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Head Teacher: Mrs L Berkeley, M.A.

11th October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

500 SMILES - a Christmas Shoebox Project

Our school has decided to support a local project reaching out to poverty-stricken families in Romania this Christmas. St John's Church have a link with a disadvantaged community in Romania and have set themselves a challenge to send shoe boxes full of gifts to 500 children. You can read more about the project online by following this link www.stjohnscolchester.org.uk/romania

The families that St John's Church want to help live in appalling poverty. Parents have to make choices between buying food or fuel and life is a struggle. There is no money to buy presents. This is an opportunity for our school to do something practical to give a Christmas present to a child who otherwise would have nothing. The children have heard about the project and how to pack a shoe box. There are suggestions for items to put in the box on the reverse of this letter.

500 Smiles will provide the boxes. If you and your child would like to fill a shoe box, **please complete and return the slip below by Friday 19th October to order your box. Boxes should be delivered after October half term and will need to be returned to school by 12th November.**

You can personalise your box by covering it in Christmas paper. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of sending your shoebox, please place £2 in an envelope and put this in your box. Members of St John's Church are going out to Romania to help give out the shoeboxes and we are looking forward to them coming back to tell us about the project in the New Year.

Yours sincerely

Lelia Berkeley, Headteacher

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(www.st-andrewscofe.essex.sch.uk/gdprnotices.html)

500 SMILES - Christmas Shoebox Project

Child's Name _____ Class _____

Yes, we would like to help this local project and would like to order a box.
We understand that we may include a donation of £2 towards the cost of shipping the boxes and that the box needs to be returned to school by 12th November.

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500 SMILES - Packing List Suggestions

Toys and games	Stationery Equipment	Clothing and personal care
Toy cars etc Plastic toys and figures Small doll or stuffed toy (with CE label) Skipping rope Ball (small or deflated with pump) Musical instrument Puzzle	Pens and pencils Crayons Water colour paints Sharpeners and erasers Note books Colouring books Solar calculator	Toothbrush Comb, hair brush Wrapped soap Flannel Hair clips, bows etc Sunglasses (with UV / CE mark) Hat, gloves, scarf Baseball cap Reusable plastic containers eg plate, bowl, cup, water bottle
<i>You can personalise your box with a photo of you / your family or a Christmas card</i>		
<i>You may like to include an envelope containing £2 to go towards the cost of shipping the boxes to Romania.</i>		

Some ideas for different age groups:

Age 2-4 Playdough and plastic cutters, plastic building blocks, finger puppets, stickers, glue sticks, pre-inked stampers, small bag / purse, hair bows

Age 5-9 Stickers, glue sticks, dressing up items eg costume jewellery / crown, plastic tools, chalkboard and chinks, ruler, bag or purse, hair bows and clips

Age 10-14 Adhesive tape, geometry set, wind up or solar powered torch, safety (blunt) scissors, small backpack or handbag, colourful balls of twine, sewing set, non-liquid lip balm, stick deodorant, compact mirror, nail clippers, magnets, compass

This is not an exhaustive list. Use your imagination! Think about whether your box is for a boy or girl or either.

But please remember no liquids, sharp or fragile items or 4-suit playing cards