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Dear <<First Name>>,

It has been a busy year so far for School Aid, with much more to look forward to.

- new Holiday and Reading Clubs
- a report from Moses Ranoosi, our Project and Reading Officer in Malawi
- a new library in prospect at Kewtown School Literacy Centre in Cape Town
- The Big Give Christmas Challenge
- and of course plenty of shipments

## International Association of School Librarianship 2017

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### Long Beach, California

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, School Aid was thrilled to announce that Mike Makwela, our South Africa Project Manager, was due to attend the 19th International Forum on Research in School Librarianship held by the IASL at Long Beach, California. In front of a worldwide audience, Mike received the Da Vinci Huis-IASL Award, presented in recognition of his contribution to the national development of school libraries and services in South Africa.

School Aid is very proud of Mike. His hard work has been recognised, and at an event designed to showcase the efforts of school librarianship worldwide, he was able to attend keynote and networking events, taking the opportunity as he did so to network and promote the work of School Aid in South Africa to 79 other countries.

But the good news doesn't end there. We are equally pleased to announce that Mike will be moving to a new role in October as he takes up the position of African Countries Manager. Working closely to support our Project Managers in the field, Mike will be in charge of developing our literacy projects across our four focus countries – well done Mike, a well deserved promotion.



### Holiday Reading Clubs

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When trying to encourage children to read, keeping the momentum going has always been very important. If the routine is broken and good habits are lost, then all your hard work can sometimes come to nothing. That's why we've been so impressed with our staff on the ground,

and the unique ideas they've come up with to reach children during the summer holidays.

School Aid isn't there to teach, we're simply creating an environment that's fun and entertaining that will encourage and instill a love of reading. We're there to support local teaching methods, and we evaluate and change each reading club as we learn more about the children who attend them.

Our staff exploit every opportunity open to them. In Malawi for instance, they can be held on a mat on the beach – in Lesotho they've become an important element of a local cycling club. Read on to see how we're doing.

## Lesotho

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### A reading club with a difference

Moso Ranoosi, our extraordinary Project and Reading Club Officer in Lesotho, has come up with a novel way to reach children outside of school, by expanding his reading clubs into a BMX cycling project. Children come from miles around to participate in the BMX Future Stars project, where they learn to ride bicycles safely, and at the same time participate in Moso's reading club.



As many as 40 children take part at one time, acting out the stories or retelling them in their own words. Moketo, a 12 year old who walks for half an hour from his village to the bike shop, appreciates the opportunity to read, "I enjoy reading stories and re-telling them", he says.

Click on the link below, and see how Moso's other reading clubs are getting on.

[more](#)

## Malawi

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### "My reading spirit has increased" - Moses

Our reading champion in Malawi is Project and Reading Officer Moses Kanyerere Banda, and he's given us some insight into what it takes to be a successful reading officer in Malawi.



He visits two schools in Mangochi District, the Southern region of Malawi. Nasenga and Mtonda which are both primary schools send him 80 children, or learners as they are called, most of them girls. He runs his reading classes three mornings a week with two open sessions in the afternoon, and over the past seven months he's learnt that if you make reading fun and you're happy in your delivery, then the children will interact and come back for more.

He faces many challenges – absenteeism, behavioural issues and lateness – everything a typical teacher deals with on a daily basis. Primary education is free in Malawi, the pupil teacher ratio

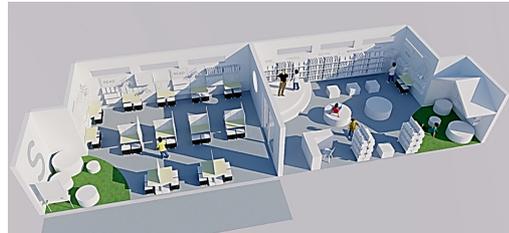
is not ideal and having two classes of 40 is quite a task to take on. But his positive attitude, and a willingness to learn alongside the children with whom he's interacting makes Moses an inspirational reading champion.

## South Africa

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### Kewtown Literacy Centre

School Aid has joined forces with our friends at the Bookery and Shine in an exciting new collaboration in Cape Town. As part of the redevelopment of the Kewtown Primary School, School Aid will be refurbishing and stocking the library section, which in turn will support the students using the dedicated Shine learning centre immediately next door, also part of the redevelopment.



The aim is for the fully stocked library, and its School Aid-funded library assistant, to support Shine's one-to-one literacy program – ultimately enabling up to 20 students at one time to participate. The programme will target those disadvantaged children who are struggling the most, giving them a full year of one-to-one attention.

Part of this ambitious venture is a strong community involvement led by the local church. The engagement of local people has always been part of the School Aid mission – community support allows us to do more because we can keep the costs down, and it ensures that local people have a sense of involvement in the projects that actually benefit their lives.

We look forward to being able to report on the progress of this project in the coming months, and introducing you to some of its eagerly awaiting beneficiaries.

## UK News

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### Buy a Book

School Aid might be a small charity in the scheme of things, but we are very proud of our big ideas. A good proportion of those ideas come in the form of the many different ways you can support us, whether that's giving books, donating funds, or supporting a project that might stimulate your interest and galvanize your support.

We're therefore delighted to launch our newest initiative, to stock a bookshelf – and not just one shelf – we hope to fill a library – maybe even two! With as little as a ten pound donation, you can fill our virtual bookshelf and watch your contribution help to stock the shelves.

[more](#)

### Family Fun Day

The July and August Family Fun Days are the annual events that really keep School Aid staff on their toes. Families arrive early ready and willing to help; there are so many books to stamp and decorate; and there are always lots of biscuits to consume.

These events are important to School Aid because they get younger children involved in our work and encourage new volunteers to join us. We even get Duke of Edinburgh participants carrying out their volunteer choices helping us sort and pack the books.

We're particularly thrilled when children such as Harry Watts continue their support of School Aid after their help at our Family Fun Day. Click on the link below and read about his extraordinary support for us.

[more](#)



## The Big Give Christmas Challenge

We are delighted to be participating again this year in The Big Give Christmas Challenge. If you didn't already know, it's the UK's biggest online match funding campaign, and **every pound donated** through this appeal will be **worth two pounds** to School Aid.

It may feel a little early to start thinking about Christmas, but if you plan on giving to a good cause over festive season, we would like you to consider the double benefits to School Aid if you give through The Big Give Christmas Challenge. This match funding as it's called, is all possible because of the continued support of The Waterloo Foundation, who we are thrilled to announce will Champion our cause for the second year running.

At the moment we're just drawing your attention to this challenge – we won't be asking you to consider participating until **November 28th** when the lines will be open for our supporters to donate.

Watch out for the next newsletter where we will give you more information. All we're asking now is that you put **November 28th** to the back of your mind, and we'll jog your memory when the time comes.

## Maximum Books to Maximum children - School Aid shipping update

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Five years ago School Aid would send one pallet a week to Africa – which we thought was pretty good. In 2017, we now average three pallets a week – an accomplishment that takes a lot of hard work from our volunteers! That means, so far this year we have sent:

***4 shipments***

***despatching 93,975 books***

***reaching 43,148 children***

***in 71 schools***

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**As usual, your support is extraordinary.  
We thank you unreservedly!**



© 2017 School-Aid UK, Hammer & Harp Farm  
Wapseys Lane, Hedgerley Green, SL2 3XJ, UK

Tel: +44 (0)1753 883853 Charity No. 1070416

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School Aid UK CIO · Hammer and Harp Farm · Wapseys Lane · Hedgerley Green, Buckinghamshire SL2 3XJ · United Kingdom

