



St Ippolyts C.E. (Aided) Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs. R. E. Peddie

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Appeal to help schoolchildren in Antigua & Barbuda (instead of our shoebox appeal)

Dear Parents,

You may have noticed that this term we have not done the usual shoebox appeal; this is because we are supporting a different charity appeal instead for this year.

In our 2019 Arts Days the children learned a lot about the Caribbean and the island of Antigua. The Caribbean island of Antigua is very small, only 169 square miles and its sister island, Barbuda, is even smaller. Barbuda was completely devastated by Hurricane Irma in 2017 and is only just recovering.

The island's economy relies heavily on tourism and foreign visitors and as such has been hugely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. There is little to no state aid for people unable to work and as a result many families are suffering immense hardship as the crisis continues.

We want to support the work of 'The Board of Guardians', an organisation on the island supporting families, the elderly and children in need. Currently, many children and teenagers have not been able to return to school as they simply cannot afford or source the necessary school supplies – things like bags, exercise books and stationery. We know all too well how the pandemic has affected children and education in the UK, but in other places the situation is extremely dire.

We are supporting this appeal by collecting donations of items to ship to the island (see below). Sending money will not help, as the items are not there to buy. Antigua is an island I know well and I have a direct contact with the Board of Guardians so I know that any donations we can send will go directly into the hands of a child, enabling them to return to school.

The Board of Guardians are hoping to provide 250 children with the necessary equipment, so anything we can give will help enormously towards this target.

As we are now entering a period of national lockdown, I realise that sourcing 'non-essential' items may be problematic. If you would rather send a cash donation (or cheques to St Ippolyts School), we will do an online order of items on your behalf. We will be sending the shipment at the end of November.

The items most needed are:

- **School bags / back backs / PE style bags: (suitable for ages 8-16)**
- **Pencil cases**
- **Stationery equipment: pencils, crayons, pens, rulers, erasers, calculators**
- **Exercise books to write in, jotters etc**

With grateful thanks,

R Peddie
Mrs RE Peddie
Headteacher

