



*If we believe,
we will achieve.*

Chalkwell Hall Junior School

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Headteacher: Andy Newnham

25th November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Southend Toy Drive and Angel Tree

Christmas is a time for giving and, following last year's great success, Chalkwell Hall Junior School wants to brighten Christmas for vulnerable children in our local community, who may otherwise receive very little or nothing. Christmas can be a difficult time financially for many and the ongoing cost of living crisis has made that particularly true over the last couple of years. For this reason, we will be working to help families within our school, the local community and assisting **Southend Toy Drive**, with its aim of ensuring all of Southend's vulnerable children and young people receive a gift.

The Toy Drive gifts are distributed to local children's centres, food banks, refuges and children's parties set up by local charities, and are given to vulnerable children and young people who may not have the opportunity to celebrate Christmas. Since the Toy Drive began, over 40,000 gifts have been donated through local charities and programmes.

To support this project, we are inviting donations of small gifts, which will be passed on to those who will benefit the most. We appreciate that in the current economic climate, not all our families will be able to contribute. However, if you are able to, please bring in your **unwrapped** present by **Thursday 11th December** and we will deliver them to Southend Toy Drive.

You can donate any gift suitable for a child from new-born up to the age of 17 (if any toys require batteries, please include these too). Unfortunately, you cannot donate second-hand presents and all donations must be unwrapped.

As well as the Toy Drive, we are bringing back our **Angel Tree**. The Angel Tree will be located in the office reception from **Monday 1st December**, and has 20 tags for children in our school whose families have requested support this holiday season. Each anonymous tag has 4 items from the child's wish list, their age and gender, so that those who have the means and desire can select a tag and buy multiple gifts with this in mind.

As with the Toy Drive, when the gifts have been purchased, please return them **unwrapped but in a gift bag with the Angel Tree tag** so that we can then pass these on to our grateful recipients.

Thank you in advance for any generous donations,

Kind regards,

Andy Newnham
Headteacher

