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This year, through a campaign called **Operation Christmas Child**, run by the UK charity Samaritan's Purse, our Year 3 children will be 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.

Through this campaign, we want to teach our children about being generous and compassionate towards others by making 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!"

If you would like to help, we ask that you please donate one item from the attached list of suitable items and send into school with your child by Wednesday 14th November.

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Mrs Morrison (HLTA)