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

Dear Supporters

February 2022

Here is the latest news of our school for girls in Malek-Alel, South Sudan.

The school has just completed its academic year 21-22, and the girls are now on holiday until the new school year starts in April. It's not been an easy year for them. Massive floods in the autumn meant that many girls could not physically get to school. So of the 590 girls who initially registered to come to the school last spring, only 266 were there at the end of the year. As the dry season continues now, let us hope that travelling gets more feasible again, and lots of girls can sign up again in April. The floods have also made costs of food and everything else more expensive for them.

Still, 266 girls in the eight primary years from age 6 – 15 is still a good number. As well as their academic subjects the older girls (and indeed some of the teachers) are also learning to use the six new laptops we sent them, and the sewing machines to help them learn a trade. Our herd of cattle continues to grow and with the allotment area for growing crops our headmaster is able to use his agronomy qualifications to teach the girls useful skills. At the prize giving at year end, parents said how pleased they were that the school also provided the girls with opportunities for sports, dancing and singing.



And here is a picture of ten of the top year girls as they were preparing for their final exams at the school, the country's National Primary School Certificate.

We hope they will be able to go on to secondary school (and as usual we will pay their school fees if they do).

Bak Elias, the Headteacher tells us that he took the opportunity at the prize giving to tell the parents that "they must let the children spend much time at school so they could get the understanding that will prepare them to be active in their country's affairs in the future." He added that the children should be given time to do homework as well!

It is always good to put a face to a name, and we thought you would like to know a bit better the people you are enabling us to support. So here are photos of our Headteacher, Bak Bak Anei Elias, the Deputy Headmistress Mary Amel Garang, the IT teacher Angelo Tong Ayok and the caretaker Jacob Ayok Bak.



Bak has been Headteacher from the start of the school. He came on secondment from a job as Director of Quality in the state Ministry of Education.

Mary is an experienced teacher and has the important lead responsibility for the safeguarding of the girls at the school.



Angelo(left) is our direct contact with the school arranging frequent WhatsApp messages and emails to send us news, as well as financial receipts to ensure we have proper control of how your money is spent.

Jacob (right) looks after the condition of the buildings. He was a senior army officer commanding troops on the border with Sudan.





We are really pleased that a number of our girls who did go on to secondary schools in the area have now come back and are teaching the next generation at our school.

The picture of the four is of (clockwise) Deborah, Maria, Asunta and Akon.

We are told that Anyuat and Bakhita are also planning to come back to the school to teach from April.

Bak has told us that some other ex-pupils are now working for the state administration, or have nursing diplomas.

He tells us that Deborah wants to go on to study medicine.

We are very pleased that the school is successfully enabling the girls to progress like this and that the school staff are able to keep it operating effectively in a country with limited administration.

And of course it is down to you, our supporters, for making it all possible. Bak has just written to us: "Parents of the children have expressed their thanks to you for your generous support to both primary and senior schools. And the teachers have also expressed thanksgiving to you, because without your much support to the school it would not have risen high".

We send you our best wishes, *The Trustees of the Under Tree Schools Charity*

And a PS note for those  
in London  
near London or  
for those who like 90ies music

Details on our website  
<https://www.undertreeschools.org/events.html>

