

## **Mordiford CE Primary School Harvest Festival Celebrations 2016.**

Dear Parents,

This year our Harvest Festival is on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 1.45 pm in Holy Rood Church. Wye Class will be leading the worship; you are most welcome to join us. We will be celebrating our school harvest, and the traditional Herefordshire harvest of apples, by making apple crumble for everyone to enjoy using the abundance of apples that have been growing in our Dragon's Den garden area. We aim to prepare the crumble on the Thursday morning and to serve the delicious end product to the whole school on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October. If you are able to offer any help to gather and prepare apples or in making/serving the crumble please let us know.

We appreciate that we are blessed with enough food to sustain us and so would like to consider the plight of the thousands of children who have been made homeless as a result of conflict; as our Christian Value this month is justice it seems to be a fitting cause. More than 220,000 people have arrived in Europe this year, seeking safety and a better future. Three quarters are from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. One in three are children. Children and families have been forced to flee conflict and unrest at home, making painful and difficult decisions to leave everything they know. Right now, children are alone and in danger. They need protection. Many refugee and migrant children are travelling alone, risking their lives in search of safety. Their lives have been turned upside down. So many have lost their parents and loved ones, their homes and their schools. The journey is treacherous and children are exposed to the harsh elements as well as to violence, abuse and exploitation. Child refugees and migrants in Europe need immediate support. They need a safe space to eat, sleep and get the protection, care and support they need. They need somewhere safe where they can learn and have a chance to play.

For this year's Harvest Festival we are asking for a donation towards the work of UNICEF who together with partners we have set up child and family support centres across Europe, which provides a safe space for children and families on the move. These 'Blue Dot' centres provide a place for children to eat, sleep and play, as well as receive health care and counselling. Please can you place your contribution in a sealed envelope labelled UNICEF donation and give to your child to bring to school next week.

We thank you in anticipation of your generous support.

Kind regards,

Kerri Finney