



Thursday 22nd November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Reverse Advent Calendar

In the mad rush of the holiday season, the true meaning of giving is often forgotten. Some of us are lucky enough to be able to spend December preparing for Christmas with happiness but, for some, what is meant to be a time of blessing and joy, can often be a more stressful time.

This year, we would like to encourage our school community to participate in a 'Reverse Advent Calendar' initiative, in the hope that we can support families that are less fortunate than ourselves. The beneficiary of our collection will be 'The Trussell Trust', whom we also supported earlier this year with donations from our Harvest Festival.

What is a Reverse Advent Calendar?

These calendars work by putting something into it every day (rather than taking out), then passing the collection on to a local charity or food bank. They help to teach children that it is good to give as well as to receive, and that there are people less fortunate and who are in need. Each class in school will be putting together a Reverse Advent Calendar. Donations for your class calendar can be **brought in from Monday 3rd to Thursday 20th December**. They can be taken straight to class or there will be collection box by the School Office. You can donate as many items as you like.

Alternatively, you may choose to make your own Reverse Advent Calendar at home. You can use a box or basket to collect your items or, alternatively, you could make individual pockets for each day using strips of cardboard and even add some paint and glitter to jazz it up. Every day you choose something from your own supplies (unused) or from a store with your family to donate. At the end of the collection period (1st to 20th December) please bring your box/basket to school for the Trussell Trust to collect on Friday 21st December. Not only is this a fun thing for the whole family to do together, from creating the advent calendar structure itself to picking the goodies to go in it, it more importantly teaches your children the importance of helping others and seeing the bigger picture at Christmas. As you collect it may be a nice idea to chat to your child(ren) and imagine who you might have helped by having a reverse advent calendar, and ask them to pick a reason why they are lucky this Christmas. It may even become a tradition you choose to do every year.

What to Collect in Your Reverse Advent Calendar

Our local Trussell Trust are in **urgent** need of:

- Tinned spaghetti, tinned potatoes, custard, long-life fruit juice, sponge puddings, instant mash and rice pudding (they have plenty of beans, soup and pasta)

They would also appreciate donations of;

- Tinned meat, fruit, tomatoes and vegetables, biscuits, UHT milk, fruit juice, cereal, lentils, beans, tea and coffee

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Best wishes

MRS A DUNN
Headteacher

