



24 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well.

As we approach Christmas, I wanted to inform you of some of the festivities that we have planned in school, as well as signposting you to some of the support that is available to help ease some of the burdens that this time of year can bring, particularly at a time of ever-rising living costs.

Christmas Dinner Day

Wednesday 20 December is Christmas dinner day at Heanor Gate Spencer Academy. As communicated previously by Mr Jones, those students who have 100% attendance and 0 negative behaviour points between the 1 and 15 December will receive a free Christmas dinner. Students who do not meet this threshold will have the option to purchase a Christmas dinner. Tutors will be asking your child to identify if they would like a Christmas dinner before Friday 8 December.

Alongside this, we are raising money for Save the Children by donating £1 to wear a Christmas jumper. Students who participate in wearing something festive will be permitted to wear non-school uniform on Wednesday 20 December.

If your child does not have a Christmas jumper, but wishes to participate, then please direct them to their Achievement Leader who will provide them with one. If you have any Christmas jumpers that you no longer use and wish to donate then please hand them in at reception in advance of the day. For those who do not wish to participate they are to attend in normal uniform.

Thursday 21 December will be a non uniform day for all students where students will take part in a variety of festive and celebratory activities.

Food Bank Support

As a school we continue to support the local charity Salcare by donating food items to aid the local community. We are asking for students to donate non-perishable items in their tutor rooms between Monday 27 November - Friday 15 December. Some of our students will also be volunteering in the Salcare shop.

If you wish to access this support then the Salcare food bank at 59 Ray Street, Heanor is open between 10am-1pm on Tuesdays and Fridays, with The Pantry being open daily between 9.30am-2.00pm.

Operation Orphan

This winter we will be supporting Operation Orphan and are asking for donations of any unwanted warm winter coats. If you are able to help then please donate items at the main school reception.

Government Support

The Government has awarded further Household Support Grants to Derbyshire County Council in order to support local families facing hardship over the winter months (November-March 2024). In January 2024 Derbyshire County Council also intends to distribute **free grocery vouchers** to families with children who are eligible for benefit related free school meals, children in receipt of 2, 3 and 4 year old early years funding for low-income households and care leavers aged up to 21 as part of this funding.

Please follow the link below to find out more about the grants. This webpage contains links to the scheme guidance and the assessment/referral form:

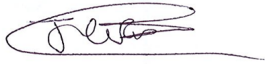
www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund

Local Supermarkets

Local supermarkets have also launched a range of initiatives to support families. At ASDA, children under the age of 16 can eat for £1 until the end of 2023. Tesco and Morrisons are also offering children under the age of 16 a free meal when an adult purchases a meal. Sainsbury's and Lidl are offering boxes of fruit and veg for a discounted price. Further deals at supermarkets can be found below:

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/deals/supermarket/>

Yours sincerely



Mr Wright

Assistant Vice Principal