



# Whitburn Church of England Academy

An Academy with Specialist Status in Maths and Computing

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*'Excellence for All'*

12<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## Key Project Christmas Appeal

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you are no doubt aware, the Christmas season is fast approaching. Christmas can be a very challenging time and, this year, many families in our area will struggle to afford any kind of Christmas celebrations. Following your kind generosity with our Harvest appeal, we would like to continue to support the Key to Life Project with their annual Christmas Appeal.

The Key to Life Project is a local charity, who are currently supporting around 16,000 local people every year. They have seen a huge 310% increase in families accessing their services since the start of the pandemic.

We are very aware that the cost of living crisis is affecting many of us at the moment; however, if you are in a position to be able to make a donation for Christmas, we would be very grateful to receive items here in school, which we will then pass on to the Key to Life Project. **There is an extensive list of suggestions for suitable donations at the end of this letter.**

In order for Santa's elves (the Key volunteers) to distribute the gifts, donations can be brought **unwrapped** to **'The Grotto', main reception**, during **registration** or **break time** from tomorrow until **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December**. This will give sufficient time for donations to be matched to local families in good time before Christmas.

If you would prefer to give a cash gift of any amount, this can be handed to the Business Office, and we can also take donations by card.

If your family are struggling financially and are in need of support, please do contact your child's Pastoral Lead, in confidence. Applications can also be made directly to Key to Life Project (by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December) using the following link: [Application for help with Christmas Gifts 2024](#). The Key Project also have a Community Bus (a shop on wheels), which offers big savings on groceries. The route can be found here on their [Facebook page](#).

Thank you very much in advance of your support; we hope to be able to share some light and love in our local community this Christmastime.

Yours faithfully

**Mr J Crowe**  
**Principal**

Document available in large font, alternative language or audio format on request



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## Suggestions for suitable donations

**(Please refrain from sending in items that contain alcohol.)**

### **Christmas hamper foods**

Christmas pudding, sweet mince pies, chocolates, chocolate biscuits, savoury snacks, sweets, stuffing, cake – **all dated 25<sup>th</sup> Dec and later please!**

### **Gifts for teenagers/older children**

Make-up, jewellery and toiletries (please try to ensure non-allergic ingredients if possible)

Cuddly toys, fidget toys, stationery, art/craft supplies

Hair accessories, gloves, scarves, hats, fuzzy socks/slippers, t-shirts, hoodies

Mugs, metal bottles, chocolate, sweets,

Bags, purses, wallets and gift vouchers

### **Younger children and babies**

Cuddly toys, teddy bears, dolls, action figures, wooden toys, toy cars, jigsaws

Books, colouring books, pencils, crayons, art supplies, bubbles

Teethers, dummies, bath toys, outdoor toys, cot mobiles

Clothes

### **Food for the Foodbank**

Tinned veg, tinned meat as a meal (curry, steak pies, chili con carne), tinned fruit, tinned potatoes, tinned tomatoes, pasta/rice, cereal, UHT milk, tea/coffee, baby milk, pet food (pouches/tins/small packets are easier than big bags of kibble)

### **Everyday toiletries and cleaning products (please keep separate from foods!)**

Soap, shower gel, shampoo, deodorant, razors, sanitary products

Nappies, baby wipes, nappy sacks

Cleaning products

### **Little luxuries**

Christmas candles, reed diffusers

Christmas wrapping paper, gift bags

### **Pre-loved clothing and toys**

New, or good quality pre-loved clothes, (especially onesies and dressing gowns)

Good quality pre-loved toys for children of all ages.

If you would prefer to donate online, more information can be found by following this link:

[Key to Life Foodbank Christmas Appeal - Key \(keycommunity.org.uk\)](https://www.keycommunity.org.uk)