



EBO TOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

EBO SCHOOL

Issue no 7
June 2020

June 2020

As we sit down to come and update all our supporters, whether you are a sponsor to one of our children, or a regular contributor, whether by giving monthly or supporting us through fundraising efforts, we Trustees say thank you for believing in us and for your love and most needed support at this very difficult time. Its hard to know where to start since contacting you last from The Gambia in March 2020, awaiting news of when our repatriated flight would be arriving to bring us home, which ended up being 2 days before lockdown started, it was quite an experience having a hotel to ourselves, with only one other German couple, who we believe had no way of returning home. Our March 2020 trip was eventful, even though it was cut short, and schools closed down within our first week of being there

We were able to observe teaching standards in both our classrooms, and offer advice to our Head Teacher Lenna Jammeh, into how to make improvements for the future, which she has taken on board, and will work to encourage all teachers to get the best we possibly can out of all our children, so as they move to Grade 1, they will be leaving with confidence, and will be able to write and do simple maths, what a great start these wonderful children are receiving thanks to you their sponsor. We gave out much aid, which was much appreciated by the families, the smiles really melts and pulls on the heart strings, and makes you want to work harder and help more. We had the privilege of enrolling new children out at our new school build, that in itself was a very humbling experience for Team March 2020.

We took a long journey out to the village where our Butterfly Teacher Christine resides, as her baby Robert sadly passed away with Prune Belly Syndrome, we were greeted by her whole family, and shared a meal together with them

Staff News

Lenna our Head Teacher, is doing extremely well and learning and adapting to her Head Teachers responsibility. We had a very constructive meeting at our Hotel, and Lenna has grasped exactly what we as Trustees are asking of her, she is ready and eager to move our school forward. We can report

Fatoumatta our Teaching Assistant in Rainbow class, has grown in confidence, and is flourishing in her role, its amazing to see the changes taking place. We have offered Joella (who was covering for Christine maternity leave) a contract, as she proved to be gentle and dedicated, she will

all. We can report that Christine and the family are doing very well, and she is ready to return to work doing what she is good at when schools reopen. This newsletter as you read further has some very happy and exciting news, which has had trustees in tears of jubilation. Dreams do come true, and what seemed like a crazy idea back in June 2017, when Founder Paula, thought we could build a school and help educate a further 40 children, taking us to 120 children, in the poorest community in Ebo Town, thanks to some amazing and supportive people to name a few Concord College, Yvonne Dixon, those that held fundraising events, we have Julie Lewis at present running the London Marathon for us, and still raising funds, we would not be in the position we are today. Thank you all so much.

Be working along side Christine in our Butterfly class. We have a very strong team of teachers to lead us forward into our new school, when we open the doors very soon.

**WE ARE A
STRONG TEAM.
WHOM LOVE.**



Inside this issue:

Sponsorship programme	2
Enrollments	2
Aid	2
Build News	3
How it began	3
A word	4
Future plans	4

Special points of interest:

- Build Project.
- How it began
- Sponsorship programme
- Teaching staff and children.



SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME



Some children are now having a meal supplied by Lower Basic school for 12p / meal. Some parents can afford some can't. Thank you for supporting the children, and giving them an opportunity of a FREE education.

Would you like to support a child, and give them a free education for 1 year. This will include 2 new uniforms, all wages for teachers, and pencils, and writing books. Without the sponsorship programme we would not be in the position we are today, offering 80 of our children a FREE education and a chance to learn in clean and loving surrounds.

As you will read further, we now need to find a further 40 sponsors to allow us to open our 3rd classroom. This means that we need to raise approximately £2500.00 to get the 3rd classroom up and running. Due to the very difficult times we are in with Covid 19, we have lost a few sponsors, and really need to focus on building the programme back up again. Kaylee our Trustee who looks after the sponsorship programme, will start to be in touch with spon-

sors from 1st July 2020, so if you feel your sponsorship is due, and you would like to renew, please contact her to arrange. We can not thank our sponsors enough, for all your kind support to the children and the families and many of you go the extra mile and supply aid when we put out appeals which helps families massively.

Option 1. BASIC SPONSORSHIP. Suggested minimum £30.00 per annum as a one off payment. A child may be double sponsored. No aid included in this fee.

Option 2. BASIC SPONSORSHIP same rules as above but suggested minimum of £2.50 per month via standing order.

Option 3. FULL SPONSORSHIP. Suggested minimum £5.00 per

month via standing order. The sponsor will be covering the child's education in FULL and will be the child's only sponsor. No aid included.

Option 4. FULL SPONSORSHIP suggested minimum £7.50 per month via standing order. Same rules as option 3, but aid included twice per year, 2 x 25kg rice, 2 x clean packs.

Paula The Founder, would like to get back to bringing a personal touch with the sponsors, and will keep you posted frequently on your child's progress so sponsors can have a special bond with their families. We encourage sponsors to interact with their families, by giving photos and a letter or card to the families, and in return the team will work with your child, and will encourage them to draw a picture and write a thank you back to you.

WE SURE ARE PLANTING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE.

NEW ENROLMENTS



A team has just returned from the school all self funded. Their mission was to enroll 26 new children for the start of our September 2020 school year. They have done a great job, and we have targeted the poorest families in Ebo Town, that need the help and support, even to the point of enrolling 2 little boys that didn't even fit the criteria, as their mothers struggled to even buy a cup of rice a day, the team have enrolled the boys and gave some aid to ease the families. If anyone would like to help these families it will £7.50 a month ease their lives.



We say hello to these two little 4 year olds, by say Good bye to our lovely intelligent our beautiful Isata, who now speaks perfect English and has blossomed in our school. We are sure she will come and visit us and will inform us of how she and her family are doing.



AID APPEALS.



Love never fails

1 Corinthians 13:8

Twice a year we ask sponsors if they would like to go over and above and support their families even more. (This is not compulsory or required). At the beginning of October and the beginning of March each year, we put out appeals. Rice bags can be purchased along with life saving mosquito nets, or the essential cleaning packs, containing, wash powder, bleach, soap etc. Rice comes in 25kg or 50kg sacks, costing £13.00 or £25 a sack, mosquito nets are £5.00 and cleaning packs £2.00. The joy

on the faces when the families are called to the school to collect aid is amazing, the families are so appreciative. Paula The Founder, would like to personally thank everybody that continues to help their families, you are the silent givers, you are the people making the difference and easing lives. Thank you so much.

We take so much for granted in our own lives, a small gesture means such a lot.



Enrolled their children from Ebo Town by the new school, and gave aid, as the family is struggling to find food daily.

EXCITING BUILD PROJECT UPDATE:

As we said earlier we have some amazing news to share. Back in 2019, at the time Thomas Cook ceased trading, we with 10 mins to spare, applied for a grant from Thomas Cook Childrens charity. The application was actually submitted after Thomas Cook closed, which is a miracle in itself. We asked for a figure that would complete the build fully, and allow us to furnish the school with new tables and chairs. In lock down and totally out of the blue, Paula the founder, received a call from Thomas Cook Childrens charity, stating we were the second to last charity to receive a grant, and had been awarded the FULL amount we asked for to complete our school completely. Trustees have cried tears of joy. We are still in shock, but so excited as are the staff who have been told the great news.

CHAIR LADY—AMY YEOMANS WRITES:

It is fantastic news that we have received this amazing grant from Thomas Cook Childrens Charity and that the new school build can now be completed. A massive thank you on behalf of the Trustees to Thomas Cook Childrens Charity for seeing the hard work and dedication of all involved in Ebo Town Community Nursery School and to helping towards the future of all the children.

On behalf of myself and the Trustees, I would also like to thank you, our supporters for all your support in helping our charity get this far. From donations, organised events and participating in the sponsorship program. Together we have achieved the goal of making a dream a reality. The future is looking exciting and we cannot wait to share it with you all. Also thank you for your continued support in helping the children in The Gambia receive education that otherwise they would not receive. You really are making a difference.

MOVING FORWARD:

We have got a fully completed price off the builder, which we have added, a kitchen, and caretakers storeroom, plus added complete tiled floor to ceiling toilet blocks, plus a shower in each toilet block. Money has been sent yesterday as the workforce are eager to get started, we have been promised that the school will be ready for September 2020 school year to start. Typing this still seems like it's a dream, and not real, but it is real, it is happening. Wow.

WE STILL NEED SUPPORT WE NEED TO RUN THE SCHOOL BUILDING THIS IS A NEW CHAPTER. PLEASE CONTINUE WITH FUND-RAISING AND YOUR SUPPORT. THANK YOU.



***“DREAMS AND VISIONS HAVE COME TRUE, WE WILL NOW HELP 120 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES”
WHAT A GIFT.***



A LITTLE ABOUT EBO TOWN COMMUNITY IT SELF.

How it all happened:

January 2014, Dave and Paula Howells The Founders, visited The Gambia with a mission to help others less fortunate. They found a tiny school with 105 children being educated with mud floors, no windows, broken blackboard. With £200 in their pockets they wanted to make a difference.

The start of Ebo School

The little school got closed down leaving these children without education, Immediately Paula contacted the Education department. This conversation formed the concept of Ebo Town Community Nursery school, which opened its doors to 80 children in September 2015.

Ebo Town



Ebo Town Community is situated along the Brikama—Banjul highway dividing communities of Tallinding and Jeshwang. Terrible floods expose the community to diseases like Cholera and Malaria with unhygienic living conditions. Ebo Town Community is one of the poorest communities in The Gambia. Here families worry that they will lose valuable items, as heavy rainwater flows through the community to the river affecting their environment adversely.



SCHOOL VISITS

We welcome anybody to visit our school and meet our wonderful children. If you wish to attend, we ask that you complete a visitor application form, which can be downloaded from our web page, and forward to the Trustees for approval 8 weeks prior to your intended visit, as we take safeguarding of our children seriously. **NO VISITS ARE PERMITTED UNLESS PRIOR APPROVAL HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED.**

EBO SCHOOL

4 Chaffinch Way
Sundorne Grove
Shrewsbury
Shropshire, SY1 4TR

Phone: 01743 467426
Mobile: 07738022397

Email:
ebotowncommunitynurseryschool@outlook.com

EBO TOWN COMMUNITY
NURSERY SCHOOL.

www.ebotowncommunitynurseryschool.com.

www.giveasyoulive.com/join/ebonursery-school

Registered charity in England and Wales: 1175808

A message from Paula Howells—Founder.

As I am putting together this newsletter, it gives me a chance to see how far we have come over such a small amount of time. I was going through the photos, and reflecting on all the children, and all the families we are reached and touched. It makes my heart smile and beat with joy that I personally feel so proud of what has been achieved. But none of this would be possible without you the supporters, who have stood by me personally, and driven me forward. Now the passion is to continue with the Lords help, the work we are doing, but to improve and reach out more. I believe that I am being used to reach out to a community in a special way, the build is a crazy thought, that I personally never thought would ever happen. I did not intend to start what has started, I never intended to even set up a charity, but here I am 6 years on, walking stronger than ever, with an amazing team of Trustees guiding the journey. It a blessing to reach out and share some love into the deepest areas of Africa. I give you all the praise and thanks. Thank you for believing in me to deliver.

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE: BACS: SORT CODE: 77-91-29, ACC 37946868. Or a card payment can be made over the telephone.

Every single penny goes directly to the project.

ON LINE SHOPPERS PLEASE SIGN UP TO
www.giveasyoulive.com/join/ebonursery-school

THE FUTURE PLANS

For now we will continue as trustees to hold our committee meetings virtually until it is safe to hold them around a table.

We await news from the Gambian Government as to when schools and colleges can resume, in the meantime we are paying all our staff their basic salaries.

Our build is continuing, with offices and living quarters being raised to roof height and the roof will be put on, whilst the school building and toilet blocks undergo plastering.

We have been given a kind donation of £70 from a sponsor to buy rice for the needy, as families suffer lockdown, and feel extra hardship living in poverty. We will endeavor to reach the most needy.

We plan on sourcing our school furniture, whether in UK or Gambia, and start to make plans to get ready for the big move.

We will run with 80 children leaving an empty classroom, for 2020/2021 school year, to enable us to build our sponsorship programme, and meet the extra costs involved on running our own building.

We hope that a team can go out in November 2020, but await flight and travel information.



Special children, enjoying being a part of a family, and growing and learning . Thank you to all those that make this possible.