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A registered charity no 1117679 A registered limited company no 5969781
Registered office: 11 Foinavon Close, Rowley Regis, West Midlands B65 8QB

Dear Friends



Our school community keeps going!
And our school girls keep going – not only walking often barefoot many miles a day to come to school – but with all that they have to face and deal with every day.
They and their families, and our school team are incredible examples of resilience.
We are so thankful to look back on this whole year in which not one day the school had to be closed due to insecurity.

And that every day each girl arrived back home safely.

This is not the case in many parts of South Sudan. Due to the political instability and unresolved conflicts, the infrastructure can't be built up and often just getting through a day takes more than a day's energy. Inflation keeps increasing, so for the majority of people it remains out of their reach to just cover basic food for a day.

In September a peace agreement was signed and so far has been holding. But it is a volatile and tense situation. Many African countries have been working alongside the South Sudanese Government to make this possible. But undeclared sanctions continue, so the South Sudanese currency is not a trading currency. Nowhere in the world would a Forex change South Sudanese money. Many NGOs have left South Sudan as it is so expensive to live and work there, and a lot of red tape makes life difficult.

We are very fortunate not to be affected by this as we have no administration staff or bases there to maintain. So your donations are benefitting the school directly. Joseph continues to be our go-between, being based in East Africa most of his time for his work with South Sudanese groups enables us to easily manage the school, adult education and farm.



In September our school celebrated World Education Day. It is great to see that this day has become a tradition in the school calendar. It emphasises for the girls and their families, and the wider community how important education is and links them with all the other parts of the world celebrating this.

South Sudan's literacy rate has been decreasing and is now 27 % putting it on the sixth lowest rank of all countries in the world.

We are proud of the pupils who did very well in their end of year exams. In South Sudan the academic year ends now.

We are so pleased to continue offering bursaries to 35 of our former pupils who are now continuing into secondary education.

We thank you for your continued interest and support of our work in Malek. Recently some of you have held events to raise support for the school community. This is such an encouragement to them!

We are very grateful to the travel company Nomadic Thoughts who has paid for the production of new brochures. If we can send you some, let us know. You may know of someone to pass it on to?

We continue having gift certificates which can be given as a Christmas gift or for any other occasion. We are happy to tailor make them for the occasion you would like to give them. Contact us or there are more details here:
<http://www.undertreeschools.org/single-donation--gift-certificates.html>

We continue to be linked with Easyfundraising, you can help us by adding one click to your online shopping! Register at Easyfundraising and/ order your items via their website, it's secure, doesn't cost you anything and our school community benefits:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/undertreeschools>

May you find time and space in this season of Advent to draw close to our God – in him we find infinite hope which overcomes hopelessness.

We wish you a joyful Christmas!

Every blessing

Joseph and Karin

