



Dear Parents,

This year, the school will be supporting Samaritan's Purse 'Operation Christmas Child' appeal.

Operation Christmas Child's mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities. These gifts are shipped outside the United Kingdom to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease.

In 2021, 277,350 shoebox gifts were shipped for children in eight countries across Eastern Europe, Africa and Central Asia. This year, shoeboxes will again be delivered to children living in many countries across the globe. Our shoeboxes will ensure these children receive a thoughtful gift this Christmas, while also supporting access to their rights, as stated by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Article 28: You have the right to education no matter who you are: regardless of race, gender or disability or refugee status

Article 24: You have the right to the best healthcare possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food to eat, a clean and safe environment and information to help you stay well.

Article 31: You have the right to play and rest

Each year group will be collecting items for shoeboxes for both boys and girls, from 5-9 years old. Your generosity in previous years has meant that we have been able send many amazing and generous gifts to children around the world. Any item that you feel you can give will be so gratefully received and, to help, on the reverse of this letter is a list of items to be included, including items that cannot be given. Due to customs changes, the rules are a little different this year so please read the list carefully. Alternatively, if you would like to donate towards the cost of the shoebox, we would also be extremely grateful. Any donations can be marked 'Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal' and passed to your child's class teacher. We would ask that these donations are brought into school by Friday 4th November.

Once again, we really appreciate any support and donations you are willing to make. If you would like any more information, please feel free to contact me through the school office.

Many Thanks,
Miss Mitchell



SHOEBOX GIFT IDEAS (AGE 5-9)



SPECIAL ITEM: Something to immediately capture the child's attention e.g. a cuddly toy, large toy car or truck, a rag doll, a deflated football and pump, a solar-powered torch.



ACCESSORIES: Baseball cap; sunglasses; woolly hat, gloves, mittens, scarf; hair ties, bows and dress-up headbands; small backpack, handbag or drawstring bag; purse or wallet; children's jewellery, watch, reusable non-breakable containers e.g. cup, water bottle, plate, bowl; small items of clothing e.g. socks, flip-flops, T-shirt.

TOYS: Skipping rope; tennis ball; building bricks/Lego type kit; click together model; glider kit (non-military); bead kit; play people; animal figures; dinosaurs; foldable play mat e.g. farm, zoo, city or racetrack; transport toys e.g. car, train, plane, truck or boat; plastic doll; hand or finger puppets; play dough (ideally with cookie cutters and play tools); toy tools; slinky; yo-yo; dominoes; spinning top; kaleidoscope; toy binoculars; finger skateboard; wind-up or pull-back toy; bouncy ball; inflatable beach ball; small frisbee, small kite, interactive toys that include push buttons, lights and noise (include extra batteries).



DO NOT INCLUDE: Toothpaste, sweets, lotions and liquids; used or damaged items; war-related items; seeds, gum, chocolate or food items; religious or political literature; medicines, aerosol cans, sharp or fragile items.



MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS:

Tambourine, shaker, bells, sports whistle, recorder, harmonica, slide whistle, tin whistle, finger drums, maracas, triangle, mini xylophone, kazoo, castanets.



HYGIENE ITEMS:

Toothbrush, hairbrush, comb, bar of soap, flannel, sponge, washmitt, chapstick, compact mirror (ensure protected).



A NOTE FROM YOU:

Christmas card, note of greeting, photo of yourself/your family.



The Mighty Colchester United (50% discount on Family Tickets—from Colchester United)

In recognition of the challenging times that many families are finding themselves in financially, we have a fantastic offer for families of pupils attending your school. As one of our partner schools, we are delighted to invite all of your families to book tickets for the Colchester United vs Doncaster Rovers game on Saturday 19th November, with a special 50% discount on family tickets. For each adult ticket purchase, X2 children U11 can attend for free, which means an adult can attend the game half price and take X2 children U11 for free.

A free programme is included for all, so that the children have something to keep and read after the match.

Bookings can only be made in our family stand E5, E6, E7 and E8 using your unique school discount code: STJOHNS50%18 to get 50% off.

Please book here: <https://tickets.colchesterunited.net/Tickets/BuyTickets/SeatSelection/34417>

Ps—I'll be there—hopefully not suffering as usual!



St. John's Green's Awesome Authors

Dear Parents,

As part of the school's ongoing commitment to support pupils in their reading, I have been trialling an idea with a number of pupils to create their own story books. This has been to further help them with their understanding of stories, so that when they read, they do not just see words on a page but can learn to follow, comprehend and enjoy a story, as a complete reading experience.

These self-created storybooks are going to go into both school libraries for all pupils to read and enjoy, and eventually I hope to have a full section of pupil stories from Year 1 to Year 5.

A number of pupils have commented that they would like to create their own storybooks and so, due to this enthusiasm, I am opening up the concept to any pupils from Year 1 - Year 5 who wish to do so.

The story for the book needs to be of the pupil's own idea, they may need guiding with some parts of the story to make it flow. Ultimately, this is the pupil's story so even if parts of it do not make perfect sense or fully flow, they must feel they have been responsible for the whole book.

On the school's website is a guide for creating the book, along with blank page templates for a picture book, a text only book, or a comic book.

There is no expectation for this work to be carried out at home; this is simply something for pupils to engage in for enjoyment.

Once they have completed their stories, they can email to school admin, with a request to forward to me, or bring in their own hard copies for me.

Many thanks,

Chris Payne (school librarian)

All the templates are available on the School website—'Parent Information' and then 'Awesome Authors.' https://st-johns-green.eschools.co.uk/website/awesome_authors/626926

Home Science Challenges

October-December

To encourage and nurture the curiosity of science, we are providing a range science experiments that the children can choose to carry out at home, with an adult, over the next half term.

All your child will need to do, is work their way through each experiment and bring back the letter, ticked off to acknowledge that they have completed each.

Those who complete the challenges will then be rewarded with a non-uniform day at the end of this term. Should the children like to share their accomplishments in the form of photographs or written up experiments, please send these into Miss Cook.

The science challenge sheet will be sent out electronically with this newsletter and will also be on the 'Welcome Page' of the school website.

For more information on the challenges Miss. Cook has set, please go to:

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/parenting/g32176446/science-experiments-for-kids/>

Firstsite Holiday Fun

We have sent out electronically with the newsletter details of some free activities at Firstsite over half Term.



Christmas Fair Book Stall

Chris Payne (Our Librarian) is planning on running a Book Stall at our Christmas Fair, to raise money specifically for our two Libraries.

Many thanks again for all the books that have been donated by parents over the last few months/years. Chris has asked that if you're at a loose end over the Half Term and wanted to have a route round for any books, that you could depart with—any donations would be gratefully received.

Forest School Brilliance

As part of 'Just One Tree Day,' Year 3 children created Bird Feeders. They have also been busy looking after any creatures that make the Forest School their home. They've also just been getting muddy!



Facebook: St John's Green PTA

Email: PTA@stjohnsgreen.org.uk

Your P.T.A

Christmas Fair Saturday 26th Nov 12-2pm

Help Needed from parents

NEEDS YOU!

To do all the planned activities for the children we need you! Can you.....

Help set up during the day?

Help tidy up afterwards?

Man a stall/activity for an hour during the fair?

If the Answer is YES! please contact us by Friday 4th of November

Facebook: St John's Green PTA Email: PTA@stjohnsgreen.org.uk

Beaver-tastic

Really well done to Roman. He's a member of the Colchester 17th Sea Scouts and has recently been invested as a Beaver—which is absolutely excellent.



Year 3 Art

Also getting in on the leaf act.

Year 3 have been learning about the Stone Age and looking at Cave Paintings—they have been learning to paint in the same style, including using natural paints and materials (such as leaves).

As well as all this, they also went under their tables to imagine they were in the caves themselves—though I'm not sure they had battery operated torches back in the day!



Leaf Inspiration

Inspired by the work he was doing in class and further helping Mr. Bromley and Mr. Skinner in their ever losing battle against leaves—Edward went home and created an amazing piece of leaf art work. The 'Leaf Foxes' in my humble opinion are particularly brilliant.

Really well done.



Year 4 Science

Our Year four children have been investigating solids, liquids and gasses.

In this experiment, they were observing the time it took for chocolate to turn from a solid to a liquid when placed in water of varying temperatures.

I genuinely have no idea what happened to the chocolate after the experiment was concluded?

Did you know though that Chocolate has an antibacterial effect on the mouth, as eating pure cocoa has



been shown to prevent tooth decay. Which raises the question, why does no one produce chocolate-flavoured toothpaste?