



**Kirk Smeaton Church of England
Primary School**

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Headteacher: Mrs H Cuddy

Date: Friday, 16 October 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

This year through a campaign called 'Operation Christmas Child', run by a charity called Samaritans Purse, Kirk Smeaton CE school is joining thousands of other schools up and down the country wrapping, packing and sending shoeboxes full of gifts- things like cuddly toys, games, balls, hats, gloves and scarves, stationery and hygiene items – to children in need around the world. I am enclosing more information about this campaign in the leaflet the children are bringing home with this letter and how to take part.

Through this campaign, we want to teach children at Kirk Smeaton about generosity for others, and compassion, to make them aware of the fact that there are children in the world who have nothing and give them the opportunity to do something practical, yet so simple, that can make such a difference.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of people in this country, adults and children alike, regardless of whether they share our beliefs or not, join with Operation Christmas Child to express their compassion for those less fortunate than themselves, by giving an unconditional gift of love, at Christmas time. So please help us support Samaritan's Purse to reach another 11 million children globally with a shoebox gift that tells them that they are loved, and not forgotten this Christmas!

The School council will be overseeing Operation Christmas Child and will be collecting shoeboxes in line with the COVID 19 safety measures. They will leave a large box in each classroom where the shoe boxes can be left and quarantined until they are safe to be checked and once we have collected all the boxes they will be safely delivered to one of the drop off centres to be sent all over the world.

We will be encouraging the children in class, to write a letter to add to their shoe box to tell the child who receives their box a bit about them. They can also add a photo if they would like to. There is a donation of £5 per box to cover transport which can be a cheque placed inside the box or it can be donated online.

Gifts must be in good condition and must not include any liquids, toy gun or soldiers anything that will melt or anything with writing (as the child may not understand English) no food items including sweets etc.

Good ideas are:

Let God's love shine as we care for each other and learn together.

hair bands, doll, soft toy, hair brush, cheap jewellery, toy car, small balls, puzzles, colouring books and pencils any stationery, note books, hat scarf gloves, toothbrush, flannel and bars of soap, picture book, football shirt. Think of the age of the child and put something in suitable for that child.

Having done this for many years with my own children we have found it a really valuable and enjoyable experience. My children have enjoyed choosing the gifts and used some of their own pocket/birthday money to help buy some of the gifts. They have learnt how to wrap a shoe box (Trickier than you think!) and have tracked their shoe box across the world. They have learnt the importance of helping other people and how fortunate they are! Having worked in Africa, I have seen first-hand how excited the children are at receiving, what might be the only present they have ever had and how much those simple gifts mean to them.

Please could you help us provide as many boxes full with gifts as possible. If you cannot fill a shoe box, and want to donate something, please do and we will try to make up a full box with any extra donations we receive or maybe you would like to donate £5 towards an extra box being sent abroad.

We will need the shoe boxes or donations in by the 17th November please so we can quarantine them ready to send to the depot centre.

Thank you,

Mrs Holmes and the School Council

Should you have any questions about Operation Christmas Child, or Samaritan's Purse, please visit: www.samaritans-purse.org.uk Thank you for your support!

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