# THE WAY

**TERM 3 | THE WAY NEWSLETTER | FRIDAY 7 AUGUST 2026**




## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

### Introduction

Hello Junior School! This upcoming term holds a special event. Yep! You guessed it! It's Operation Christmas Child. But this year, we aim to raise as many shoeboxes as possible. Our goal as a junior school is 400 boxes! Your small shoebox can bring joy and delight to a child. Keep reading to find out why it's worth it and how it impacts people.

### What is Operation Christmas Child?

Operation Christmas Child is a project run by the International Christian Relief Organization, Samaritan's Purse. This organization takes the Gospel and God's word into fair consideration, by placing a Holy Bible into each shoebox and taking the children through a 12 lesson course about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.  Their priority is letting others know about Jesus' sacrifice and God's word. They collect shoeboxes made up from families all over the world, giving them to less fortunate children in countries like Colombia, Kenya, Fiji and Ukraine, among over 175 other countries!

### How does it work?

The oldest child in Junior School from each family will receive a shoebox for the family. Your family can then pack the shoebox with gifts that any child would like, labelling it with the chosen gender and age group. Your child can then take it to the library and hand it over to either Mr Smith or Mrs Issa (The Librarians). She will be taking a tally of the shoeboxes (our goal is 400!). The college will

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then ship the boxes to the company, (Samaritan’s Purse). After Samaritan’s Purse receives the box, they will then get put under a full security check, making sure there are no substances, used items, or anything else that is not permitted. After this stage is complete, all boxes that follow the standards then get shipped to countries around the world to be distributed among children who are less fortunate or might not receive presents. These shoe boxes get shipped to more than 100 countries around the world including Colombia, Kenya, Fiji and Ukraine. Included in each box, is a Bible placed by the Samaritan’s Purse team, to share the Gospel to the children receiving the boxes.

## How your family can be involved

Your family can get involved easily by packing the special Operation Christmas Child ‘Showbox’. Together, you and your family can go out shopping together, finding gifts for a boy or girl aged 2–4, 5–9, or 10–14, which you can find inside the given brochure that comes with the box. Your impact WILL be a game-changer in another, less fortunate child's life. Reminder that all Shoeboxes will be shipped over if they follow the guide lines below.

## What can and can’t I pack?

Although we are packing gifts for less fortunate children, we still MUST follow the guidelines and recommendations given to us from the Samaritan’s Purse team. On their website, we can find out things that we can and cannot pack. Below are things you are able and unable to pack inside your shoebox. You can also find these recommendations and rules inside the given brochure, where you will also find the labels.

- □ Wow! Item (Doll, Ball, Stuffed Animals, etc)
- □ Personal Care Items (Tooth Brush, Comb or Hair Brush, Water Bottle, Small Blanket, etc)
- □ School Supplies (Pencils, Pencil Case, Note Book, etc)
- □ Crafts and Other activities (Puzzle, PlayDough, Stickers, Card Games, etc)
- □ Toys (Balls, Slinky, Yo-Yo, Frisbee, etc)
- □ Clothing (Under Graments, Hats, Sunglasses, Jewlerry, etc)
- □ A personal Note (Encouraged to include an image of yourself with your family, not including personal information such as email addresses, phone numbers, or home addresses)
- □ Liquids or Substances (Toothpaste, water, etc)
- □ Lotions (Shampoo, Deodorant, SkinCare, etc)
- □ War-Related Toys (Soldiers, Guns, Canons, etc)
- □ Food
- □ Used Items (Used Clothes, toys, etc)

## Conclusion

Operation Christmas Child is more than just a shoebox, it’s giving to children who are less fortunate than us, and sharing the holy gospel with them. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 9:17: “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." So as a Christian community, let’s give less fortunate children around the world gifts of love, joy, and the gospel.

**Reminder that all boxes that do not follow these guidelines will be removed from the gift-giving process and all boxes must be handed into the school library by the end of term 3.**

**Hannah L and Lynneigh N**

*Thomas Hassall 2026 Year 6 Prefects*

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