



Dear Friends

The Shop in a Box has arrived in Makeni!



Mercy, Sister Mary's assistant, describes what happened: "The container arrived safe and well on Saturday morning and was met with a lot of excitement by all. The teachers, carers and the pupils did a fantastic job of first offloading the boxes from the container onto the corridor then they were all packed in one of the rooms for sorting as they start the exciting job of going through all the boxes and taking in all the wonderful things that have so generously been given. But halfway through emptying the container a message was received that the crane was stuck somewhere in mud and it might not be possible to use it on the day. So we started looking for another crane which was a bit tricky being a Saturday. In the end we managed to locate one that was in a garage being repaired and it ended up arriving at 7pm. Once the little hiccup with the crane was sorted, the container was lifted into place. KIL TIRE, a local mining company also delivered an (empty) container that they have donated to us on the same day. Both containers are now in place and the work of starting the entrepreneurs shop and canteen can now continue. Sister Mary and all the Sisters, Staff and especially all the pupils of St. Joseph's send a very big THANK YOU for all you have given and all the work that you put in to making sure that the container got here and with all and more things that will be of great use to the school, the children and the community. The entrepreneur students are particularly excited as they can see their plans coming to reality with the container now in place. Everyone is filled with humble appreciation and love for all the kindness and generosity you have shown to us".

A new clinic has been opened in the school in the wake of the Ebola crisis. This is in Moses's old office which has been now been fitted with a shower, toilet and sinks. It has an isolation room with a bed that the nurse can use depending on the severity of the child's symptoms. It has enough room so that the children can sit inside and wait for their turn to be attended to.



Things are slowly but surely getting back to normal. Bombali now has been nearly two months Ebola free. Kambia and Freetown continue to struggle due to movement between families in Sierra Leone and Guinea.



Monica Tomlin, an educational audiologist, has been making a valuable contribution to the school over the last ten years. She has just returned to Sierra Leone after a four week break. She travelled out to Makeni before the school reopened and worked hard to ensure that all the children were fitted with hearing aids on their return to classes after the long break as well as taking part in the training of the BEd and Diploma teachers. She sorted out the timetables for all the classes and helped the BECE students during their revision as they prepared to take their exams just before schools reopened. She has also provided hearing tests for the community of Makeni. This included the two children who survived the Ebola disease but lost their hearing (see our previous newsletter). These children are now students at St. Joseph's School.

Sister Mary and her fellow sisters work tirelessly in the wider community of Makeni. She recently visited the home of one of the Ebola survivors who lost her husband, two of her eldest children as well as many other members of her extended family. Her husband left behind two wives and thirteen children and he was the main bread winner. He was about to start renovating the family home which was on the verge of



collapse. Due to the generous contributions from all donors, friends and families, it has made it possible to build the family a new home.

There are going to be many challenges ahead for Sister Mary and the staff of the school in the coming months. If you would like to raise funds for the school while having fun at the same time there are a number of ways you can do this. Members of Kidderminster Bridge Club regularly nominate us as for their monthly good cause, supporters took part in a sponsored event at Liverpool Crossfit, students at Exeter Royal Academy for Deaf Education took part in a Table Football Competition and VCG-Kestrel in Witham Essex organised a charity football match. One of our trustees, Charly Cox, is even encouraging guests at her forthcoming wedding to donate to the school instead of buying wedding presents! And finally the fundraising page is still open at: [www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/ebola4](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/ebola4)

The Friends of St Joseph's School for the Hearing Impaired is holding its AGM on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 7.30pm at 39 Church Road, Wickham Bishops, Witham, Essex, CM8 3JZ. All are welcome but if you intend to come please let us know by emailing [forthehearingimpaired@gmail.com](mailto:forthehearingimpaired@gmail.com)

All good wishes from Linda Freestone (Chair) and all the trustees

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