

Subject: Christmas Cards

Date sent: 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 3:18pm

## Great Barford C of E Primary Academy

Dear Parents & Carers

We are going to ask the children not to bring in Christmas cards for each other this year as this just encourages the children to be touching items from other houses/families. Instead, we are going to be asking for a small donation to help raise money for a charity very close to our heart.

We have an incredibly brave little boy, Benjamin, in school who is going through the toughest of times at the moment. This is his story as told by his incredibly brave parents:

'Benjamin was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) during the summer, and he began a course of chemotherapy. This was the beginning of a 3 and a half year treatment regime that he will need to undergo.

In August, Benjamin suddenly became very unwell, suffering seizures and other serious complications following an unusual reaction to the chemotherapy medication. This led to an 8 week stay in hospital on PICU and The Children's Leukaemia and Cancer Ward at Addenbrookes Hospital.

The treatment and care that Ben received during his stay was exemplary. He experienced many unusual complications which required a lot of investigatory and diagnostic skills to help him recover. The staff were amazing, caring and dedicated to providing the best care to all their children.

Benjamin is now home and receiving treatment as an outpatient so you will see him attending school when he is well enough.'

As you can see from Benjamin's story, this is an incredible little boy and we as a school would love to support a charity chosen by the family to help and care for children like Benjamin.

The charity we would like to collect for is Addenbrookes Charitable Trust 'Even Better' Campaign who are raising funds for the following:

- £110,000 to enable a Family Therapist to help support families in the face of serious illness and loss
- £250,000 for a cutting edge 3D scanner to save head and neck cancer patient's lives
- £240,000 to buy two emergency children's ambulances to transport sick children to Addenbrooke's, quicker
- £150,000 to pay for a Cancer Counselling Service, ensuring that every patient being treated for cancer receives the best possible emotional support.

The teachers will talk to the children about what and why we are doing this and if you would like to make a donation, we will be having a donation box in each classroom for the children to put the money in that they would have spent on Christmas cards.

Many thanks for your support,

Sarah Evans  
Head Teacher