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Monday 5th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This October, our Year 6 leaders are launching a charity initiative to raise awareness for the local area. In celebration of the Harvest Festival this month, we are partnering with Nightwatch - a dedicated charity that provides vital, life-saving support to homeless and vulnerable people in Croydon. To support their mission, we invite our school community to donate food items and toiletries. Your generous donations will be distributed directly to local people who need them most.

We will be doing a food collection from **Monday 12th to Thursday 15th October 2026**. Children can bring in items any day during the week, which the Year 6 Leaders will collect from their classrooms. Donations are also welcome during both Parents' Evenings and can be deposited in the '*Harvest Collection Zone*' next to the main office.

Donation Details:

What to Donate: Non-perishable food items such as canned goods, pasta, rice, cereals, and other shelf-stable items eg, canned soup (not packets). Toiletries: shampoo, soap, toothpaste, deodorant etc. Please ensure that all items are unopened and within their expiration dates.

Where to Drop Off: Donations can be brought to the children's classrooms where it will be collected in the mornings by a Year 6 Leader from **Monday 12th to Thursday 15th October 2026**
Also: During Parents' Evening- Harvest Collection Zone

Nightwatch will be collecting the final donations on **Thursday 15th October 2026 at 11am**

You can find out more about how the charity helps overleaf. For more information visit
<https://croydonnightwatch.org.uk/about/nightwatch/>

We appreciate that this year continues to be financially difficult for many people so there is no obligation to donate. However, all food donations are welcome and truly appreciated as every little bit helps.

Thank you for your support.

The Rockmount Team and Year 6 Leaders

Donations welcome any day during **Monday 12th October to Thursday 15th October 2026**



About Nightwatch



Nightwatch was founded in 1976 when a group of local people came together concerned after the death of a homeless man in Croydon. Their interests coincided with those of Rev Martin Wharton of Croydon Parish Church who had spent many nights walking round the borough meeting homeless people. Rev Martin was the first chair of the organisation, and for the first sixteen years Nightwatch was based at the Parish Church Hall.

Nightwatch built up facilities and hostels over the following years, always retaining a strong volunteer base. By the early 1990s, there were three Nightwatch hostels but homelessness in Croydon was increasing. The effect of government policies and general social changes massively

increased the numbers of homeless people we were seeing while at the same time restricting the availability of new housing.

Changes to the legislation relating to hostels meant it would be better for them to be run by a housing association. In 1992 we gave our hostels to the Croydon Churches Housing Association and expanded street level work to confront the new homelessness crisis. In 2005 we renovated a derelict church building in central Croydon for use as a kitchen and store. In 2013 we were warned we would be losing the lease on this building and we moved to another hall, storeroom and kitchen. We do not advertise the location of this building or our hosts would have homeless people turning up at all times. We see them in the Queen's Gardens at 9.30.

Supplementary material is available on request: 'A Century of Caring: 25 years of Nightwatch'; this history of Nightwatch was prepared for our 25th anniversary. Martin, by now The Rt Reverend Martin Wharton, Bishop of Newcastle, came to join us for the commemoration.

Nightwatch objectives

To act as first line contact for homeless people, to sign-post them to other agencies

- > To provide urgent and necessary items of food, clothes, toiletries, pots, pans, household goods to people in need
- > The stabilisation of former homeless people in new accommodation
- > To assist in helping unemployed homeless people (both financially and emotionally) to take up vocational training and education
- > To befriend homeless people to encourage empowerment and increase in confidence
- > To educate the community at large in Croydon about the realities of homelessness