



15th October 2024

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gift appeal

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are delighted to inform you that our new school council members have agreed to support the Samaritan's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gift appeal this year.

Operation Christmas Child, a project by Samaritan's Purse, offers a wonderful opportunity for our children to support those in need around the world. By filling shoeboxes with toys, personal care items, school supplies, and fun gifts, they can bring joy to less fortunate children this Christmas.

Over the next few weeks, our school councilors will be working hard to promote this meaningful initiative, helping pupils who wish to participate in creating their shoebox gifts. This appeal aligns with our school value of respect, encouraging children to be helpful and show concern for society.

Participation is entirely optional, but we hope many will choose to contribute.

If your child would like to support this worthy cause, please follow these simple steps:

Step 1: Find a shoebox

Start with a medium sized shoebox. If you wish to wrap it, we advise you to cover the box and lid separately. The school council team will provide your child in class with a gender label, please attach this to the top of your shoebox. Then mark if your gift is for a boy or a girl and select an age category (2-4 years, 5-9 years or 10-14 years). These labels will be given to your child.

Step 2: Fill it with gifts

Fill your shoebox with a selection of fun toys, school supplies and personal care items. If possible, include one or two extra special items you know a child will love such as a doll, cuddly toy or deflated football with pump. We suggest a limit of £5 per box.

Step 3: Make your project donation

A donation of £5 has been suggested by the organisation as they explain it is essential to cover project costs including collection, processing, shipping, project materials and training local churches to lead a safe, well-organised children's event where your shoebox will be given to a child in need. Make sure to include your cash donation or cheque made payable to Samaritan's Purse in an envelope and place it inside your shoebox on top of the contents.

Step 4: Personalise it

You may also like to personalise your shoebox by including a handwritten note, a photograph or drawing of yourself or your family.

Step 5: Drop off your shoebox

Please ensure you place a rubber band around each closed shoebox, to ensure the contents are safe inside and bring your box to school by **Friday 8th November 2024**.



The school council team will then be delivering the boxes to our local drop off area on Monday 11th November 2024.

Gift Suggestions

For children around the world, a shoebox is often their very first gift. There are so many great items you can pack in a shoebox to make it a special gift that is fun, full and personalised. There are also a few things to avoid.

School Supplies

Suggested school supplies: pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons, felt tip pens, ruler, eraser, writing pads or notebook, solar calculators, geometry set, glue stick, pre-inked stampers, colouring books, watercolour paint set (solid only), safety scissors and craft kits.

Personal Care Items

Suggested personal care items: comb, hairbrush, toothbrush, flannel, bar soap (packaged and/or in a container), sponge, reusable plastic containers: cup, water bottle, plate, bowl, blunt-edged utensils (fill an empty container with non-liquid items such as sunglasses or flannel to make use of the space), non-liquid lip balm, nail clippers and file, stick deodorant and compact mirror.

Accessories and Other items

Hat, gloves, sunglasses, cap, t-shirt, socks, flip-flops, small backpack, handbag or drawstring bag, hair bows or clips, friendship bracelets (woven with yarn or embroidery thread), watch, wind-up torch, necklace or bracelet, stickers, a personal note and photo

Add a special item

You may wish to include a special toy that will capture a child's attention as soon as they open the box. Ideas include a cuddly toy, football and pump, toy truck, doll, musical instrument, toys, toy cars, animal figures, building blocks, skipping rope, tennis ball, yo-yo, spinning top, mini frisbee, fidget spinner, finger puppets, slinky, travel games, small musical instruments and small puzzles etc.

Please do not include the following items:

Toothpaste, sweets, lotions and liquids; used or damaged items; war-related items (e.g. toy guns, model soldiers, military vehicles etc.); seeds, gum, food items (including chocolate); religious or political literature; medicines, aerosol cans, knives, sharp or fragile items. **Items packed from this list will be removed from shoeboxes.**

If you need any further advice, please ask one of our school council members who will be delighted to help, Mrs Astley via a.astley@cvps.omegamat.co.uk or visit [How to Pack a Shoebox - no follow | Samaritans Purse \(samaritans-purse.org.uk\)](#)

Kind regards,

Mrs A Astley
School Council Lead