

# Our visit to the food bank

We went to the Eternity food bank on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October. It has a gymnasium, church and a food bank. We learned about how the food bank worked and got to ask lots and lots of questions about it. Four people got to help put together a bag of food and toiletries but we had to wear aprons while doing this. We learned that it took seven or eight people to make the food bank function and that twenty clients came over the two days that they were open. While we were there, two people made a donation.

The hostess [who is called Yvonne] told us how the process of donating worked.

First, the food is weighed in the warehouse across the estate. This number is then recorded in their log. Secondly, the produce is sorted into the appropriate boxes by two women. This procedure happens to all donations however big or small they are.

After we saw and had the food bank area described to us, we were taken to see the church area of Eternity by Yvonne, like how we were shown around the food bank. There was a stage with a table and a set of drums. There were monitors to help people see what was going on. Mrs Jones took a photo of us on this stage. We were also allowed to ask a huge amount of questions about the church area. The number of people who usually visit the church is some number between forty-five and fifty.

The last area we visited was the gymnasium. At the time we were there it was set up for archery. One of the questions asked was if anybody could use the gymnasium. It turned out you had to have legal permission to rent it out as someone could get hurt. The gymnasium was absolutely humongous, and it took us all by surprise that something that big was in the building.

After the tour, Yvonne took us back to the entrance hall. We were then allowed to ask even more questions. We mostly asked about the clients of the food bank. We asked questions such as how old are they? Do you only serve single people, families or do you serve both? We also found out that they sponsor children from around the world. They keep pictures of these children on the wall of the entrance hall.

“It was quite insightful and rewarding to help all of those poor people who are in need of food and help,” said Edith (a school councillor).

“I got to ask lots of questions!” Katherine (another school councillor) added. Other comments include, “I love how much food was donated!”, another comment from our friend Lyla was, “It was fun when we got to organise the food!”

Eternity food bank is partnered with Citizens Advice. When people come to the food bank, the receptionist asks them how they came to need the help of a food bank. They

then let them talk to citizens advice to make a plan of what they are going to do to help. Citizen's Advice is also there to make sure you need the food bank and are not just using it to get free food. If the client is in need of the food bank, they will give them a food voucher. Clients can then show the receptionist and they can ask the staff in the stock room to put together a bag.

The church runs a Sunday school. A Sunday school is where children can go to a younger church where they can learn about God's prayer and just about God in general. People who go to the church are also encouraged to donate things to the food bank. This was a good idea because the food bank can ask for specific things as and when they need them.

Our trip to the food bank taught us that life for many people is quite difficult and that we should donate and help others. We all enjoyed the visit and we hope we can go again.

By Edith and Katherine