

## Parent Council meeting minutes - 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024

*Meeting brought forward due to clashes with the diary and member availability*

### Updates from last meeting minutes:

Ceri-Ann has managed to get funding from the PTA for 2 people to complete the online Food Hygiene certification. This will be completed ASAP so that we can finish our sign up with Neighbourly, which will hopefully allow us to collect surplus food from local supermarkets. Other schools weren't aware that a separate license was needed to watch movies after school hours so this is something they will look in to should they decide to have movie nights. The license fee is currently too expensive so these plans are on hold for now.

Ceri-Ann has been sharing our meeting minutes on SeeSaw and our closed Facebook page. How do people feel about them being published on our school website? All agreed that this was fine, as they are anonymous except for school staff. It was commented that this will help give us some accountability too. Ceri-Ann will get these uploaded.

Community Organising training was advertised and took place last week. Some of our council members attended and found it very beneficial, even if it wasn't what they initially expected. Attendees were from the wider community, not just school, which was lovely. It shows that the community really wants to work together to make positive change. It was commented that whilst it may not be a direct school issue, community issues are something that our pupils and families have to deal with on a daily basis and can often be brought in to school and have an impact on their education.

School Government are tackling bullying as part of their action plan this term so we can link in with them on our plans there. Ceri-Ann attends School Government meetings so can liaise between the 2 groups.

Ceri-Ann and Mrs Harris have been raising awareness of Thrive at our school. We still need to update the website to share this further!

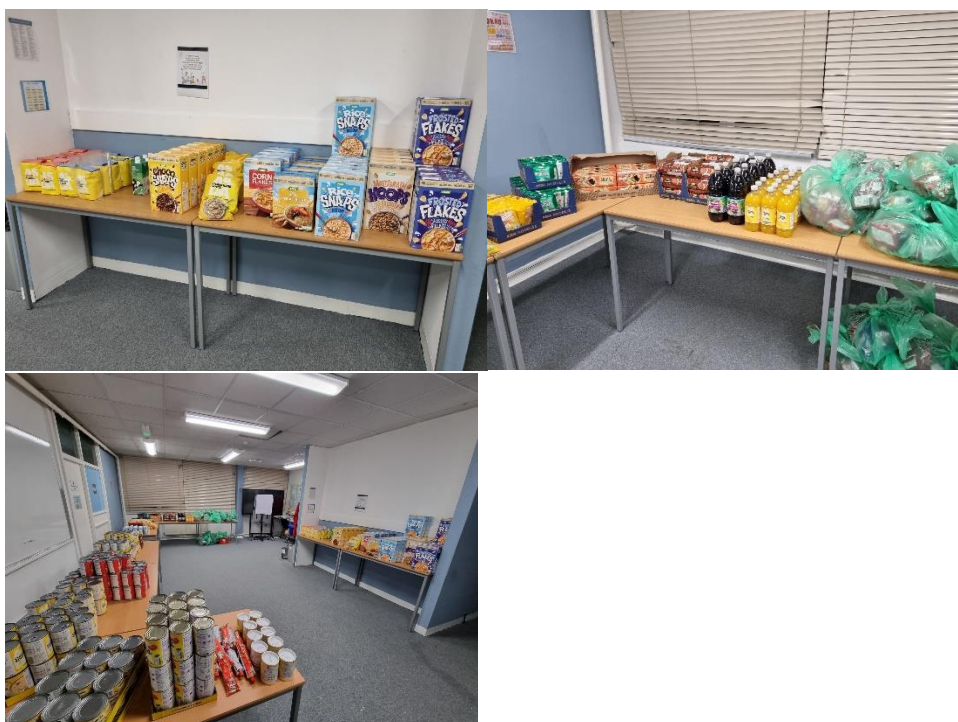
Ceri-Ann and Mr Fisher have now organised a Celebration of Learning event for each year group, to take place in February. Parents will be invited in to spend some time with their child, looking through their books/work and having a chat. Parents evening has been postponed until March to allow this to happen beforehand.

### Current affairs:

In our last meeting, we mentioned that there was a possibility of school being able to access some funding to provide essential food supplies for our families. Ceri-Ann and volunteers were able to secure a £450 supermarket voucher from the Advice Hub, go shopping and set up an 'Essentials Drop In' for families to access before we broke up for Christmas. On the application form, we stated that we were hoping to help 15

families with this. We were able to help an amazing 41 families! Far more than we could ever hope for, which was really nice. It was a lot of work to set up, but very worth it. We had 4 trolleys full, which completely filled the car! We were lucky enough to get some helpers to empty the car when we got back to school. It was a bit of a rush to get it sorted before we broke up for Christmas as there were so many other things going on too. We were also incredibly lucky to have had a large donation of selection boxes, which were added to the stock for the drop in. The morning of the drop in was incredibly busy, but it shows that the need is there and that we need to do as much as possible to help our families.

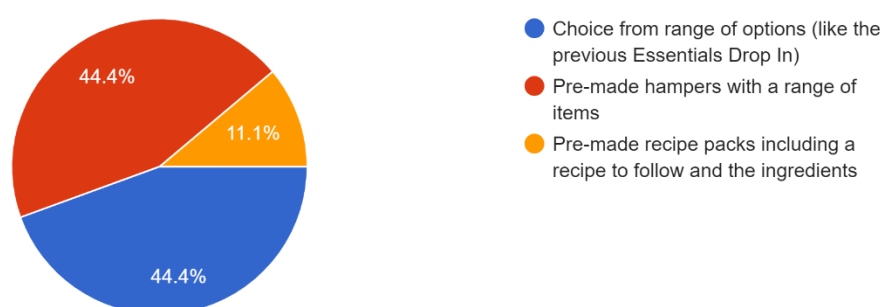




Ceri-Ann fed back to the Advice Hub and was able to apply for another supermarket voucher. Although it is January, and things are tight for our families, we have a bit more time to be able to plan things this time around. Ceri-Ann made a questionnaire to send to families, to make sure that we were doing things and getting the things they needed.

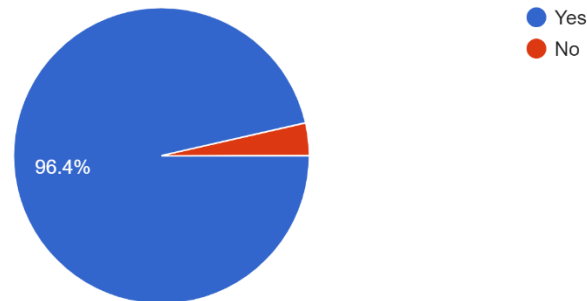
Would you prefer a choice from a range of options, pre-made hampers with a range of items inside or pre-made recipe packs to include a recipe and the ingredients to make the meal?

27 responses



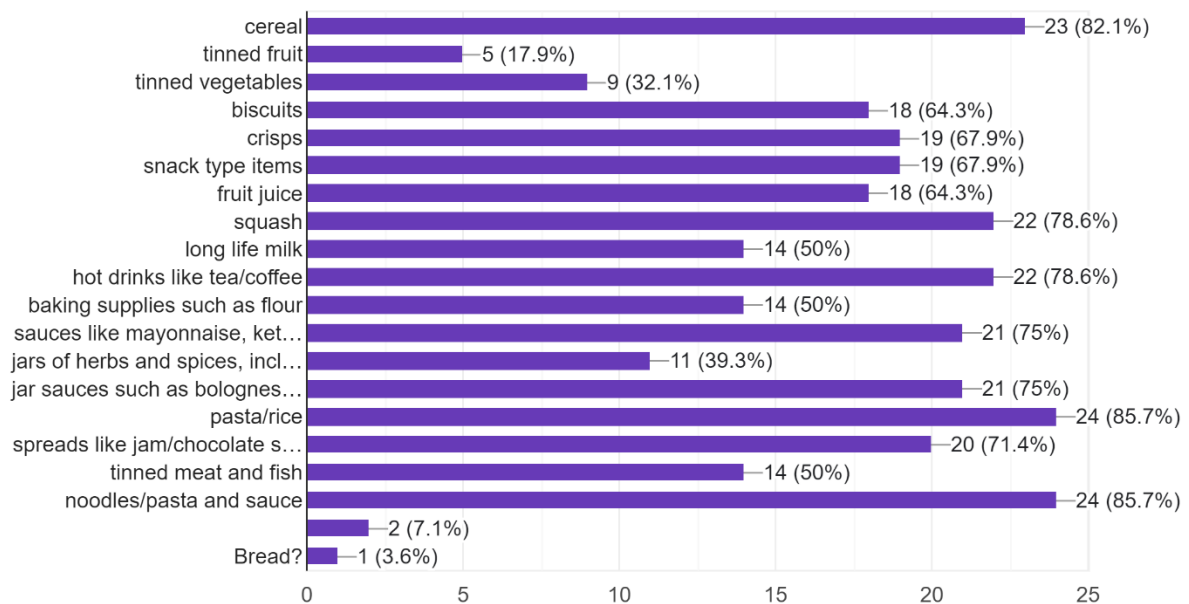
Would it be helpful if we were able to provide hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo, wet wipes etc. too?

28 responses



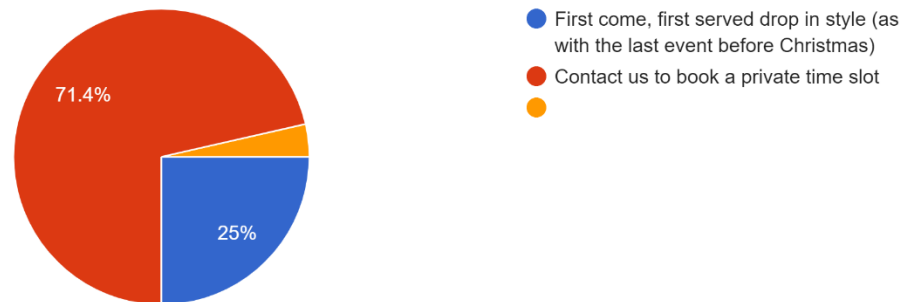
What kinds of food items are most useful to your family?

28 responses



How would you prefer to access this scheme?

28 responses



We have used these responses to make up some hampers of the most popular and most useful items. We were able to make up 30 hampers and 27 have been given out so far.

Each hamper included:

Tea/coffee

Cereal

Wet wipes

Biscuits

Toilet roll

Snacks - cookies or chocolate animal biscuit

Noodles

Plain pasta

Pasta and sauce packet

Squash

Crisps

Jam

Mayonnaise/ketchup

Savoury rice

The PTA very generously donated £50 towards providing some hygiene items too. We were able to buy a selection of:



Shower gels

Shampoo

Hand soap

Deodorants

Shaving gel

Toothbrushes

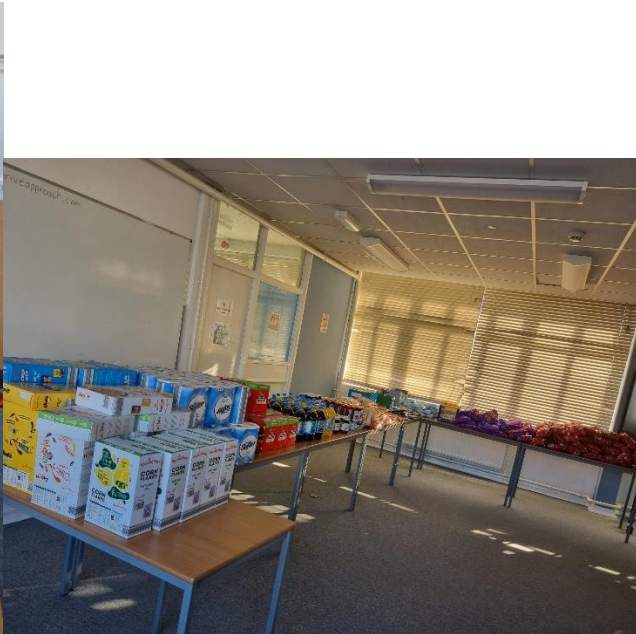
Toothpaste

And add in our existing stock of period products too!

When they collected a hamper, families were able to choose extra items from the hygiene selection to add in to their bags. Feedback from families was incredibly positive from this, although a few were worried about how it looks and that people will judge them if they are seen taking a bag from us. We don't want there to be a stigma attached to any support we give out for our families and will always try to accommodate their feelings and concerns. We have used generic shopping bags to put the hampers in so that they look just like everyone else's shopping and many of our families go to the shops whilst on the school run so it doesn't look any different. No records are kept of names of families receiving hampers either, although we do record numbers just so we can see and prove impact. There is no judgement from us as we are just trying to help our families during incredibly challenging times. We'd like families to feel that they can contact us and that it is ok to ask for help and we will always look for new ways and funding pots to be able to continue to provide support like this. One of our members commented about the photos that we have been taking along the way and wondered if the funders would like to receive a copy of them. **Ceri-Ann will email them to ask.**

Photos from the latest hampers:





It was asked if there is some way we could get donations of hygiene items, similar to how we are looking into Neighbourly to get food donations. One of our members has offered to research this for us and feed back to Ceri-Ann.

Between now and our next meeting, we have asked members to have a read back through previous meeting minutes to see if there is anything that we need to revisit or extend. We are aware that we still haven't finished our RSE poster! This will be put on the agenda for our next meeting. Members have been asked to have a think about any other issues that they feel we need to look at or support with too.

School are working with a Steering Group on a Community Plan to help improve issues in the area and we can discuss this further next time, once community members - including our families - have had a chance to attend the community workshops to have their say.

A new member commented on what a lovely job we are doing and how much support we provide for families. This is down to the ideas and support from our members, who do this voluntarily! Thank you to everyone involved - even something as quickly as sending an email/message with a potential idea has some sort of impact.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 9 - 10am in the school Family Room.