

4-11-21

Dear Parent/Carer,

As part of the on-going charity work of the school, we are once again supporting Operation Christmas Child which is run by an organisation called Samaritan's Purse. This project sends shoeboxes filled with gifts to children in some of the poorest places in the world. We have supported this project over the last few years, sending boxes and bringing joy to many disadvantaged children in different countries.

To support the project, a shoebox is packed with gifts, wrapped in Christmas wrapping paper and brought into school. I will deliver the shoeboxes at the central warehouse where they are then sent overseas to places like Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Africa. The last time we collected boxes we were able to send 68 boxes to needy children – thank you for your fantastic support! Whilst Samaritan's Purse is a Christian-run charity, shoeboxes are given to children between the ages of two and fourteen regardless of faith, religion, race or nationality. This will often be the first Christmas gift these children have ever received and each year hundreds of thousands of lives are touched by the generosity of people from this country and others. Last year over one million boxes were sent from the UK to children in hospitals, orphanages, internally displaced persons camps, homeless shelters and impoverished neighbourhoods around the world.

In the leaflet you will find ideas for things that you could include in your shoebox. Please note carefully that there are also several things which must not be included. Due to current EU import regulations, gifts in the boxes do have to be new. You might also like to include a photo and a card to show the child who receives your box who it is from.

Once you have filled your shoebox and wrapped it (wrapping the lid and box separately please), if possible please include in an envelope inside your box a donation of £3 (preferably by cheque, payable to Samaritan's Purse, but in cash if not) to cover expensive transportation and fuel costs. If this is not possible please send your box in regardless. Then put an elastic band around your box (we have lots in school if you don't have one) and stick one of the labels from the attached leaflet.

We would love to be able to send as many boxes as possible from Ellington Primary School to children around the world. If you are able to pack a box, that will undoubtedly bring great joy to a child elsewhere, please do; if you are unable to fill a whole shoebox then contributions are very much welcome and appreciated. Please could you send your filled shoebox or contribution into school by Friday 19 November.

Many thanks in advance for your support,

Louise Rusby

