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TO ALL PARENTS AND CARERS

Dear Parents and Carers,

BLYTHSWOOD CARE - SHOEBOX APPEAL 2024

It is customary at this time of year for us to be in touch with you regarding Blythswood's Shoebox Appeal. The school has for a long time been a supporter of this worthy cause and each year the children very much enjoy having visitors to school to inform them of the work Blythswood do and the journeys they make to deliver shoeboxes which have so lovingly been filled for those less fortunate than ourselves. It is always wonderful to hear the stories of some of the recipients of these boxes.

This year, we are delighted to once again be able to act as a collection point for shoeboxes. We are happy for the children to bring their shoeboxes into school and we will organise to deliver these to **Woody's Depot** which is once again acting as the main collection point for Lewis.

The deadline for this year's appeal is Saturday 26th October 2024. As is customary, all boxes will be checked by a representative from Blythswood, prior to boxes being shipped from the island. **I would therefore be grateful if all shoeboxes could be handed into the school no later than Thursday 24th October 2024 as this is the first day back in Term 2.** This will allow us to check them before being taken to Stornoway and checked before the deadline.

Woody's Depot will be open at the following times to receive the Shoeboxes.

Thursday 24th October 2024 – 4:00pm-6:30pm
Friday 25th October 2024 – 4:00pm-6:30pm
Saturday 26th October 2024 – 10:00am-12:00pm

If any parent has any query about the Shoebox Appeal they should contact the Blythswood Shop where further details may be obtained.

Attached to this letter you will find the leaflets with the checklist for the Shoeboxes. The checklist can also be found online using the following link:

<https://blythswood.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Blythswood-Shoe-Box-Appeal-Leaflet-2024-1.pdf>

We do recognise that filling a shoebox can be expensive. Should any family wish to contribute to the Shoebox Appeal but for any reason find themselves unable to fill a complete shoebox, then please do feel free to donate individual items listed on the checklist and hand these in to the school and we will ensure they are delivered to the collection point where the Blythswood team will gladly use them to make up additional shoeboxes.



For those who do wish to make up a shoebox, please ensure that instructions on the leaflet are followed carefully, particularly with reference to suitable items for inclusion and also the packing of the Shoebox, as custom regulations are very strict. **All Shoeboxes should have a checklist secured to them detailing the contents.**

We know that the Shoebox Appeal does make a very real difference in the lives of the recipients. It brings a brightness and hope to those who are exceptionally poor and have very little. This year, shoeboxes will be distributed in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. Our hope is that as many of us as are able will find some time to make up a Shoebox in the knowledge that it will bring a spark of happiness to the men, women, boys and girls who receive them.

Leis gach durachd,



Kirsteen J. Maclean
Head Teacher

