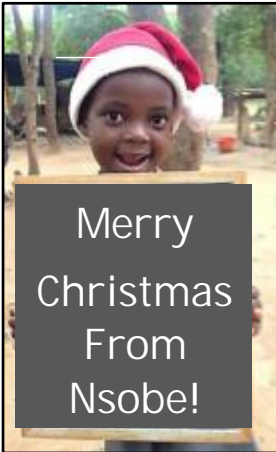


Dear Teacher Aid Supporters



This year has certainly whizzed by, and it's been jammed packed full of learning, development and care for the children of Nsobe Community School.



Our warmest congratulations to Teacher Aid Trustees Maggie and Mike who tied the knot earlier this year.

Zambia's academic year runs from January to December, so our school students have just sat their end of year and national exams and have school leaving certificates. Nsobe Community School consistently has excellent results, which is a remarkable achievement for a remote, rural school.

Thanks to Teacher Aid's support fund, generous Teacher Aid sponsors, and government bursaries, a number of our school leavers have been able to study at Zambian universities and agricultural colleges. However, there are still many educated ex-Nsobe Pupils desperate to study further and unable to access the funds to do so. Please spread the word and encourage friends to support Teacher Aid's Student Loan scheme, so that

the ex-students of Nsobe can secure tertiary pathways. (The cost to support a student at university per year is £800, sometimes less what a gift to give this Christmas!) Please help our bright, academic students to become doctors, nurses, engineers etc and be the educated citizens that Zambia needs.



During Oct/Nov Teacher Aid Trustees Maggie and Mike visited Nsobe, for the eighth consecutive year. Having paid their own air fare as always, they arrived with suitcases bulging with much needed resources for Nsobe including 20 laptops and an inverter for the school library. Mike was able to supervise much needed maintenance assessments and electrical and solar repairs, for which we are very grateful. During their visit we held our end of Primary graduation ceremony, arts and craft competitions which were a wonderful showcases of our local talent, creativity and showmanship.

Maggie and Mike were also able to check on the Secondary Library progress, a wonderful provision through the Welsh Government's Wales and Africa Grant Scheme, fostering literacy, love of reading, research and self-study. The Library is still being stocked through books donated and collected from Wales and friends of Nsobe. We have added a reading room extension where students can study with the library books and the TA provided laptops. School leavers and teachers will be able to access online distance courses. Our students have no electricity in their homes, and no tables to study at, so we know that this study area will greatly help their academic progression.



We are also excited to announce the appointment of Christine Whipp as a new Teacher Aid Trustee. Chris is a retired teacher who ran a large school science department. She will bring a wealth of educational experience and wisdom to our team. Chris and her husband Simon visited Nsobe earlier this year for 2 weeks.

Teacher Aid also supports Nsobe Community School's Feeding scheme, giving much needed daily nutritional support to every school child. This year's annual fundraising walk the Gower Yomp helped raise money to support this critical need. We are most grateful for those who donated and participated. It was a wonderful day out and I was very lucky to be able to attend this year's walk and meet all 22 walkers!



Nsobe continues to grow and develop. We have built 4 new teacher accommodation units in 2023, and are currently building a water borne primary ablution block (we have only ever had pit latrines before) and have sunk a new borehole to bring clean safe water.



The need for NCS is also increasing. This December we held Preschool enrollments, and 110 hopeful children tried to apply for 40 places. Our community is hungry for education, but we cannot accommodate even half the demand. Sadly, we have also had some secondary school pregnancies, and a few dropouts with some parents encouraging girlchildren to enter into early marriages and boys going wayward due to lack of parental care. We trust that with the Safe Houses provided by Teacher Aid, future boarding houses for the most vulnerable children, safe school-provided social activities and the enlightenment of education that these statistics will improve.

We are excited about Teacher Aid being Howell's School for Girl's Charity for 2024, and for the penpal initiatives and mutual learning opportunities between Welsh and Zambian classes that are ongoing.

The essential Teacher Aid Support Fund pays for the salaries of 17 out of the 34 Nsobe teaching staff and all of the support staff. We still need to access more funding as our teachers are only earning £130 a month, which is nearly a 1/3 of Government teacher's salaries. Our teachers are dedicated, committed, and work incredibly hard.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a 2024 that is filled with peace and goodwill.

With gratitude for your support

*Fiona Tomlinson, Founder*

