Dear Mrs Priestley and all at Newdigate, I wish you a very good afternoon from Crawley Open House.

Firstly, apologies this is a bit late getting to you – we were a bit inundated (in a great way!) with generous donations of all shapes and sizes over Christmas and I have a bit of a correspondence backlog – sorry!

It was really kind of you all to think of us at Christmastime, and for the lovely cards which the children made. We put them up in the hostel and the various moveon houses which we run, and popped them in the gift bags which we give to all our residents on Christmas morning. It really helped them feel valued and connected, which is such an important part of what we do here. Thanks so much for your great idea!

One thing I've learned in my 17 years working here is that it could so easily be any of us affected by homelessness through a collision of bad circumstances, and if it was me or my family or friends in that position I would hope and pray that there would be somewhere like Crawley Open House available to help before things became too hopeless....

I attach a little certificate for display or distribution should you choose to.

Keep in touch and please pass on our best wishes and thanks to all in your lovely school.

May you all have a very healthy and joyful New Year.

All the best

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Ian Wilkins Fundraising and Relationships Manager