



Contact: admin@undertreeschools.org
Tel: + 44 7962 976 755
www.undertreeschools.org

Under Tree Schools is a Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No 1117679
Registered Office: 2 Meredyth Road, Barnes, London SW13 0DY

Dear Supporters

July 2022

A new school year has begun. Remarkably 460 girls have turned up to lessons. Last year a lot of girls registered, but severe floods meant that only about 230 girls actually made it to classes in the autumn and winter.

460 is pretty much a record for the school and shows how needed it is.

Often our school is chosen to host regional events. This shows the extent of the school's good reputation in the area. In June a number of surrounding schools in the Aweil South area attended the event "Back to Learning" at our school to promote children's education. The Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State Minister of Education came along with other government officials. There are videos on our website as well as these ones here.



If the girls were at home they would often be looking after their little brothers and sisters, so the school has a kindergarten to look after them during lesson time. The little ones get exams like their big sisters!

Here is a photo of Emmanuel, who goes to kindergarten proudly holding the flag of the event' theme "Back to Learning". His father is the school's IT teacher Angelo.



We have just sent funds to the school to cover expenditure for the coming months. As usual we are paying the staff a modest wage – 20 teachers and 18 admin staff, including the cooks who produce the children's daily lunch, the two cattle keepers who look after the school's herd, the caretaker, the pastor and his staff at the chapel. Then there are the regular running costs, including for stationery, funds for the sewing teacher who makes the free school dresses the pupils get, and repairs to the school. We also sent funds last time for repairs to the chapel. It was opened in 2013 when some of us from England and Switzerland travelled out to join the celebrations. But buildings do not have a long life in a hot climate like South Sudan, and we were able to fund repairs to bring it back to good condition. We also send money to enable the school to donate feminine hygiene products to the older pupils. This means feeling comfortable and so there is no missing of school days and learning.



In addition we have sent funds for the school to buy and erect a fence to keep their herd of cattle from roaming around looking for food. Traditionally in the country cattle move around to find food. But Elias Bak, our Head-teacher, who is an agronomist, advises that if they are enclosed they put on weight faster and so the cattle are more valuable to the school.

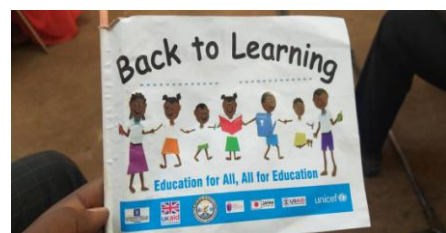
Doong Wek Doong, who heads the finance team at the school, ensures we get accurate accounting for the funds we send.

Our role in financing the school means that we have to keep an eye on changes in the regional economy. With food prices rising across the world presently we do know the impact this has on the community in Malek, the buying power of the South Sudanese Pound continues to stretch less far. Therefore we review regularly the salaries of the school staff.

We have just seen the news that the World Food Programme is having to reduce the number of South Sudan schools it can supply with free food, because of a lack of funds. We hope that this will not affect our school, but we will have to see; we would have to step in if the supply dries up. The daily free lunch is a key incentive for families to send their girls to school and the monthly slaughtering of a bull to get meat is always a feast day.



We the trustees of Under Tree Schools are ever grateful to you, because your donations keep the school going in what now is its fourteenth year of operation! Thank you all so much.



We send you our best wishes
Geoffrey Barnett, Peter Boyling, Helen Chauncy, Ron Sullam