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 cuddly toys, games, balls, hats, glove and scarves, stationery and hygiene items-to children in need around the world.

Through this campaign we want to teach children here about generosity and compassion for others, 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

Samaritans purse is a Christian charity so the beliefs motivate the organisation to help the poor and needy. The shoeboxes are distributed through local churches oversees.
We hope that explaining this will encourage you and the family to get involved regardless of whether you share our beliefs or not and join Operation Christmas child as they express their compassion for those less fortunate than themselves, by giving an unconditional gift of love, at Christmas time.

Last year nearly 11 million boxes were distributed-telling those children with these gifts that they are not forgotten and they are loved.

If you want to take part there are 3 ways to do this
1. Get a shoebox, cover it with colourful paper and fill it with gifts. There are 3 age groups to choose from and also boy or girl-leaflets are available at reception
2. Bring in items for the boxes and leave them at reception. Lots of ideas if you look on the website. samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ
3. Bring in a donation that can be used to buy items or for the very important transport and training costs-again leave at reception please

Please can the above be brought in by <u>FRIDAY 15TH NOV</u>.
At Gt Shelford Free Church we will be having a shoebox filling party and cake sale on Sat 9th Nov 10.00 -12.30, you are welcome to come along and join in.

Any queries email jane.furlow@ <u>gmail.com</u>

Thank you so much