

20/10/16

Dear All at St Gilberts RC Primary School

I am writing to thank you all for the recent generous donation of Harvest Festival food to the Food Bank at Eccles Mustard Tree.

We are extremely grateful for this and it has come at a time when we have had a spike in referrals for food parcels due, we think:-

- To the roll-out of Universal Credit causing benefit delays
- To the extra cost for people heating their homes as the weather turns cold

So far in Eccles this year, we have distributed 269 food parcels to households in need, and whilst we cap the number anyone can have during 1 year (maximum 4 food parcels), we have offered a progression route for people referred to us – and to anyone on low incomes who can pay £2 weekly for 10 items of supermarket surplus food. This is called our “Food Club” and we have had 806 visits to this so far this year.

We pay a local supplier for the Food Club food, but it is donations including *yours* that stock up our Food Bank for emergency food parcels.

This helps us, therefore, to help people at a point of crisis, and our Food Club offers a progression route *out* of crisis and into something affordable with more choice and dignity. The two compliment each other well, and at least 22 of those receiving Food Parcels this year are now Food Club members.

Once again thank you and your whole school for the generosity shown and without this we couldn't deal with people as effectively if they arrive through our doors. Mustard Tree cannot do what we do to help combat poverty and prevent homelessness without people like yourselves.

God bless

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