

## Autumn News

Dear <<First Name>>

Once again it has been a busy few months both at the School Aid warehouse and in all our African countries. We have a lot of new supporters on our newsletter so this is a good opportunity to start with a little about our history.

In 1998 School Aid started recycling quality educational material to disadvantaged schools in Africa. 17 years later, our service not only focuses on delivering resources but also coordinating their distribution and developing their usage.

At School Aid we know that what matters is getting the appropriate resources to the right recipient, and then helping them to be effectively used to directly benefit teachers and learners. It's this core belief that has driven our programmes for the last few years and 2015 is proving extremely successful in achieving these goals. So how do we do it? *Communication is the key!*

Here is the critical path of a book:

- We start by talking to the African school or recipient to find out what educational supplies are needed.
- We open a dialogue with the recipient to know how they will use the resources.
- We pack according to their request list.
- We coordinate delivery all the way from the UK to the recipient school.
- We provide support through School Aid representatives, volunteers and carefully selected partners, to develop the usage of donated resources. This includes; library development, reading clubs, teacher support and opportunities for work experience.
- We monitor and evaluate all our projects - using this information to improve future work.
- We target sustainable educational development that continues to influence generations of learners.

The secret to our success is forging strong partnerships.

We hope you enjoy hearing about some of the great work we have achieved so far this year.

## Lesotho

In November 2013 and 2014, in partnership with Sentebale, Dolen Cymru and Maseru Rotary Club, School Aid sent two separate shipments of books, stationery, sports equipment and warm clothing to 77 schools in Lesotho. We are delighted to learn that from the 2013 shipment, 13 schools have established a library, with a further eight introducing classroom bookshelves, and 10 setting up reading clubs.

One primary school told us that, through the books, "children are exposed to things that are not available locally, hence create curiosity in their learnership". Another highlighted the value of books for girls, who are able to "read on their own and avoid a lot of peer pressure activities", while for the boys, an increased competitive spirit towards the girls was mentioned, and "their level of education has improved". Teachers gain too; several use the resources for study or as reference material, with "improved teaching skills" and "improvements in maths, science, English" cited as direct benefits.



News of the 2014 shipment is coming in as we write, and that, too, is exceptionally positive – with all respondents so far reporting plans for new initiatives such as a library, reading club or sports team. Against this background, it is exciting to be working towards another shipment to Lesotho.

## Malawi

June saw our first 2015 shipment to Malawi. We have shipped to Malawi once a year for the past few years, but with our expanded output this year we have two shipments going to different regions of Malawi. The first of these went to The Book Bus and Help Malawi for distribution in and around Mangochi on the southern banks of Lake Malawi. Our second shipment to Malawi departed in July, this time distribution was handled by our partners Life Concern in Rhumpi, in the far north of the country, and is destined for 15 primary schools and a day centre for orphans.

## South Africa

### New Initiative in George

School Aid trialed a new initiative in and around George. School Aid friends Bonnie Brink and Quinton Laurence collected two pallets of books from Cape Town, distributed them and are following up with detailed monitoring and evaluation work to assess the impact of the donations. Having had great results from our first shipment, a further four pallets are on their way this year, expanding our ability to reach even more learners in South Africa. Our thanks to Bonnie and Quinton for their dedicated support.

### Reading Clubs and New Library in Johannesburg

Michael Makwela, our South Africa Project Manager, is now running successful reading clubs in the school libraries he mentors. Mike's latest project is to develop a library in the Cosmos City 1 Primary School in Randburg and this is almost complete. Plans for the launch event are well under way.

We can not wait to see what a difference a fully stocked, staffed and specifically refurbished space will make to the learners of the school; look out for further reports in coming newsletters.



### Next Library

Libraries are a key part of the School Aid strategy to develop literacy in African schools and so we are forging ahead with our next library project in Koeberg Primary School, Cape Town. We will again be working with The Bookery to open a much needed library that will benefit 500 pupils. We are hoping the library will be ready in November and look forward to updating you in our next newsletter.

## Shipments

In May we sent our second shipment of the year to South Africa. Whereas our first shipment had gone primarily to partners Breadline Africa, our second was spread among several organisations including School Aid South Africa, Capespan's Blue Hand Project and The Bookery.

## Tanzania

Our July shipment to Tanzania headed off from the School Aid warehouse to Dar es Salaam on the east coast. This shipment will be distributed to schools in and around Dar es Salaam itself with School Aid representative Josh Palfreman coordinating the safe delivery, then collating the first part of our monitoring and evaluation information as the books are unpacked and put to use. Looking ahead, we have a second shipment due to leave this month, supporting our friends at Wabia Network with the aim of resourcing community schools.

## United Kingdom

It has been a busy few months in our UK warehouse. We've had an influx of new volunteers join, including students from a number of schools who gave up some of their summer holiday to help pack books for our autumn shipments.

### Volunteers Needed

The School Aid warehouse is now open five days a week and we need you! Are you or someone you know looking to make new friends, in a fun environment while still doing some good? If so, please contact the office for further details.

### Don't Miss

On 27th October, School Aid will be hosting a Boden product fundraising sale near Beaconsfield, with two sessions; 10am - 2pm and 6pm - 9pm. Come along with a group of friends to view and order the latest women's, men's and children's clothing and accessories. All orders placed will benefit from 20% off plus free delivery and returns. For further details email [events@school-aid.org](mailto:events@school-aid.org) or click below to register.

[Boden Party Fundraiser](#)



### Christmas is Coming

With Christmas just around the corner our Christmas cards will be available to order from our website and office very soon.

School Aid is participating in the Big Give Christmas Challenge! We're raising money to support our Malawi programme through this fantastic online fundraiser. Find out more or make a pledge by clicking the link below.

[The Big Give](#)



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