

3 November 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

We are a mixed Multi Academy Trust comprising of both Primary and Secondary schools based in the East End of Newcastle upon Tyne. Over the last few years, we have been successful in achieving some funds to provide families who are struggling food to feed their children during the holiday period. This year we would like to provide our most struggling families with a Christmas hamper, and although we appreciate just how tough this year has been for everyone, we would like to ask for your support in achieving this.

The trust is made up of 5 schools: one secondary school – Benfield School, and four primary schools – Central Walker Church of England Primary School, Walkergate Community School, Tyneview Primary School and West Walker Primary School. All of our schools are located within one of the most deprived areas of Newcastle, with many of the families on very low incomes or receiving benefits and many are a regular visitor to the local food banks. During the October half term, many of our community visited businesses who were providing hot food to ensure their children had at least one hot meal per day.

Throughout 2020 we have all been living through unprecedented times. We understand just how tough the impact of coronavirus has been on every family and business. Although this is a big challenge under the current circumstances, we are determined to make this year's Christmas Hamper appeal our biggest and successful yet and provide a little bit of joy to the most vulnerable.

As a trust, we are happy to collect donations whether it be a financial donation and/or food from the list below. We will ensure this will be carried out following the latest Government guidelines and ensure everyone supporting remains safe. The schools close on Friday 18th December 2020, and many of our staff and volunteers have agreed to come into the trust on Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd December 2020 to deliver these to our vulnerable families. To ensure we meet all guidelines we are asking that food donations are collected no later than Wednesday 9th December 2020 and any financial donations to NEAT Academy Trust at the address above by Friday 27th November 2020 to enable us to work with the local supermarkets to purchase the additional goods to make up a Christmas hamper.

We are asking for the following food donations to add to our hampers:-

Tea

Coffee

Hot Chocolate

Sweet Christmas Treats e.g. Sweet Mince Pies, Festive cakes, Chocolates

If you need any further information or wish to ring to arrange a collection time, please do not hesitate to contact Hana Williamson on 0191 2284090 or email admin@neat.org.uk.

Any company which kindly donates to our Christmas Hamper appeal will receive acknowledgement on our website and newsletter.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for considering our festive ambition. On behalf of all the staff and pupils within NEAT Academy Trust we hope you stay safe and wish you well for the challenging times ahead.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely

Lisa Bilton
Director of Business Services