



**The Manor**  
Preparatory School

## To All Parents

27 November 2020

Dear Parents

### **Reverse Advent Calendar for Abingdon Emergency Foodbank**

What is a Reverse Advent Calendar? It is a calendar that gives something back – something I feel is so important, this year in particular! December will be upon us next week and in homes across the country, cardboard doors will be opened in the traditional countdown to Christmas. I would like to suggest something just a little different. We have worked with a charity called Heart Felt Tips before but it was a few years ago and I think Christmas is a perfect time to revisit this venture.

Heart Felt Tips enables children to help less fortunate children, empowering both for their future life adventures! It was set up by a British painter who loved his pencil case when he was small. It opened up his mind's eye. Today pens and pencils still play a crucial part in his life but it dawned on him that not all children are lucky enough to have a pencil case. Through this Reverse Advent Calendar, maybe we can help to nourish a bit of untapped potential.

#### **So how will it work and what can you contribute?**

**From Monday 30 November** (Advent starts on Sunday 29 November this year) **until Thursday 10 December**, there will be a small box at each of the four drop-off/pick-up gates where your 'arty' contributions can be left. Everything will be going into small, clear pencil cases which have been provided by the charity. What I am looking for is pencils, rubbers, sharpeners, small rulers, felt tips, colouring pencils, paperclips, highlighters, glue sticks or little notepads. Think what your child would like to have in their pencil case and that will be just what another child would love to receive.

#### **What will happen with the contributions?**

I will fill all the pencil cases and deliver them to the Abingdon Emergency Foodbank where they will be distributed to families along with their Christmas food parcels. I wish we could be there to see the children's faces when they open a well-stocked pencil case. In the words of Dr Zeuss – 'Oh, the Thinks You Can Think!' ..... his book about the many amazing 'thinks' one can think and the endless possibilities and dreams that imagination can create. Amen to that!

Yours sincerely

Catherine Duff  
Charities Co-ordinator