



Winter 2020/21



School for Peace Update

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REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1151173

Latest News from Congo

The start of the new school year was delayed because of issues around COVID-19 as well as the fear of a national strike which was threatened as so many teachers are still not paid. The School for Peace reopened on 12th October. The children have been returning slowly as many parents have found it hard to purchase the items needed for the new term.

Since the last newsletter, the original building which is now 15 years old has been updated and redecorated, the main facade has had its lettering redone, the library signage is now ready to go up and the



The completed library interior

offices have been rearranged, creating space for two reception rooms for parents. The interior of the library is also finished. A Belgian charity has paid for IT training for the staff which is very encouraging. The sisters have bought a generator to cope with the power cuts. We now need to support the training of

the pupils so that they can become more independent in their learning and communicate with their peers in the UK



All the sponsored students in Year 6 Secondary passed the end of year state exam although it

could only be based on the first term of work, but at least they can continue on to further education if they have the means or we find a sponsor. We are also managing to sponsor the 14 poorest children through school who have extremely challenging backgrounds.

University students

The three further education students have started their second year (see the message from Pichouna overleaf) and another student, Madeleine who we have been sponsoring since she started primary school, also wants to start university. Her sponsor died at the age of 100 but we are keen that she should continue with her studies. All of these students will need access to computers especially as COVID-19 has prevented them from attending classes at times. We are currently looking into organisations that can help us with this.

Centenary

We congratulate the sisters on celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the founding of their congregation in November. May they continue to work with the most needy throughout Congo.

Fundraising

Unfortunately, we have not been able to hold any fundraising events since February, but the collection following the departure of a dear supporter, Clodagh Casolani, raised a magnificent £743. We are extremely grateful to Marcelle and Catherine for continuing their mum's support.



For those who shop online,

please do not forget to shop via [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and search for **Congo School for Peace** as they will give us around 2% of the money you spend at **NO EXTRA COST** to you!

Also, if you are using Amazon, we have now signed up with **Amazon Smile**:

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1151173-0>

If you can fundraise, find sponsors or help us in any way please contact Mary Ellwood (Secretary) or Alan Williams (Treasurer): congoschool4peace@gmail.com

Messages



Josué and friends in front of the secondary building. Josué is corresponding with a pupil from Bury St Edmunds



We have been sponsoring these pupils for many years. Pichouna (third from left is now in her second year at University and Madeleine (second from left) hopes to go next year.

LETTER FROM JOSUÉ

Hello Dear Friend,

My name is Josué Lukanda Luboya and I'm in my exam year at The School for Peace, studying general education. I love my school because of the cleanliness, how we are cared for and the good training we get from the school and from our teachers. I work hard and I help my friends to understand when they are struggling because some classes are difficult for them. When I leave school I would like to study medicine to help save the lives of those who are suffering a lot and who haven't got the money to pay for medical help.

I would like to express our enormous gratitude to you and to all for the work you are doing to enable us to study in good conditions and for the projects that you are undertaking for our dear school. May the Almighty protect and bless you. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

From the Headteachers:

*Sister Angelina Kimembe, Secondary School
Sister Agnès Kafwimbi, Primary School
Sr Scholastique Byanabike, Nursery School*

To all dear sponsors and members of the School for Peace project, Sharing joy and sharing solidarity, this is the true meaning of Christmas. Through His coming into the world, Jesus brings joy and peace to all people. Thank you so much for your active contribution to the project which brings joy and peace to pupils and teachers at the School for Peace. May God bless you for your generosity and humanity.

On behalf of all the pupils and teachers.



Sr Virginie, who has been overseeing the project for many years, has now returned from setting up a convent and school in Zambia, to head up a nursery and primary school in Katuba, a very poor area of Lubumbashi. We wish her well in her demanding new job.

News from Pichouna Bénédicte Muyaya Tshitunga who is in her second year at the Higher Pedagogical Institute.

"I really like my institute because it trains future managers, administrators in the educational system as well as trainers and facilitators in schools. It is preparing me to have a good future in management and administration in educational institutions. Because of the financial and material support I have received, I am able to pay my costs for another year. May God protect and bless you. Thank you for your generosity and love".

Pichouna Bénédicte, Lubumbashi 27.10.20