Dear Parent or Guardian,

**Christmas Shoe Box Appeal – Monday 5th November**

Everyone loves to receive a present at Christmas. But for many vulnerable children and families in Southeast Europe Christmas serves as a reminder of their isolation and poverty. This year the school has decided to support a Christmas box appeal run by House of Opportunity (houseofopportunity.org), to try and help some of the poorest people in Europe to have a more joyful Christmas. We can take action by filling shoeboxes with appropriate items and sending them to people in need and we thought we could find a lower-cost way to help busy families at home and give all our children the chance to experience the joy of giving unconditionally.

Instead of asking each family if they could make a box each we are asking families to send in items to school. Together with this letter is a list of items. Simply choose one of these items (or two, or four, it’s up to you!) to purchase/provide and send them into the school. For example, buying a bulk bag of sweets, such as Haribo, which can then be subdivided between several boxes, is a cost effective way of contributing. Same goes with the many of the other items on the list.

Not all items have to be new, but they should be in good, working condition, so toys that are no longer played with could also be sent in, if they meet these criteria. Please send items into school by Monday 5th November. We will also need shoeboxes and wrapping paper to cover them with, so don’t throw away the box when you next buy a pair of shoes…

It costs about £4 to ship and distribute one Christmas box. Donations to help cover the shipping costs of the boxes our school puts together will be gratefully received by/at..

We will spend a day making up the boxes at school; each class will have about a 45 minute session. We would aim for each class to make up at least 10 boxes (although it would be fantastic if we could do more than that!). This will ensure that everybody will have the chance to join in preparing a box.

Please let us know if you could join us for the day (or part of) to help wrap the boxes too.

Thank you,

From: Headteacher and/or School Council reps

“House of Opportunity” is the operating name of FSCI (UK), which is a Registered Charity in England & Wales (1107914).