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26th September 2024

Dear Parents

**Harvest Festival**

Our annual Harvest Festival will take place on Monday 7th October.

As we are all aware, financially, things are becoming more and more difficult for everyone. This year, we have decided that we would like to look after each other again by supporting our own families and also the local FoodBank which services the local community. We know that all our families are continually supporting the Academy and all the charitable events that we run, so we want to utilise this festival to give thanks to you as a community and as our extended Graham James Family.

We have decided that we will collect food items (suggestions below) and make items available to collect for any of our families or their neighbours that might be finding things difficult at the moment. This will be available for parents to collect after school between Tuesday 8th and Thursday 10th October. Please bring a bag and simply help yourself if you need to. Any items left after this date will be donated to Thurrock Foodbank to support other families in the wider community.

When times are a bit tough, we would like to think that we are one big family that pulls together to make things a little easier and, as an Academy, we are so grateful for all that our families do to support us and each other.

If you are able to donate any dried goods or tinned items as they have a longer life we would be very grateful, Items that the Foodbank suggests are; -

Toiletries

Fruit Juice / fruit squash

Coffee/Tea Bags

UHT Milk

Jams/spreads

Tinned potatoes / Tinned meats

Tinned fruit / sponge puddings

Custard / rice pudding

Noodles

Dried pasta / pasta sauces

Biscuits

Please give these items to your child to bring into class from Friday 4th October to Tuesday 8th October.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Taylor

RE Lead