



School for Peace Update



Spring/Summer 2019

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REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1151173

Latest News from Congo

The elections took place in December followed by much unrest. The sisters remain positive as ever and are sending information regularly now via WhatsApp although Internet connections can be cut off without notice.

Message from the headteachers

There are now 1021 pupils in the school: 114 in the Nursery, 547 in Primary and 360 in Secondary. Of the 36 teachers only 10 are paid by the Congolese government. That explains why the money from the sponsored children helps us to fill the gap in salaries whilst also adding to the pay of those teachers who receive the poor, irregular government salary. The **exam results** from the first term reveal that most of the sponsored children are doing extremely well. Many have results of 70% – 88%. One of the greatest achievements for pupils and teachers this year is that our school has been selected to participate in a provincial competition which will be organised by the society of francophone speakers in Lubumbashi. We are proud that our school has been recognised as one of the serious schools of the Province.

The library (See main picture)

This is coming along very well in spite of the rains. We have managed to send £10,000 recently in order to finish it. There will be another room on top which will be used as a staffroom.

Schools



Last year St Benet's and St Edmund's primary schools organized a

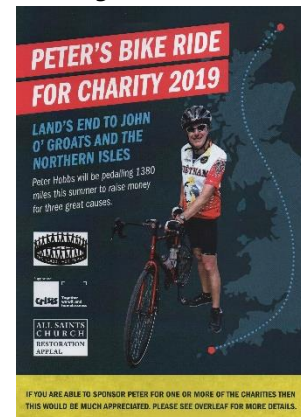
'Congo Week' when the children studied all aspects of Congo and put on a wonderful exhibition of the results. More photos can be found in the gallery section of our website. We hope to interest more schools in the project this year.

Films at Geldeston

Sadly Brian Norman has decided to take a break from showing the films and we are hoping that someone else will take over. Since Brian agreed to share the profits with us we have raised a fantastic **£1,507** so far. The last film of the season 'Stan and Ollie' will be shown on Wednesday 27th April. We are very grateful to Brian for his dedication, and to Jo and Lillian for all the lovely cakes.

Forthcoming events

A small group from Beccles will visit Sr Virginie in Zambia this year with the possibility of making a short trip to Congo if it is safe to do so. Peter



Hobbs will be **cycling** from Lands' End to John O'Groats in June for three good causes

including The School for Peace. The headteacher of Glebeland School, and her husband are also planning a **road trip** to raise money for the school in the autumn. Please see the website for all details.

Message from Sr Virginie

"I pray that the Lord will accompany you in your work for this project which gives dignity to poor children and helps us to give them a good education. Please pass on my warm good wishes for Easter and sincere thanks to all the supporters."

Contact Mary Ellwood (Secretary) or Alan Williams (Treasurer):
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