



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

TOTAL POLICING

Territorial Policing

**TPHQ ACPO and Support
Command
TPHQ - ACPO and Support
Command**

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8th September 2016

MPS Christmas Tree Campaign 2016

Dear Headteacher,

Thank you for agreeing to take part in the Metropolitan Police Service's annual poster competition to promote the Commissioner's Christmas Tree Project.

The Christmas Tree Project began with one tree outside New Scotland Yard in Westminster. This tree was decorated with individual tags which gave information on how to buy a present for a child in care. These presents were then handed in to Police Officers, who distributed them directly to children.

In the last two years, this project has expanded and now takes place across London, with each of the 32 Boroughs putting up a tree with tags on. The response from the public has been simply overwhelming. We received 6840 presents in 2014. Spare presents were delivered by police officers to children wards in hospitals across London on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day. Many officers described this as some of the most rewarding work they had done during their service.

The project last year exceeded our expectations with over 11,000 presents being received across London, the UK and posted in from many counties and countries around the world. Again, spare presents were distributed to children in hospital. Larger presents such as purpose made dolls houses by local construction firms were donated to Children Homes.

To advertise this project every year we have a poster drawn by a Primary School child. This year every Borough will pick a winner and use the picture as their local poster. This will be used throughout the area to advertise the project. The Borough winners will be invited with their family to see the Commissioner and the overall winner switch on the lights to the main Christmas Tree in central London. All the

children and their families who won will also be invited to the Metropolitan Police Service's Christmas Carol service in Westminster Abbey.

I appreciate we are in height of summer but being prompted by Selfridges who have just put their Christmas display out I thought it timely to write to you now.

Please could all entries be returned to your local Borough lead by the date specified.

Merry Christmas!

With my best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mausiny' or 'Mausiny' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mak Chishty
Commander

Mak Chishty