



# Christmas School Sugar Collection

**Help our LOCAL shelters support the homeless and hungry, families in crisis and those fleeing domestic violence in East Anglia**

Dear Headteacher,

With your help we have been collecting sugar for the homeless, needy and vulnerable in Norfolk and Suffolk for over 30 years, and this year we will be continuing this much needed support. However, due to Covid-19's effect on schools, our collection will have to be more carefully managed.

Many of our volunteers are former teachers and are fully aware of the additional safety requirements that schools are now working with. However, they are sure that together, we can find a way forward to support this vulnerable group who, due to the many effects of Covid-19, will be even more needy this Christmas.

To ensure Covid-19 compliance, we would suggest that the children bring in the sugar and leave it in an accessible area such as the Entrance Hall. At a pre-arranged date and time our volunteers will collect the sugar, and follow guidance on social distancing, mask wearing, sanitiser use and your school protocols. For obvious reasons we feel unable to deliver School Assemblies this year.

- Sugar for Shelters works together with a NORFOLK farm based Christmas food charity (BEFA) founded by Norfolk farmer Mike Buckingham in 1985, to collect sugar from schools.
- The Buckingham Emergency Food Appeal (BEFA) provides the food for more than 5000 Christmas dinners of which our sugar is an important part.
- Huge amounts of sugar are needed in Shelters and Food Kitchens in the cold days of winter and particularly over Christmas. Last year we collected nearly 6 tonnes of sugar, every bit of which was needed!
- Sugar is a fast energy boost for the homeless.
- Sugar is an essential ingredient for hot drinks and Christmas foods e.g. puddings and cakes.
- Collecting sugar is simple, affordable and helps children focus on the Christmas spirit of giving.
- If collecting sugar at Christmas doesn't work for you there are other ways you can help BEFA. Some schools choose to donate tea, coffee, biscuits or festive packaged foods. Others, usually with older students, historically collected food or money for us from events such as Harvest Festivals, Christmas Parties, Discos, or 'Non-Uniform Days'. The funds raised were used to buy special Christmas foods for the homeless and needy in local shelters.

One of our volunteers will be in contact with you in the next week to discuss if you are able to support us and if so, how together, we can manage your school's collection of sugar.

Should you have any queries, or would like to know more please contact us at Sugar for Shelters.

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**Our website:** [www.befafoodappeal.co.uk](http://www.befafoodappeal.co.uk)

We look forward to working together for Christmas 2020.

Helen Lamb - Coordinator, Sugar for Shelters

BEFA Registered Charity Number 1066578

