

South African Schools' Project

NEWSLETTER

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www.saspuk.org



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2011 has so far been a momentous year for the organisation. A number of improvements have been completed at the farm school; links with new schools are being developed; our "sponsored" pupils are well into their final year of primary education at their new schools; and we continue to give assistance to a home for abandoned children.

In October two girls from the UK are to visit South Africa as part of a mini-gap experience.



CURRENT AFFAIRS!

One of the first projects undertaken by the Charity was to provide and install a generator to provide electricity at the farm school. Although a considerable innovation it was rather limited in its ability to provide the staff and children with access to electricity at the flick of a switch – something that most of us take completely for granted.



An ambitious project was initiated to bring in electricity from the National Grid. This required the installation of long stretches of cabling, as well as the upgrading of the whole electrical system at the school.

The wonderful news is that all of this work is complete and the school now receives mains electricity for the very first time.

COVER STORY

Since the beginning of the feeding programme at Uitvlucht the children have had to eat their lunch outside, sitting on benches, at the mercy of the elements.

With the collaboration of a local business the school has been provided with a magnificent paved area, complete with tables, all under a protective cover. The children can now sit comfortably to eat their meal, protected from the ravages of the South African weather.



ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

SASP has purchased a new classroom for Uitvlucht. This has been fitted out for the school with contributions from the teaching staff and from a local businessman. With Tom's nose for a bargain this has proved to be an excellent addition to the facilities of the school at a very reasonable cost.

These three substantial additions to the facilities of the school will provide considerable benefits for the children and the staff. With the support of the charity the school at Uitvlucht is now in a position to provide education in a secure, caring and supportive environment.

BURSARY PUPILS UPDATE

In January, the beginning of the new academic year in South Africa, the charity launched its Bursary Scheme, to enable some of our poorest children to continue their education, hopefully right through to matriculation. It is a sad fact that many children, some as young as eleven, forced by extreme poverty, drop out of school. They invariably end up on the streets, begging for food and getting sucked into crime.

Our first six bursary students, pictured below with Tom Campbell, are making excellent progress. Tom regularly visits the schools they attend to monitor their progress. He also ensures that the trustees receive copies of school reports.



Next year more bursaries will need to be awarded. The annual cost for each child is approximately £500. This covers everything - school fees, uniform, books and school lunch. Since this is long term support that has to continue for as long as the child remains at school, we have to ensure that we raise sufficient money to fund this on-going commitment.

WEBSITE

Please do not forget to look at our new website – we are hoping to welcome our 1000th visitor very soon.

www.saspuk.org

SEVENTH HEAVEN

Seventh Heaven is a refuge for abandoned children and they receive very little in the way of public funding. They have been unable to secure a permanent residence and have been forced to move from property to property. Naturally this is disruptive for the staff and children in their care.

Tom and Saff have supported the children at Christmas and Easter with gifts and food. The charity is considering ways in which it could seek to support Seventh Heaven in the future.

It would be great to see them housed in a permanent base. How we can help to bring this about remains to be seen but these children are desperate for our support.



MINI-GAP EXPERIENCE

Two girls from Abbots Bromley School are flying out to South Africa in October.

Clare Webster and Sarah Dayman, both 16, have been selected from a group of applicants to spend two weeks working with Tom and Saff in the schools and the townships. We are keen, too, that they also have time to enjoy some of the wonderful opportunities that the country provides. Both girls have shown great initiative and have worked really hard to raise the money needed to fund the trip. They should return home with a much clearer understanding of how our work benefits those in need, the dedication of all those involved and an appreciation of the huge contrasts that exist in this amazing country.

It is hoped that this will become a regular opportunity. Two more girls are due to visit in the Summer of 2012. Much of the next issue of the Newsletter will be given over to Clare and Sarah's experiences.

***Thank you to all of our supporters old and new.
Working together we can make a difference.***