

East Crompton St James' C.E VA Primary School

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Tuesday 7th November 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

Yesterday we had a visitor in our assembly who talked to all our children about Operation Christmas Child. Please find below information regarding this project. Your child has also received a leaflet with this letter which explains how your family might like to contribute to our school shoeboxes.

Our aim this year is to fill and send at least 10 'school shoeboxes' from St James' but if you and your child(ren) would like to complete an individual box you are most welcome. All contributions or complete boxes should be sent into school on or before Friday 24th November.

This year, through a campaign called Operation Christmas Child, run by the UK charity Samaritan's Purse, this school is joining with thousands of other schools up and down the country in wrapping, packing and sending shoeboxes full of gifts – things like tooth brushes, toothpaste and soap, hairbrushes, pens, pencils, something to write in, toys or games - to needy children around the world. (see leaflet with this letter)

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

Samaritan's Purse also wants to be clear about how they work:

'We're a Christian charity so it's our Christian beliefs that motivate us to help the poor and needy. The shoebox gifts are distributed through local churches overseas who may invite children to join a discipleship course called The Greatest Journey. But participation is always with the consent of parents or guardians and shoeboxes are given unconditionally to children based on need, regardless of background or religious beliefs. We hope that explaining these things will encourage you and your family to get involved'.

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 reach another million or so children with a shoebox gift that tells them that they are loved, and not forgotten this Christmas! 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!

**Mrs A Peacock
Head of School**

