



All Head Teachers
South Gloucestershire

2nd November 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

Having worked with **Blackhorse Primary School** for some years to support children's learning in both Uganda and the UK and having received generous donations from **Crossways Infants School** and the **Cabot Learning Federation**, I would very much like to share the story with you so that we may possibly work together as a group of South Gloucestershire schools to provide continuing opportunities for children that would otherwise miss out on learning.



Have you ever really wanted something so badly and wondered how you should go about it? That is what this letter is all about. I am writing to you regarding the desperate lack of education available to children in the developing world. These children are not just battling Covid but also famine, and poverty.

Until recently I was a primary teacher in a school in South Gloucestershire, UK and I believe that every child has the fundamental right to proper and complete education. I am working to promote positive change to enable these children to achieve their full and amazing potential.

Unlike the western world, where education is quite correctly deemed a human right, in Uganda only a very small minority of children receive an education, and this is only if their parents can afford to pay school fees. Many children, as young as 4 years old, have to walk miles to reach a school. It was this disparity of opportunity that built our organisation.

What can we do together?

Promise of Education – Uganda is a registered charity and we are currently supporting a project to build and support the running of a school in Gombe, Uganda. Gombe is home to over 200 orphans and many children whose parents cannot afford to send them for an education. Those who do go to school have to walk 8 miles per day to the nearest education setting. The charity seeks to provide an education for children and the community including health and life skills as well as local training and employment.

Change of Direction brought about by Covid 19

Covid has led many people to return to villages fearing the spread of the virus in the city and urban areas putting increasing pressure on the villages to feed everyone. This led to the charity to rethink its immediate work and it set about writing a series of sessions to help teach improved farming techniques and life skills to the communities using volunteers and a mobile classroom for families and farmers, known as the **INSPIRE Project**. This has seen a huge growth in interest and the charity is receiving enquiries from communities other than Gombe. This is where we need your help and would like to invite your children to *'read for seeds'* in order to help these communities by enjoying and improving their reading whilst gathering sponsorship to help buy seeds. Taking part in 'read for seeds' can be a great new year's resolution. Details of 'read for seeds' are attached to this email.

We would like to encourage all the schools in South Gloucestershire to work with us to continue with the mobile school in Gombe and make the provision of a mobile school for its surrounding villages become a reality.



There are a number of ways you can help make this worthy cause come to fruition by either:

- Taking part in *read for seeds*
- Considering our organisation as your school's preferred charity for the year ahead
- Sending a donation to the address below
- Holding a fundraising event yourselves and sending your donation to the charity
- Any other way that you wish to support us, we are grateful

This project is of crucial importance and your support is desperately needed for its vital work.

Your donations will immediately:

- Provide seeds for the community families
- Provide tools for the community
- Provide teaching of sessions to a community

Benefits for Children in the UK

"Blackhorse Primary School's ongoing link with schools in Uganda has enriched and educated in equal measure.

*All too often charitable giving can seem distant and clinical with children never really understanding the causes for which they are raising money. Our earlier link with Hosanna Primary, and now **Promise of Education – Uganda**, couldn't be more different.*

Through building our work with Uganda into our school curriculum, where the children study the geography and development of Uganda as well as aspects of its art and culture, our children gain a valuable insight into this fascinating country.



Through our staff visiting schools in Uganda and through staff from Ugandan schools visiting Blackhorse, our children and staff have learnt first-hand that, whilst resources available may differ, the ambition, drive and determination of our Ugandan counter-parts more than equals our own. With this in mind, our link has helped our entire school community to see our Ugandan schools not just through the optics of disadvantage and poverty, but through the lens of hope and opportunity. They see that the money they raise invests in lives and is helping to create a more understanding and compassionate world."

(Mr Botten, Head Teacher at Blackhorse Primary School, South Gloucestershire).

Promise of Education are eager to be considered for any support you can offer the children of Uganda and equally wish to encourage our children in the UK to develop their global awareness. We believe working with us can support their understanding of sustainability and develop a real sense of belonging and identity.

Thank you for giving this project your consideration. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me as I would be more than happy to answer them.

Yours sincerely

Melanie Horn

Melanie Horn (Charity Chair)

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