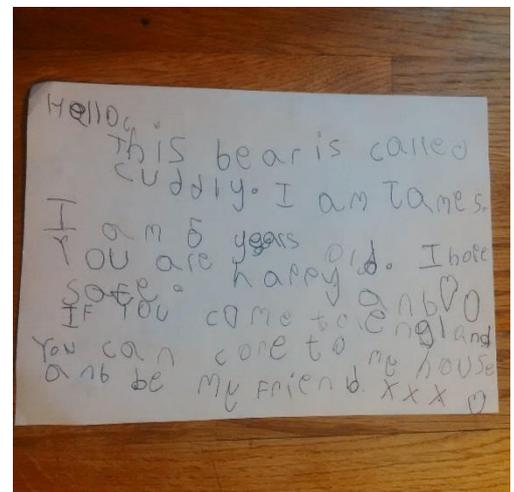# Thank you so much!

The work you did for Project Paddington's teddy project was brilliant. From small beginnings as a Facebook group at the start of September, the project grew to hundreds of schools and groups nationally, all wanting to show their support for refugees.

How many teddies?

We estimate that Project Paddington has sent 25,000 teddies with welcome notes to refugee children in the UK, Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan. The teddies came from all over the UK – they were part of picnics, carried by children in onesies, at the front of harvest festivals and blessed by bishops. It was incredible!

The teddies that have gone to UK projects or to Lebanon have already arrived. The ones on their way to Iraq are in a truck with lots of other aid and will be arriving shortly. The massive shipping container is on its

way to Jordan and will arrive shortly too! We will share photos of the teddy deliveries once we have them. At the end of this letter are a few photos of teddy collections, teddies being delivered in Lebanon and the shipping container and truck getting packed up for Iraq and Jordan.

Where did the money go?

Project Paddington is staffed entirely by volunteers and thanks to our good friends at Travis Perkins, Boden and Hermes, we only spent 45p per bear on delivery (less than a first class stamp!). The rest of the money (over £40,000 of it) has gone to help refugees.

Over £38,000 went to Tearfund's Refugee Crisis Fund. The money bought food parcels, hygiene goods, sleeping bags, temporary toilets and shower blocks for refugees arriving on the Greek islands of Chios, Samos and Kos.

Peter Arthern, Tearfund's European Refugee Programme Officer, said:. 'The people receiving them arrive with little or nothing. I've seen refugees arriving at registration centres carrying holdalls and bin liners with the few possessions they could muster before fleeing their homes.'

'Hygiene kits, which include items such as soap, shampoo and toothpaste, are really important for refugees who might have

just one pair of clothes and are staying in basic accommodation with large groups of people.'

Project Paddington money raised for Tearfund also provided hot meals to refugees staying in a sports stadium in Athens

and medical support in Hungary.

'Many had arrived in the country with foot and leg injuries after walking for days in inadequate footwear, so needed access to treatment," says Ahern. 'We also learnt quickly about refugees' food needs. Instead of giving out foodstuffs that needed cooking or detailed preparation, we provided food that was easy to eat while on the move.'

However, the majority of the money was spent in the Middle East.

'Unlike those that have escaped to Europe, these people are much poorer and have limited means to support their families, which makes Tearfund's support for refugees in Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan all the more vital,' says Ahern. 'We've been enabling families to find accommodation, as well as supplying food, clean water, hygiene kits and shelter materials.'

What next?

Project Paddington is delighted to announce their What Would You Take? fundraising day on Friday January 29th. We would like you to think of the one thing you would take from your house if you had to leave suddenly, like a refugee.

We are creating a wonderful resource pack with certificates, lesson ideas for lots of subjects, assemblies and more! You can sign up and watch our video to find out more at

www.projectpaddington.com

Once again, thank you so much for your help. We are constantly amazed by how much people really do want to show their support for refugees.

Well done. We are children helping children and you have made a difference!

The Project Paddington Team.

Thank you to everyone who provided photos. I have only selected a few here but they are all marvellous!

Photos were provided by:

Gallywood Infant School, Essex, Photo by Helen Brown,

Portreath CP School (Primary), Photo by Sophie Orme

Lucas Jedrezejak

Grant Walker

Mitcham Travis Perkins by Keith Woosey

Birkdale Pre-Prep