



Chipping Barnet Foodbank

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Dear St Catherine's R C Primary School community,

I am writing on behalf of our volunteers and clients to thank you for the donation your school made to Chipping Barnet foodbank for Harvest Festival. In total we received **2746.90kg** from local schools and communities! The foodbank relies on donations such as yours to continue its work tackling food poverty and hunger in our local communities, as well as across the UK.

In the UK, more than 14 million people are living in poverty – including 4.5 million children. Between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022, food banks in the Trussell Trust's UK wide network distributed over 2.1 million emergency food parcels to people in crisis. This is an increase of 14% compared to the same period in 2019/20. 832,000 of these parcels went to children. Trussell Trust figures cannot be used to fully explain the scale of foodbank use across the UK, because their figures relate to foodbanks in one network and not to the hundreds of independent food aid providers and community-groups also providing support.

The main drivers of foodbank use across the UK are problems with the benefits system (delays, inadequacy, and reductions), challenging life experiences or ill-health, and a lack of informal or formal support.

In March 2022, YouGov polling on behalf of the Trussell Trust laid bare what is really happening for the more than 5.7 million people on Universal Credit across the UK: More than half (56%) report that they are going without at least one of the absolute essentials we all need to keep warm, fed, and clothed. Half (50%) are either already behind on their bills or are facing a constant struggle to keep up with them.

It is for these reasons foodbanks across the national network are working to respond to the cost of living crisis. In many cases this involves implementing specialist advice services and using donations to purchase supermarket and fuel vouchers for those in crisis. Food provision remains at the heart of what we do, and winter is an especially busy time for foodbanks. Harvest Festival goes a long way to bolstering our stocks as we head into the colder months.

Your community raised **709.90kg** during this year's collection!

If members of your community are active on social media, you may choose to follow our work on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Thank you for helping us continue our work serving the local community in Barnet, and for contributing to the wider national effort to ensure those most vulnerable in our community have food to put on the table, and money to heat their homes.

Best wishes,

The core team, trustees and volunteers at Chipping Barnet foodbank