Operation Christmas Child in your School

Assembly/Class Activity for Your School

Q. Think about how happy you are on Christmas morning when you see your Christmas presents. For some children that does not happen. There is no tree, no Christmas dinner, no presents, and no-one thinking about them.

Operation Christmas Child send shoeboxes full of gifts to children around the world to let them know that they are loved and not forgotten - just as God gave Jesus as a gift to the world at the first Christmas.

Select and show a clip from our videos page to demonstrate how much joy a shoebox gift can bring: samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ-videos

Assembly Activity *Have a table filled with a selection of gifts suitable to go into a shoebox and ask students what is their favourite present at Christmas.*

Play a 'price is right' present quick game, asking the worth of each item and talk about the value of a simple item like a flannel and if that would be their favourite item if they received it. End with one of the items from our Shoebox Stories webpage, where shoebox recipients talk about their favourite item they received in a shoebox.

Class Activity Ideas for packing shoeboxes, organised by the student council:

- Shoebox Packing competition : who can wrap and pack a shoebox the fastest?
- Shoebox Packing Party: each student brings an item to go into the shoebox and pack one box per class. Take a photo of the class and include this in the box, signed by each student
- Shoebox Item Scavenger Hunt : hide shoebox items around the school and give clues for where they are hidden.
- Christmas Jumper Day : to participate you have to bring either an item for the shoebox or donate £1 towards the project donation.
- Have each class take part in our virtual online shoebox which lets you select the gifts and we pack a box for you. Each student donates something towards the cost (£20) to fill a shoebox online: **shoeboxonline.org.uk**

Visit our Schools page on the website for lots more ideas and resources.

Timeline

September

Order free leaflets, posters etc online at **samartians-purse.org.uk/occ**
Introduce Operation Christmas Child and ask children to find a shoebox to bring in or buy our flatpack boxes.

October

Ask children to fill their shoeboxes over the half term and bring them into school in the new term, along with a £5 suggested project donation per shoebox which includes shipping. If you would like to find out which country your shoeboxes are sent to, please pay the project donation online. This will generate a barcode which can be placed inside one of your boxes.
For more information on what the £5 covers please go to the website:
samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ

November

Shoeboxes are collected during **National Collection Week, 14-21 November**. Please take your shoeboxes to a local Drop-off Location (full details are listed on the website from September), or contact logistics@samaritans-purse.org.uk for more information.

December

Shoebox distributions start and you know you have brought joy to a child!

January / February

You will receive an email telling you which country your shoebox was sent to, to share with your class.

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love to children in need around the world and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Operation Christmas Child® is a project of Samaritan's Purse

samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ