23rd November 2015

Dear Parent / Carer

**Y3/4 Syrian Refugee Appeal**

We have all been shocked by recent tragic events in Paris, Syria and elsewhere, and I am sure you will have your own views about the rights and wrongs of these situations and the appropriate way to respond. The complexity of these issues makes them hard enough for us to understand fully as adults, let alone to try to explain them to our children.

However, at St Oswald’s we do have a clear set of shared values which we all try to live by: Respect, Compassion, Trust, Friendship, Justice and Service. These are at the heart of our school ethos and we want all our pupils to understand and engage with them.

In the context of thinking about this half term’s value, Compassion, and following on from work that they did around Harvest, pupils in Y3/4 have been moved by the plight of children from Syria who are denied some of their most basic rights because of the situation there. Ms Blackmore has established a link with the University of York and ‘Friends Helping Refugees’ (FHR), who have been delivering shoeboxes alongside other donations to refugee camps and bases across Europe.

Y3/4 would like to send some ‘Hampers for Hope’ to children currently located in a refugee base on the Austria/Slovenia border. The items they would like to put into the hampers are:

* Shoe boxes or small children’s bags (for carrying the items)
* An old reading book
* A colouring book or crayons or small non-electronic games
* Any old coats, shoes or blankets, which will be increasingly important as the cold weather draws in.

If you have any of these items that your children may have grown out of or don’t use any more, Y3/4 would be very grateful to receive them. The hampers will be put together and sent with a good luck message from our children. They will be collected from school on **Thursday 10th December** so we must have any donations by the end of November please.

I hope you will be able to support the children in Y3/4 in this commendable effort. If you have any queries, please contact a member of the Y3/4 staff team.

Yours sincerely,

Rupert Griffiths