



Our Lenten Charities 2024

Nursery & Reception - Supporting a local charity

The Early Years will be collecting for 'Little Lives UK', a children's charity who support disabled and disadvantaged children and young people to help them build stronger futures. Across the UK there are thousands of children who are living with disabilities, face exclusion, are abused or are from disadvantaged backgrounds who don't have access to the services, education, activities or support they need to lead happy and healthy childhoods. Little lives work within the community to identify some of the problems that children are facing and organise projects that will help to try and resolve these issues. We will be sending more information out soon about how the EYFS will be raising money and there will also be the opportunity to donate any of your unwanted clothes.

For more information please see: <https://www.littlelives.org.uk>

Year 2 - Supporting a local charity

We are excited to announce that Year 2 will be supporting Hounslow Food Box, a charity dedicated to providing emergency food, support, and advice to individuals and families in need within the London Borough of Hounslow. Year 2 will be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to this worthy cause. By participating in this initiative, our children will learn the importance of empathy, compassion, and helping those less fortunate in our community. We invite you to join us in this effort by encouraging your child to bring in non-perishable food items that will be dropped off at the Brentford hub of Hounslow Food Box. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of local families who are in need of support. Thank you for your help and generosity.

For more information, please visit:
<https://www.hounslowfoodbox.org.uk/>

Year 4 - Supporting a local charity

Year 4 will be collecting donations for the Hounslow Action for Youth (HAY). HAY is a youth and community charity with the mission to create opportunities where children and young people have fun, learn new skills and make great friends. This charity works with children and young people ages 7 to 18 through different clubs and projects specifically designed to meet the different needs of young people in the area, some of whom face big challenges in their lives. At HAF, they feel safe and gain new skills whilst having a good time. Crucially, they also get the support they need to grow into confident, capable adults who can reach their full potential. Some of their projects include the Youth Bonds Project, Young Women's Writing Project and Social Enterprise Project. We will be sending more information out soon about how Year 4 will be raising money for this charity.

For more information, please visit:
<https://hayonline.org>

Year 6 - Supporting a local charity

Year 6 will be collecting for The Felix Project. Right now, millions of people in the UK regularly experience hunger. Yet tonnes of surplus fresh food is thrown away every day. The ongoing squeeze on budgets this year has led to a huge increase in demand for food support. 1 in 4 working Londoners now struggle to afford to feed their family. Now more than ever, The Felix Project needs our help to fill empty plates. Year 6 will be undertaking sponsored events throughout Lent in order to raise money to help provide meals.
£25 can provide 72 meals
£42.55 will feed a family of four every day for a month
£75 will provide 218 plates of nutritious food

For more information: <https://thefelixproject.org>

Year 1 - Supporting a local charity

Year 1 has chosen to support Children's Book Project for Lent. The Children's Book Project was started by the parents of two children living in West London. They noticed the positive role that early access to books plays in children's development. They wanted to pursue the passion of reading for pleasure to all children in the community. The Children's Book Project seeks to tackle book poverty and to give every child the opportunity to own their own book. They work closely with women's groups, children's centres and schools to gift gently used books to children. Their aim is that with every book they receive, it is gifted back to schools, foodbanks, community groups and families living in the most challenging circumstances as a way to support some of the most fundamental emotional and social needs of children. In Year 1, we are asking for children's books that are new or are in good donation to be donated. More information will be sent out soon.

For more information, please visit: <https://childrensbookproject.co.uk/>

Year 3 - Supporting a local charity

Year 3 are going to support the charity called Little Village, a branch of The Children's Charity Trust.

Little Village supports families with babies and children under five living in poverty across London. They run a baby bank network, collecting, sorting and passing on pre-loved clothes and equipment. During Lent, Year 3 will be collecting goods to be passed to our local Little Village.

For more information on what you can donate please visit
<https://littlevillagehq.org/donation-guides/>

Year 5 - Supporting a local charity

The Upper Room is a charity organisation that provides support and resources to homeless individuals in need. They offer a range of services including food assistance, clothing donations, and access to basic hygiene essentials. This Lent, Year 5 will be collecting donations of food and men's and women's clothing specifically for the homeless community. Items such as winter clothing (jackets, gloves, boots), equipment (umbrellas), and food and drink (seasoning) can make a big impact on those who are struggling to stay warm and fed during the colder months. By gathering these donations, Year 5 students will be helping to support the efforts of The Upper Room in providing essential resources to those experiencing homelessness. Through their kindness and generosity, they can make a real difference in the lives of others in need.

For more information, please visit:
<https://theupperroom.org.uk>

The whole school - Global Charity

The children at St Mary's, have been given fundraising boxes to collect as many coins or notes as possible to collect donations for CAFOD. CAFOD is an international development charity that works to tackle poverty and injustice around the world. They work with local partners in over 30 countries to help the most vulnerable communities access food, clean water, and education. The GIFT Team, a group of students dedicated to promoting prayer, charity and social justice in the school, led an assembly for the whole school about CAFOD and the importance of their donations. They explained to their peers that even small contributions can make a big difference in the lives of those in need. The donations collected by the students of St Mary's will help provide essential supplies such as food, water, and shelter to communities in crisis. They can also support long-term projects that promote sustainable development and economic empowerment for families living in poverty. By participating in this fundraising campaign, the students of St Mary's are not only making a positive impact on the world but also learning important values such as empathy, generosity, and solidarity with others. The GIFT Team encourages their classmates and the community of St Mary's to give what they can and help make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.