



St Mark's C.E. Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Clare Wright

6th January 2025

Dear Parents,

Gift Boxes for the St George Foundation

For those families new to St Mark's School these are the words that touched our hearts about 19 years ago and since then we have forged a strong relationship with this charity;

"If you were born in the poorest country in the world, you're orphaned by civil war, and you're only six, and no one helps you – what happens to you?" We have been involved with The St George Foundation since April 23rd 2005 and then we all fell in love with the story of Emmanuel who was found as a baby in a dustbin and close to death. He was rescued and had treatment on his club foot and we sponsored him until he reached the age of 21 and continue to raise money for the charity, you may remember we donated the donations from our summer shows to this very worthy cause. We are kept up to date on the progress of the children by emails, pictures and videos and our children get much pleasure from helping the Foundation.

The St George Foundation has provided us with a list of names of the 45 children currently in the orphanage. We are in the process of labelling up the boxes to fill with items for the children. They will be available for collection at drop off and pick up on Tuesday and drop off and pick up on Wednesday if there are any left. As we are just over 80 families and we only have boxes for 45 children; initially we will allow one box per family, if there are any boxes left Wednesday afternoon then of course you may collect an extra box.

What to include

Philip Dean, the founder of the charity, has spoken to Justina who runs the Foundation in Sierra Leone and she has said that the children would greatly appreciate things like notebooks, pens, pencils crayons, small toys, hairbands, sticker books, solar calculators, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bars of soap etc. In the past some parents have put in t-shirts and shorts which have also gone down well. Please do not include anything that requires a battery, or things that might be affected by the heat, so no chocolate or sticky sweets.

So this is how it works;

- The boxes will be available for collection from Tuesday 7th January.
- You choose a gift box, for either a boy or girl in a particular age group.
- You take the box away and fill it full of fun, age appropriate items.
- The box **must** be returned by Wednesday 15th January 2025

A volunteer from the UK charity will be visiting Freetown in mid-January so we need all the boxes returned by January 15th so we can get them passed on in plenty of time.

If you would like to find out more about the work of the St George Foundation please have a look on their website [Home - St George Foundation](#) .

If you would prefer not to fill a box but would like to donate a one or two items we would be happy to add these into an age appropriate box. Any small items may be delivered to the school office by Wednesday 15th January.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Clare Wright
Headteacher

