



Operation Christmas Child in your School

Assembly/Class Activity for Your School

Q. Think about how happy you are on Christmas morning when you see your Christmas presents. For some children that does not happen. There is no tree, no Christmas dinner, no presents, and no-one thinking about them.

Operation Christmas Child sends shoeboxes full of gifts to children around the world to let them know that they are loved and not forgotten - just as God gave Jesus as a gift to the world at the first Christmas.

Select and show a clip from our videos page to demonstrate how much joy a shoebox gift can bring: [samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ-videos](https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ-videos)

Assembly Activity Have a table filled with a selection of gifts suitable to go into a shoebox and ask students what is their favourite present at Christmas.

Play a quick game, asking the worth of each item and talk about the value of a simple item to a child who may never have had their own toys, stationery or personal care items. End with one of the items from our [Shoebox Stories](#) webpage, where shoebox recipients talk about their favourite item they received in a shoebox.

Class Activity Ideas for packing shoeboxes, organised by the student council:

- Shoebox Packing competition : who can wrap and pack a shoebox the fastest?
- Packing together : each student brings an item to go into the shoebox and pack one box per class. Take a photo of the class and include this in the box, signed by each student.
- Shoebox Item Scavenger Hunt : hide shoebox items around the school and give clues for where they are hidden.
- Pack a Shoebox Online : each class selects a category to pack for, chooses from a range of gifts online and includes a personalised note and a photo. We then pack and send the shoebox on their behalf. You might like to hold a non-uniform day where each student donates something towards the cost (£20) to fill a shoebox online. Visit : shoeboxonline.org.uk

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

Timeline

September

Order free leaflets, posters etc online at [samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ](https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ)

Introduce Operation Christmas Child and ask pupils to find a shoebox to bring in, or you can buy our preprinted boxes to give out.

October

Ask pupils 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 the website: [samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ](https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ)

November

Shoeboxes are collected during **National Collection Week, 13-20 November**. Please take your shoeboxes to a local Drop-off Location (full details are listed on the website from September), or contact 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.