



Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Our ref: SBM/sjt

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Harvest festival**

In October we will be preparing for the Harvest Festival, and I wanted to make you aware of the events taking place in school to mark this time of year. First, we undertake collections for three local charities who are dedicated to feeding and helping the homeless and others in need. These charities are:

- **HARP – Southend Homeless Charity**
- **St Vincent DePaul Society**
- **Southend Food Bank**

We will be asking all our students to collect donations of tinned goods, toiletries, and dried foods for these charities. These items will be collected in Form and House groups, and students can bring and leave their donations in their Form rooms.

Secondly, **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024**, is **CAFOD Family Fast Day**. CAFOD are an international development charity and the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. They reach out to people living in poverty with practical help, whatever their religion or culture, and campaign for global justice, so that every woman, man and child can live a full and dignified life. To mark Family Fast Day, we remember those living in poverty and give what we can. Therefore, there will be a soup and a roll lunch, and this will be the only food served at lunchtime on that day. The cost of this lunch will be £2.50 with all profits going to CAFOD. Students will be able to pay for their soup and roll through their ParentPay meal arrangements. There will also be an opportunity to donate directly to CAFOD on a specially designated portion of ParentPay during the Harvest week celebrations. Please encourage your daughter, or son to get involved in Family Fast Day, and the other events relating to the Harvest Festival. Thank you in advance for your help.

Kind regards,

Mrs S McCurdy  
**Lay Chaplain**