Information Sheet

Some interesting (and devastating) facts about Christmas cards

- Approximately 1.5 billion cards are given each year in the UK!

- It takes one tree to make approximately 3000 cards so each school would be responsible for potentially several trees being felled for the Christmas tradition.

- If a class of approximately 30 children give a card to all 30 others, then the total amount for EACH CLASS is approximately 900 cards!

Let's do the maths

- If a primary school has 1 class x 30 pupils per (7) years that will = over 6000 cards exchanged per Christmas and 2 trees are felled.

- If a primary school has 2 classes x 30 pupils per year that will = over 12,000 cards exchanged per Christmas and 4 trees felled.

- If a primary school has 3 classes x 30 pupils per year = over 18,000 cards exchanged per Christmas and 6 trees felled.

Some alternative Christmas card giving ideas include:

- Secret Santa card giving – each pupil in the class has their name written on some (scrap) paper and everyone picks out one name, meaning each child will give / receive one card.

- Class card – each child gives / makes one card for their whole class meaning this can be put on display for everyone to enjoy and if done within school this would make a great creative / art project!

- Each write their name on 30 cards - each child makes one large card & then they take it writes their name on 30 cards and each child gets one card with all their friends names on it.

- Charity donations - instead of doing cards what about a donation to Essex's 'Once upon a tree' which would mean that instead of having the trees felled for Christmas cards, you could raise money to plant trees in Essex instead! What a great educational lesson to the kids about the environmental impact of paper! Please contact Richard at Richard.longstaff@icloud.com if you wish to donate to this cause.

- E-cards – using a charitable e-card would raise money for a good cause at the same time & would make a great IT lesson! https://friendsoftheeearth.uk/take-part/send-ecofriendly-ecard