. So, I am putting out a plea that if you are okay and managing well to put food on the table and can spare the odd packet of pasta or box of cereal, (any non-perishable items will be gratefully accepted) then please drop it into the airlock. We will then distribute it out to the Nursling families who we know are really struggling.

As always, we thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Jearrad







22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Food Bank Newsletter Update

**Wow!! The Nursling Community is truly amazing! THANK YOU!**

I wanted to say a huge thank you to each and everyone of you who has been involved with and supported this great cause over this past week!

Families were thrilled with the Community Hampers that went out last Monday! The contents were so much better than the week before providing children with good quality food to eat. I have been really taken by some of the lovely comments made by those who received them. We are aware that people can be too proud to step forward and ask for help and support so I want to reach out to you all today to say, please do not suffer in silence. If you are struggling to put food on the table then please let us support you. A few more families have come forward this week and we have also delivered to others we identified as needing help.

Please do continue to support if you can, our staffroom has been turned into a stock room where the hampers are put together. We will always accept donations into the airlock or if you'd prefer not to enter the school, let the office know that you will leave a bag outside the door. We don't know how long lockdown will last but there is a definite need for support in our local community to ensure no child goes hungry, people's circumstances are constantly changing.

We currently have a good stock of baked beans, pasta and biscuits. The hampers go out on Monday's so we ask that any fresh produce is delivered on Monday morning. Part-baked rolls, spaghetti hoops, soup, tinned foods, cereals and pasta sauce are always welcome. We have also identified a need for other essentials such as toilet rolls, shower gel and washing up liquid.

I was truly humbled by the response last weekend and I want to end with a couple of special thank you's. A special mention to Ivan Proctor, who suddenly became our chief Food Bank communicator and organiser last weekend. Another big shout out to Neville and Tricia Caffyn at Grove Place who have made deliveries into school with donations from fellow residents who all want to help and support. What an amazing community Nursling is!

Thank you everyone!

From Mrs Jearrad

## Grove Place

## Retirement Village

## Nursling



The residents at Grove Place have truly supported our cause and we can't thank them enough! Every week Neville and Tricia have delivered bags of products from donated by fellow residents, these have then been added to our Community Hampers. A huge thank you to some monetary donations that have also been gratefully received from residents where the money has been put towards 'Making the children happy!'

## Family Feedback



"I'm getting very few shifts at work now and these hamper bags are a life-saver. Thank you."

"Thank you everyone for donations they helped me a lot, being a mum on low income, all is appreciated."

"A Big Thank you xx I'm eligible for the food hampers and have just collected mine for this week... all I can say is WOW!

I was totally overwhelmed by what I received this week, the generosity of the community is so gratefully received, it made me feel quite emotional and has really made my week. The different types of items given were so thoughtful and makes a really good week food for us. My girls were so excited when we were sorting through everything.

So, to anyone who donated, I want you to know how grateful I am and I'm sure many other families will feel the same.

I will also add that the offering from HC3S was much improved this week so I feel doubly fortunate."