Hall Green Junior School is trying to collect as many filled Christmas shoeboxes as we can as gifts for children in Kotusilo in The Gambia. I will be taking part in school challenges to earn items to go in my shoebox. Please help if you can.

School has told me I must only ask family and friends and then only with my parents’ permission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School challenge</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsored read</td>
<td>Can I read (undisturbed and sustained) for 20 minutes?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsored silence</td>
<td>Can I stay silent for 20 minutes during a lesson in the school day?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsored walk</td>
<td>How many circuits of the playground can I walk in 20 minutes?</td>
<td>/32</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsored maths test</td>
<td>How many maths questions can I get right in an arithmetic test?</td>
<td>/40</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsored dictation</td>
<td>How many words can I write accurately in a 100 word dictation from our class story?</td>
<td>/100</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Each year Hall Green Junior School children and families work hard to raise money for a worthwhile charity. This year we have chosen to support Project Gambia - a charity that is run by staff and children in a secondary school in Stourbridge. Established in 2007, Project Gambia has run a range of projects in schools, villages and farms to provide education, support, and funding to enable people to find a sustainable solution to poverty.

Every year in November, Project Gambia aims to fill a shipping container full of supplies that are desperately needed. This includes ‘Christmas boxes’ for the children who never get presents and don’t understand what it is like to own things like felt tips, books, pencil cases.....

This year, they are sending gifts to children who live in the village of Kotusilo. It is a poor village, built on the edge of a rubbish dump, and is without running water or electricity. The villagers live in overcrowded, basic and unsafe conditions: many of the houses are made from mud and it is not uncommon for them to fall down during the rainy season. When visiting Kotusilo, adults and children can be seen on the rubbish dump, often with bare feet, scavenging for anything they can reuse or sell.

For the children who live here Christmas day will be like every other day; very little food and no presents.

Because we did such a good job two years ago sponsoring children who lived and worked on the Takhmao Rubbish Dump in Cambodia, we have been asked to help with the Christmas Box appeal for Project Gambia. Our challenge is to fill as many ‘shoeboxes’ as we can with gifts for the children in and around Kotusilo.

Gifts to go in the shoeboxes can include:
- felt pens
- pens
- rulers
- books
- puzzles
- notebooks
- sweets

- crayons
- stickers
- sharpeners
- small toys
- balloons
- small balls
- lollies

Personal items:
- hair accessories
- toothpaste and toothbrush
- t-shirt
- socks

All boxes must be wrapped in Christmas paper (lid and box to be wrapped separately) and be for either a boy or a girl of Junior School age.

Event dates:
- wb 14 October: children collect their sponsors
- 17-23 October: children take part in sponsored activities
- by 8 November: filled shoeboxes or items for shoeboxes need to be in school.

We want to send them a present for Christmas 2019.