



# Operation Christmas Child in your School

## Assembly Ideas for Primary Schools

**Activity:** Have a shoebox full of items ready as a demonstration. Gift suggestions are shown in our How to Pack a Shoebox leaflet and on our website.

**Ask the children:** Hands up if you have toys or books at home... Thumbs up if you have pens, pencils or crayons at home... Hands up if you have your own toothbrush and some soap at home...

**Q:** Do you know there are children in countries all around the world who don't have any toys or books, no pens, pencils or crayons? Some don't have a toothbrush or they may even have to share one!

Operation Christmas Child sends shoeboxes full of presents to children all over the world to let them know they are loved and not forgotten - just as God gave Jesus as His special gift to the world He loves at the first Christmas.

### Show them some of the items in the shoebox.

This is a shoebox gift for a little girl, it has lots of lovely things inside to play with and some useful things too...

We are now going to watch a film of the shoebox gifts being received. Watch how excited the children are!

### Select a video from [samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ-videos](http://samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ-videos)

**Q:** Would you like to pack a shoebox for a child? If you do, you will bring them a lot of joy and remind them they are special and loved. Let us pray for children around the world that they would know God's love this Christmas.

Then invite children to take a leaflet, or why not pack a shoebox as a class and get each child to bring in one item to contribute? You can also include a photo of the class packing the shoebox to send with the gift.

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

## Timeline

### September

Order free leaflets, posters etc online at [samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ](http://samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ)  
Introduce Operation Christmas Child and ask children to find a shoebox to bring in or buy our preprinted 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:*  
[samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ](http://samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ)

### November

Shoeboxes are collected during **National Collection Week, 13-20 November**. Please take your shoeboxes to a Drop-off Location (full details are listed on the website from September), or contact [logistics@samaritans-purse.org.uk](mailto: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.