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18<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### **Christmas Initiative 2020**

As Her Majesty the Queen's Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham I'm delighted that you are joining this exciting cultural exchange project.

It's a very special Christmas initiative which will unite children across Europe, and enable them to learn about other countries in Europe through creative and fun activities.

Christmas is celebrated in many different ways across the world. Christians all over the world celebrate the birth of Christ. Traditional Christmas decorations can be admired and festive celebrations joined, even in countries where Christianity is not the religion of the majority of the people.

This project gives an opportunity to learn how non-Christian members of the community spend these holidays.

Many things have changed dramatically this year throughout the world as we battle COVID-19, but Christmas remains the season of hope for us all.

Children are vital partners in every country's progress, and projects such as this allow our children to gain a deeper understanding and respect for the world we live in.

So, let us share our different Christmas traditions, learn about each other and share in hope for the future.

May I wish you all a peaceful, joyful Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year.

Mrs Sue Snowdon  
Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of  
County Durham