



A year of celebration and achievement

2018 is School Aid's twentieth year, and as we celebrate two decades of support for African learners who still lack the benefit of access to textbooks, we feel justly proud of what we've achieved over those years. Back in 1988 when Lady Baker made the first shipment of 7 boxes of books to an under-resourced school in Zimbabwe, little did she imagine that in 2018 School Aid would be operating in four African countries, having sent 1,442,026 books to 1,100 schools, reaching 697,598 children in the process.



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

And if our twentieth anniversary wasn't enough to celebrate, it was announced this month that School Aid is one of only two organisations in Buckinghamshire to win the 2018 Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. This prestigious national honour, widely regarded as the MBE for volunteer groups,



Kewtown Literacy Centre

In our last newsletter, we reported on the imminent redevelopment of the Kewtown Primary School in South Africa, a joint initiative between School Aid, The Bookery and Shine. Our involvement was the refurbishment and stocking of the new library section which would support the dedicated Shine learning centre immediately next door. We are delighted to report that

has recognised the outstanding contribution that all our volunteers make to a service that just wouldn't be possible without them.

[more >](#)



In Tanzania we are partnering with NGO Standing Voice, a charity that promotes the social inclusion and wellbeing of marginalised groups. School Aid will apply its expertise in the delivery of a community library at the Umoja Training Centre (UTC) on Ukerewe Island, and will be the hub of the school's community outreach programme. It will also serve the wider community aiming to empower marginalised and discriminated people with Albinism, a recessive genetic condition that limits the body's ability to process melanin. In Tanzania, 1 in 1,400 people are affected, a frequency more than tenfold the global rate.



Bumba Primary School

In North Malawi, School Aid is partnering with Life Concern Organisation (LICO), a locally-based NGO that promotes better health and development of marginalised and

the new facilities were officially opened on November 8th last year, where our Chairman Janis Mowlam and General Manager Clare Junak were able to meet representatives of the West Cape Department of Education and a number of principals from local schools.

The new facilities consist of a large, light, and attractively planned library space which, obviously an asset to Kewtown Primary School, also acts as a working example of the benefits that a School Aid library can bring to a school and its community.



Michael Makwela in his new position as African Programme Manager has been hard at work hosting cluster meetings in South Africa, and managing our first library refurbishments in both Malawi and Lesotho. His natural flair for languages has been an asset as he manages his staff across our 4 target countries.

In April Mr Kondwani Kamanga joined us as the newly appointed Project and Reading Officer in Malawi. Having worked in teaching after graduating in Education Humanities, and more recently having worked for the President of Malawi's office and cabinet, he brings a great deal of experience to the role. Working closely with Michael, his opening

vulnerable local populations. This partnership is the first of hopefully many more library development projects undertaken by School Aid and LICO in Malawi, and is modelled on the success of our library programmes in South Africa.

Bumba Primary School based in Rumphi has 1,200 pupils and was the ideal school for our first project in Malawi. They have allocated an unused room for the development of their library, and as part of the agreement, they will continue to fund the School Aid trained library assistant once the project is up and running.



Fun Run

Just a reminder that this year's Fun Run is due to take place on Sunday 1st July at Bulstrode Park – proceedings kick-off at 10:30. It follows the same course as last year over a 2 and 5km circuit, and if running isn't really your thing, why not walk the course with us instead – it really is a lovely ramble through the Buckinghamshire countryside.

[Find out more and register >](#)

This year we have two participants prepared to run the full 5km course in giraffe costumes. For those of you who would like to support

project will be to deliver School Aid's first library in Malawi at Bumba Primary School.



We also welcome a new recruit in Lesotho. Ms Refiloe Khah joined the School Aid team as Reading Club Assistant in early 2018, and as a trained primary school teacher she will assist Moso Ranoosi in the development of reading clubs across Lesotho. She has already worked both as a student and class teacher, and as you can see above, she's been putting her skills into practice at the Lesia Reading Club.



Lesotho library project 2018

As part of our monitoring and evaluation process, the School Aid management team visited Lithabaneng Primary School (Lithanbeneng translates as the place of the small mountains). The task was to investigate whether it might be a suitable candidate for our first library in Lesotho – they had approached School Aid for support after hearing Moso speak at a conference. Lithabaneng Primary School serves 1,581

us, but already have other commitments on that day, our giraffes are looking for your help with their sponsorship.

[Sponsorship page >](#)

School Aid volunteers continue to throw their weight behind the various fundraising events that we hold each year:

- Film night last November sold out even quicker than it did the year before, and raised significant funds. It is an excellent way of raising awareness of our cause, whilst enjoying a night out. This year the event will take place on Sunday 4th November, and as tickets go quickly, we recommend you book early to avoid disappointment. For more information and tickets, contact the office at events@school-aid.org
 - We also held our first Bridge Day - another sell-out event with more than 200 attendees. If interest still continues for this event, it may well become a permanent fixture on the School Aid calendar.
 - The Big Give also generated an exciting buzz and some extraordinary last-minute support to help us reach our goal. We do hope you will join us again for this year's challenge.
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Did you know

In 2016, Africa's child population was already four times larger than Europe's and approximately a quarter of the total world child population.

[UNICEF – Generation 2030 Africa 2.0 \[pdf\]](#)

The report goes on to say: by 2030, Africa's

learners and 35 teachers.

Michael Makwela is now well into the planning stages of this library refurbishment, and once completed it will benefit both Lithanbeneng and other schools in the area.



House of Commons

To mark our twentieth year, but more importantly to thank the many people who have supported us over those years, School Aid hosted the first of a number of celebratory events at The House of Commons.

We had the use of the sumptuous chambers that belong to the Speaker of the House, John Bercow, who also made a speech in support of our work. Janis Mowlam our Chairman, introduced the proceedings, and we were also treated to an insight into how our books and literacy programmes actually make a difference through a delightful talk from Ntebo Phahlane, the Headteacher

child population will be five times larger than Europe's, rising to seven times greater by 2050, when the continent's child population is set to reach almost 1 billion and account for nearly 40 per cent of the world's children children lie at the heart of Africa's present and future.

School Aid is proud to be playing a small part in the extraordinary transformation that is taking place across Africa, and we continue to be committed to the work that we're doing, for as long as we are needed.

at Tsosoloso Ya Africa Secondary School in South Africa.



Happy start to the term - we've got pencils!

And we couldn't do all this without your support! Once again, we thank each and every one of you.

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