



CATALYST

Dilkes Academy

Garron Lane, South Ockendon, Essex RM15 5JQ
Telephone: 01708 852128 E-mail: admin.da@catrust.org.uk

Wednesday 30th September 2026

Dear parent/carer,

**Harvest Festival 2026:
Supporting Thurrock Food Bank and Friends of Essex and London Homeless**

We're excited to announce that our annual Harvest Festival will be held on Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th October. This year, Reverend Sue Stamp from All Saints Church will join us to lead special Harvest Assemblies.

In keeping with our tradition of supporting those in need, we are once again proud to be fundraising for Thurrock Foodbank, which provides essential emergency food and support to local individuals and families facing hardship. Thurrock Foodbank is part of the nationwide network of food banks supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK. Our local food bank, based at All Saints Church, is open every Thursday from 11.00am to 1.00pm and every Saturday from 10.00am to 12.00pm.

This year, we are also supporting Friends of Essex and London Homeless, a dedicated local charity committed to helping vulnerable people in our community. The charity operates a community kitchen in London every Wednesday evening and runs a food bank in Grays on Friday nights. Through their tireless work, they provide food, clothing, toiletries and sleeping bags, as well as practical support to help individuals and families secure accommodation and rebuild their lives. Their commitment makes a real difference to those experiencing homelessness and financial hardship.

To make a meaningful impact, we kindly ask for donations of the following items only, ensuring all goods are in date:

Long Life Milk (UHT or powdered)	Pasta and rice
Tinned fish	Pasta sauces
Tinned meat (hotdogs, ravioli, corned beef, ham)	Jams and marmalades
Tinned vegetables / Tinned tomatoes	Biscuits / Crackers / Snack bars
Tinned spaghetti / Tinned beans	Long life fruit juice / Squash
Tinned fruit	Cereals
Tinned custard	Tea / Coffee
Dried noodles / Pot noodles	Toiletries (soap, shower gel, deodorant)

Please bring your donations to the collection box outside the office starting from Thursday 1st October 2026. All donations should be received by Friday 16th October 2026.

Thank you for your generosity and support in making this Harvest Festival a success!

Yours sincerely,

Mr. R. Latham
Deputy Executive Headteacher

