



## Dear Friends of St. Anthony's Nursery School, Malawi, Dec 2016

As we near the end of 2016 I hope this finds you well. St. Anthony's Nursery School has had a fairly steady year and thankfully no big referendum or presidential dramas! My main concern as the year draws to a close are the food shortages - 2 million people face the worst famine Malawi has seen in 10 years. As a result, we have just started providing porridge on a daily basis to all the children, it's important to ensure the children are getting a decent hot meal. We have employed a cook to make the porridge, bought utensils, bowls and all the ingredients and will continue to provide this until my staff advise me that the risk of famine has passed.

This year I have been lucky to have had two sets of visitors spend time with the staff and children. In May, my colleagues from Save the Children visited the nursery school and in July Zoë Feyi-Waboso (from the charity Sight 2020) joined the graduation ceremony. It was lovely to receive their reports and wonderful photos (overleaf). The feedback from Zoë was as follows: *"I had the privilege of visiting your lovely nursery school for the second time in July - the children are all so special and your teachers are great, friendly and remembered me. It is always a joy to visit your school, all the children love it there and their parents speak very highly of the school!"* Very kind words from Zoë and it's great to hear such positive feedback. My staff are clearly working hard and looking after the wonderful children of Chilumpa village.

And talking of staff, the team are well and working in harmony (not something I have been able to say every year). I receive regular updates by text message from Ghreycioum (my Deputy Head) and more detailed emails come through from Vincent at Zomba Diocese. Zoë mentioned the resource cupboard was well stocked and the grounds well maintained so we have just done a little bit of maintenance fixing and repairing a few things to ensure the building lasts for years to come.

Unfortunately, the First Steps books which we have used at the nursery since it opened in 2002 are no longer in print so I am currently chasing up Macmillan Books here in the UK to have 1,000 First Steps Writing & Number books specially printed and then shipped out to the school. Printing this large order will give the staff a supply of books for every child for the next ten years.

Fundraising for the school this year has gone well and I must say a special thank you to Debi Knight in Clevedon who raised over £1,200 in just one weekend at her Christmas Fayre – fantastic! All of the money raised this year has helped pay for the teacher's salaries (which I am increasing again in January 2017) and purchased new polo shirts, mosquito nets etc. for the children.



It has been a special year for me as I welcomed beautiful Benjamin into the world in January – he is now a bouncing happy 11-month-old. Sebastian has been a really caring and adoring big brother. We have also made the decision to move to Suffolk to be closer to my family so I am pleased to include our new address below. We will split our time between Suffolk and Wiltshire in early 2017 as Mark's job is still based in Lyneham so if you have sent anything to Wiltshire that is fine. With the boys, the move and the nursery school I have decided to spend more time at home so I won't be returning to my role at Save the Children, a difficult decision but the right one at this time.

So, it just leaves me to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a very happy 2017 – thank you for another year of amazing support and generosity, a little bit of kindness and love goes a very long way in Malawi.

With all my best wishes, **Gina** x

St. Anthony's Nursery School [www.thenurserymalawi.co.uk](http://www.thenurserymalawi.co.uk)  
Old Pit Cottage, Richer Road, Badwell Ash, Suffolk, IP31 3EU  
07775 904888 [gina\\_anne\\_rose@hotmail.com](mailto:gina_anne_rose@hotmail.com)  
Please send any donations by cheque payable to 'The Nursery School'



**Thank you!**

