

# 10 years

## Dear Friends of St. Anthony's Nursery School, Malawi December 2012

I hope this newsletter finds you well, this is a special edition of the newsletter as 2012 marks the 10th anniversary of the opening of the nursery school – where has those last 10 years gone?! I am delighted that we have reached such a milestone and all is going really well at the school.

Unfortunately I have not been able to travel over to Malawi this year as I have had another little project on my hands... becoming a Mum! Sebastian James Saunders was born safe and sound on 7<sup>th</sup> October and is currently in a sling cuddling up to me as I type! I have kept in regular contact with Noel, the head teacher, to support him in running the school and as ever he continues to do a great job. I also ensured I completed all the school admin work (including reviewing and increasing staff wages and renewing the school insurance) before my hands became too full!



It has been a fairly changeable year in Malawi with the sudden death of President Bingu back in April. He was quickly replaced by Joyce Banda, who has already made a number of changes, including devaluing the Malawian Kwacha which has had (hopefully short term) tough economic implications but I hope she will lead the country to a brighter future, let's keep our fingers crossed.

In the first half of the year I arranged for a large shipment of First Steps books to be sent over to Malawi from Macmillan books here in the UK, this will last them for the next couple of years. Previously we had bought the books directly in Malawi but with the deteriorating economic situation in Malawi Macmillan were no longer sending out new stock - I hope this will change in the future. I also posted out certificates for those children graduating from the school in July – the teachers held a graduation ceremony as we said goodbye and good luck to the 40 children moving on to primary school. Noel also sourced another batch of mosquito nets for the new intake of children starting in September.

Thankfully we have not had any major staff issues this year and the team are all keeping fit and well. I have helped a number of the staff with loans over the year to assist them with purchasing land or building materials for their homes. Structurally (thanks to Dominic) I am pleased to say the school itself is holding up well after 10 years and there are no major problems. Noel is currently sourcing a welder to fix the slide but everything else is in good shape.

With my new little addition it may be a while before I can travel over to Malawi but I have every confidence in Noel and the team and I am very proud we have reached our 10 year anniversary. Thank you all so much for your generosity and support along the way – the school goes from strength to strength thanks to your kindness.

I know the children would also like to say a big thank you so I have collected a handful of photos of just some of the children who have attended the school over the last 10 years – their smiles and faces say it all ☺

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a very happy 2013! *Gina x*



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St. Anthony's Nursery School  
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Please send any donations by cheque payable to 'The Nursery School'. Thank you ☺