



September 2026

Dear Parents / Carers

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Christmas Shoe Box Appeal 2026 – Monday, 12th October 2026

The Christmas Shoe Box Appeal has been such a success over the past few years that we would like to invite our Edgbarrow families to join us in supporting the Christmas shoebox appeal again this year. As before, this is organised by House of Opportunity (houseofopportunity.org). Everyone loves to receive a present at Christmas, but for many vulnerable children and families in these regions, Christmas serves as a reminder of their isolation and poverty. We can take action by filling shoeboxes with appropriate items and sending them to people in need.

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 up a box each, we are asking you to send in items to school. Of course, if you wish to still donate your own made-up box, we would love it if you could. Together with this letter is a list of suitable items to donate. Simply choose one of these items (or two, or four; it's up to you!) to purchase/provide and send them into school to your child's tutor. 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. We have enough shoeboxes for each tutor group, but if additional boxes are needed, then we would welcome shoeboxes sized up to 320mm long x 180mm wide x 118mm deep.

Please send items into school by **Monday 12th October 2026**. Tutors will then organise wrapping and filling the shoe boxes with your donations in the following couple of weeks.

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 **Monday, 9th November** through the tutor groups. We would appreciate a donation of a minimum of 10-20p per student to cover the costs. Or, alternatively, you can donate directly online at <https://houseofopportunity.org/christmas-donate-option-2/>

We will then spend dedicated tutor time making up the boxes at school and are hoping to run a lunchtime wrapping club! We would aim for each class to make up at least 1 box (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.

Thank you for your support again, and Merry Christmas.

Kind regards

Mrs Shepherd and the School Council Reps

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

<https://houseofopportunity.org/what-we-do/christmas-box-appeal/>

ITEMS TO DONATE

Wrapped sweets

Small toys

Hats/gloves/scarves/socks

Balls (tennis/ bouncy)

Soap

Toothbrush/toothpaste

Jigsaws

Facecloths

Colouring/sticker books/stationery

Comb/Hair accessories

Bag/purse

UNSUITABLE ITEMS

Foodstuffs (apart from wrapped sweets/chocolate)

Books in English

Items which rely on someone reading instructions, e.g. a complex toy or puzzle/game

Battery-operated toys

Aerosols

Talcum powder

Medicines

Seeds

Broken, dirty or obviously well-used items

Homemade clothes and toys