



Giving at Christmas

The only Christmas present we wanted last year was to be able to spend time with our family and friends. This year, don't let the hustle and bustle of 'Black Friday' and 'Cyber Monday' distract from what is really important.

Here at St Faith's we want to help our pupils to understand how their actions can affect others and how they can have a positive impact on our community. We have had a number of charity events this term in which the children have had the opportunity to learn about the work of different charities and then raise money. As we approach the end of term, we will be supporting 5 local charities by collecting items that they need, rather than donating money. (Full details of each collection can be found by clicking [here](#))

Pre prep will be supporting the work of our local [Salvation Army](#) by collecting toys and gifts for disadvantaged children who might not receive any presents this Christmas.

Year 3 and 4 will be supporting the [Cambridge City Foodbank](#) by collecting food items which will form Christmas hampers to be given to local families who are struggling to afford to feed themselves and their children in these difficult times.

Year 5 and 6 will be supporting [Jimmy's Night Shelter](#) by putting together parcels of small gifts to show homeless people that they are not alone this Christmas.

Year 7 and 8 will be supporting [Cambridge Housing Services](#) by putting together parcels of small gifts which will be given to young, vulnerable people in our region who might otherwise not receive presents this Christmas.

The staff will be supporting our local branch of [Age UK](#) by donating gifts which will be given to older members of our community who are isolated and lonely and would not otherwise receive a Christmas gift.

It is important to remember that giving back does not have to mean donating money. Pupils in Year 7 and 8 have been volunteering to make Christmas cards which will be delivered to residents of the Royal Albert Homes, our school neighbours, and older members of the community who are supported by Age UK. The charity estimates that almost 1.5 million older people feel lonelier at Christmas than at any other time of the year. Many older people can go a month or more without talking to a friend, family member or neighbour and, this year, the pandemic will have made loneliness even worse for many. We are proud to be able to help Age UK carry out their vital work at this time of year; taking part in these

activities helps the children to understand how fortunate they are and how small gestures can mean a great deal.

As we approach the Christmas holiday, it is the perfect opportunity to think about how we can all make a difference to others in our community; making a donation to a local foodbank, donating unwanted clothes to a collection bank, sending a Christmas card to someone who might be feeling lonely or calling in on an elderly neighbour to check that they are well. Taking the time to write a thank-you note after opening presents or encouraging children to help with the preparations for Christmas all help our youngsters to think about those around them at this busy time of year.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Miss E Kennerley

