

8<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

**Operation Christmas Child (UK charity Samaritan's Purse)  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

I am contacting you on behalf of the scholar ambassador team. This year, through a campaign called **Operation Christmas Child**, run by the UK charity Samaritan's Purse, Dixons McMillan Academy is joining with thousands of other schools up and down the country in 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 and how to take part, for your information. 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.

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 11 million children globally 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](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk) Thank you for your support!

All advisory groups will be putting together 2 shoeboxes between Monday and Thursday next week (w.c. 11.11.19). Scholars willing to participate will need to bring the items to their advisory groups by Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November, enabling Mr Wilson to take the boxes to the charity on Friday. Each shoebox has a delivery fee of £5 and each advisory aims to raise the required money to cover the costs of two shoeboxes (£10). If you would like to donate money instead of/ as well as a gift, please send it with your child in the above time slot.

We hope to see as many students as we can participate in **Operation Christmas Child**, supporting those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Best Wishes

Mr Jonathan Wilson  
Teacher of PE & Scholar Leadership Coordinator



# Gift suggestions



## TOYS

Include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls or stuffed toys (with CE label), toy trucks, harmonica, yo-yo, skipping rope, ball, small puzzles etc.



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks & paper, solar calculators, colouring & picture books etc.



## HYGIENE ITEMS

Toothbrush, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel.

*Due to more stringent import regulations, toothpaste can no longer be included in shoeboxes.*



## OTHER ITEMS

Hat, cap, gloves or scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery set, wind up torch, slinky spring, matchbox cars.

*Due to more stringent import regulations, sweets can no longer be included in shoeboxes.*



## DO NOT INCLUDE

Used or damaged items; clothing other than as listed above; war related items such as toy guns, play soldiers or knives; chocolate, sweets or other food items; seeds; aerosols; toothpaste, lotions or liquids of any type including bubbles; medicines; hand-made or knitted stuffed toys; playing cards of the 4-suit variety; anything of a political, racial or religious nature; sharp objects; glass containers or fragile items; books with mainly words.

Items packed from this list will be removed from shoeboxes. [Read more about this process.](#)

