

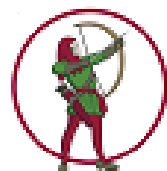
A Gift for The Gambia

We invite you to choose one of our *Gambia Gift Cards* for a gift that will keep on giving. Your donation will make a real life, sustainable difference for years to come.



We can wholeheartedly ensure that every penny donated will be spent on your selected Gambia gift, ranging from £5 to £100, and we even pledge to bring back photos and real life stories to match your chosen gift cards.

'It takes a village to raise a child' is a beautiful African proverb that, for us, captures our Gambia project and we invite you to be a part of that village – helping to support a much loved community.



For further details about our link and fundraising projects please visit the International page on our school website
www.bentleyprimaryschool.co.uk



Donations to Big Projects

Last year, money raised by Hampshire Schools was spent at Sitahuma School – creating a school library and buying new beds for the teacher accommodation. Sitahuma School is situated in a rural village, situated outside of Soma - a few miles from the main road. Village schools are often abandoned and yet they offer the only hope of a different future by offering education, care and food for the children living in these areas.

As part of the February trip last academic year, we were able to transform the school library thanks to the project work gift cards. The money was spent on paint, bookshelves, flooring and mats. It was with



Before....

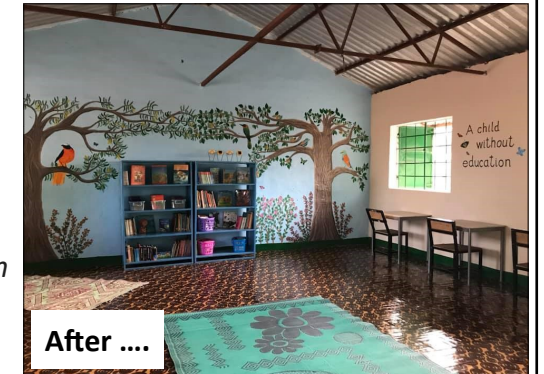
lots of dancing, singing and clapping that the Mothers Club opened the new library, with one of them

even saying how much she would love to sleep in there!

"Today Sitahuma can raise their heads at any given

occasion to be proud of the ongoing development taking place; thanks to your intervention. Sitahuma was an isolated and neglected school where if a teacher was posted there he or she would rather resign than stay. But today I can attest to you that teachers will be lobbying for the school now. Thanks for your interventions". (Mr Bakary Baldeh, Soma School teacher).

Since February, we've been sent regular photos of the library in use and we're thrilled that this room is now being used by the whole village for learning.



After

Project 2020 ~ Sitahuma School

£10

A group of staff members from Hampshire school plan another visit in February 2020, spending much of their week at Sitahuma – working in partnership with the local community to help the school to achieve its mission statement – creating a 'teaching and learning environment that nurtures the joy of learning'.

Your gift will be put towards on-going repairs and decoration to the school building and essential resource such as new bookshelves, windows and fencing.

It is also with much excitement that we look forward to seeing the new



£75

teacher's accommodation, made possible by our recent fundraising. As part of the trip, we also hope to gift the teachers with new furniture for their rooms. Your gift of £10, £25, £50, £75 or £100 will make an on-going, big difference to the wider community at Sitahuma.

Your gift will enable local employment of carpenters, welders and builders and enable this community to grow and flourish.

£50



£5

Gifts for £5

Trees

'Life on Land' is Goal 15 of the Sustainable Development Goals and £5 could enable a school garden to thrive! Schools rely on their own grown produce to supplement school



lunches or to sell as an income for classroom resources. Last year, Hampshire Schools bought 100 banana plants for rural village school gardens - enabling approximately 10,000 bananas to be grown every year!

This February, we'd like to buy mango and cashew trees - mango trees can last for hundreds of years providing 300 mangos a year! Plant a tree and help protect the environment as well as helping a school to flourish!

Lunch for one pupil for a term

£5

'Zero Hunger' is Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and this year we ask you to think about your food waste and those people who have far less to eat than us. Schools in The Gambia desperately rely on funding from the World Food Programme to provide lunch for their children but portions are meagre and funding doesn't cover the full academic year. For some children, this is their only meal of the day. £5 will feed a child for a whole term, also encouraging them to stay in school. Last year, we were able to supply three rural schools with rice, onions, stock and oil, feeding all their pupils for a whole term.



Flip Flops

£5

Whilst schooling in The Gambia is free, it is a requirement that children wear shoes to school. The local market sells flip flops, costing a day's wages for some families. £5 will buy several pairs of flip flops, enabling these children to attend school. Last year, we were able to buy 30 pairs of flip flops - bringing lots of smiles as you can see in the picture below!



£5

Sports Equipment

Sport is a universal language and yet many schools in The Gambia are unable to engage in sporting activities due to a lack of equipment. Last year, we were able to buy 15 footballs - enabling both boys and girls to participate in PE lessons. This year, we'd like to provide a wider range of sports equipment including skipping ropes, bats and hoops. £5 will enable school children to participate in sport.



£5

Soap Making

'Sustainable Economic Growth' is Goal 8 of the Sustainable Development Goals and this new and exciting initiative is especially designed to empower women -

particularly those living in rural villages. It is with much excitement that the Mother's Club at Sitahuma have proposed a soap making local business project, which will train women with new skills, whilst also providing an income for their families and wider community. Your donation will go towards a specialised trainer, equipment and ingredients - enabling the Mother's Club to set up their own, sustainable business. We plan to bring some of the soap back in February and if enough money is raised, we hope to fund this project in another rural village.



Gifts for £10 - £20

£20

Library Books

£10

'Quality Education' is Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals and empowering children to read is a life-enhancing skill. As part of our staff trip last year, we created a library at Sitahuma School - a place of study for the school and local community (please see the back page for before and after photos!). As a next step, we'd like to buy some new books from the African reading scheme enabling children to engage in stories based in familiar settings.



Classroom Resources

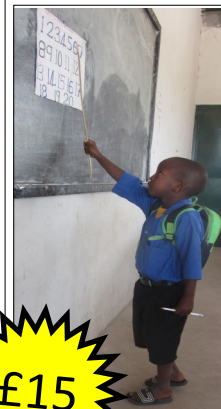
£10

School budgets are very small and there is very little money for essential classroom equipment. Teachers strive to create learning environments that support and motivate their pupils and yet they often lack the resources to maintain this. Last year we created teacher resource packs, filled with materials from the stationery shop in Soma, supporting teaching and learning across several schools. At the stationery shop, we also met Mr Saboley, the Headteacher of a rural school called Jiffen, and we were able to buy him new pens, paper and teaching materials. He was overjoyed, exclaiming "I'm the happiest man today"! Your gift of £10 will buy coloured paper, marker pens, scissors, glue and tape - enabling teachers to create attractive classroom environments.



Sponsor a child to go to school

Quality Education is Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, aiming to provide lifelong opportunities for all. While schooling is free in The Gambia, children need to have a school uniform, shoes, exercise books and stationery equipment. Your gift of £15 will buy these items and the uniform and shoes will be worn again by younger siblings, which means your gift will keep on giving for years to come! Last year, we were able to sponsor 23 children to attend school.



£15

Gardening Project

Gardening is an integral part of school and community life in The Gambia - every school and wider community looks after their own garden, tended by children, teachers and local Mothers Clubs. All the crops grown are essential for living - feeding school children and families or sold to create an income for the wider community. Schools and communities rely on their produce and gardening tools and access to water are absolutely crucial for enabling gardens to thrive.



Last year we bought a variety of tools for a rural school called Sinchu, where the children's garden had been destroyed when their water tank broke. The new gardening tools and fixed water tank has made a long lasting difference to this school.

At Jiffen School the children have been struggling to grow their garden crops due to limited access to water - Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Last term, however, Year 4 raised enough money to install a new tap for Jiffen and so the next step is to provide this school with essential gardening equipment. £20 will go towards the necessary equipment, including a wheel barrow, spades, water cans, fencing and crops.

We also continue to support the Women's Garden project at Soma School. This space has transformed from barren wasteland to a thriving allotment, now providing food for families and the wider community. Please see our website for more.

Your gift of £20 will be used to support a sustainable gardening project, enabling a school and local community to flourish.