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30<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians and Friends of Sandy Upper School

At this point of the Autumn term our thoughts turn towards Christmas. Our school is busily planning for our first ever **Celebration of Christmas** at **St Swithun's Church** on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December**. Tickets will cost £3 and all money raised will go to **St John's Moggerhanger** and **Jenny's Kitchen**.

In the town we see Christmas lights and trees appearing, the shops are getting busy with people buying cards, gifts and festive food. There is a sense of expectation and preparation; the traditional season of Advent.

Many of our students will soon be eagerly opening their advent calendars each day to mark off the days leading up to Christmas. Not content with a festive picture, most modern advent calendars seem to contain chocolate and sweets or even candles, make up or other gifts. And yet as we walk through the streets of our towns and cities we cannot fail to see the increasing numbers of homeless people living on the streets, for whom Christmas has little meaning. Our local news is full of accounts of families who have nothing, struggling to survive on a limited income, or the elderly, alone and in need.

At Sandy Secondary School and Moggerhanger Primary School this Christmas, we would like to try to make a difference to some of the neediest people in our community. Together we are going to create a "**Reverse Advent Calendar**" to support a local charity **Community Spirit Bedfordshire**, who are working with the homeless this Christmas.

In a reverse advent calendar, instead of opening a window and receiving a gift, we try to give something to help others. So, every day through advent, there will be a box in the student reception area for our students to drop off any contributions or donations that you are able to give.

Community Spirit are hoping to make Care Parcels to give out at Christmas – they need hats, scarves, gloves, thermals, underwear, socks, toiletries (no blades), small travel shampoo, lip salve, toothpaste, toothbrush, hand cream, wipes, deodorant, desanitiser gel, perfume/aftershave samples, chocolate, Kendal mint cake, small first aid kit (no sharps), sleeping bags, coats, blankets, books. Any dried or tinned food donations or gift items will be given to the homeless shelter or the foodbank.

No one person on their own can solve all of the problems in our society but, working together, we can make a difference to the lives of others who, often through no fault of their own, find themselves in difficulty this Christmas. We hope that we will, through your generosity, be able to share a little of the love and joy of the Christmas season.

Yours faithfully

Mrs T Hinson  
Assistant Principal: Community & Events

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