

South African Schools' Project

NEWSLETTER

Issue 3

December 2011

www.saspuk.org



Registered with the Charity Commission: 1138569

MINI-GAP EXPERIENCE A FANTASTIC SUCCESS

Clare Webster and Sarah Dayman, two sixth-formers from Abbots Bromley School for Girls, have recently returned to the UK after the first mini-gap experience offered by SASP.



They followed a programme carefully drawn up by Tom, Bill, Ann and Geoff, who accompanied the girls throughout their stay. They spent a week working with the children and staff at Uitvlucht. They also spent time at the children's refuge, Seventh Heaven, and visited the other schools supported by the charity.

For most of their stay they enjoyed the hospitality of Tom and Saff but also managed to find time to view some of South Africa's natural wonders, cultural heritage and historical sites, including a memorable few days in Cape Town.

The whole trip was a huge success and we now look forward to offering other young people the opportunity to experience the excitement and fascination of visiting this amazing country.

This is what the girls have to say about their experience.

"I feel incredibly lucky to have had this chance to go to South Africa and work with the fantastic staff and children at Uitvlucht Farm School and 7th Heaven Orphanage.

All of the staff were so kind and welcoming I was immediately put at ease. They embraced all of our activities, from making masks, playing with a giant parachute or doing the Hokey Cokey with great enthusiasm and they were enjoyed by everyone. I was in awe of the energy and dedication the teachers showed in trying to improve the lives of these children who are simply amazing. The children appreciate even the smallest things in life and have so much love to give that I just didn't want to leave. So many of them experience great hardship at home but they still carry on smiling. I was told before I went that this would be a life changing experience and it definitely was in so many ways. I can't wait to return." Clare



"My time in South Africa was absolutely amazing and I loved every minute of it. What stood out to me were the huge smiles on the children's faces even though their backgrounds are really heartbreaking. I found all of the teachers at Uitvlucht and Nellie (who acts as a mother to the children in the Seventh Heaven Orphanage) extremely inspirational and caring. In the short space of time I was there I could see how dedicated they were and how the children benefitted from the love they show to them. This experience really will stay in my heart forever and I will continue working with the charity and doing my part to try and change the lives of these amazing children. It has inspired me to want to work with children in similar situations in my gap year after sixth form. I am so grateful for being able to have this experience and it wouldn't have happened without the hard work of Mr and Mrs Johnson, Canon Weaver and Tom and Saff Campbell." Sarah



Thank You, Norbury!

Norbury Primary School is a small village school in Staffordshire. Over two years strong links have developed between the school and Uitvlucht.



This began following a trip to Uitvlucht by Vickie Anley who had no problem in persuading the Norbury Headteacher, Margaret Shermer that the children from both schools would benefit greatly from the relationship.



Norbury children have raised considerable sums of money to help the Uitvlucht school in all sorts of areas ranging from software to paying for the breakdown service on their school bus.



Children from the two schools regularly engage in letter writing, a feature which the Headteacher feels has broadened considerably the outlook and understanding of her children.



Mrs Shermer is leaving Norbury at the end of this term. SASP would like to thank her for all that she has achieved in building such a close relationship between the schools, and we wish her every success in her new post. In the meantime we look forward to continuing the good work with her successor in the New Year.

SASP ON THE WEB

We have now received more than 2500 visitors on our website-www.saspuk.org. We continue to add more material, including more pictures and videos.

We have also put a number of videos on YouTube. Please take a look.

MORE THANKS

We are immensely grateful to the following for help, assistance and support for the Mini-Gap experience:

Virgin Atlantic, British Airways, Pick 'n' Pay Supermarkets

Also to Roch House parents for donations of surplus clothing which have been distributed to the children.

Our next Newsletter will be published in June 2012, but please visit our website for more details on the mini-gap experience and our other projects.

In the meantime may we once again thank all of our supporters, old and new, in the UK and in South Africa, and wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas, and a successful and prosperous 2012.