

SCHOOLS LINKING JANUARY 2021 REPORT

Schools linking was established to improve the quality of teaching and learning in the linked UK/ Malawi schools through the sharing of good classroom practice. Over the years, Starfish Malawi has organised exchange visits, providing opportunities for teachers to meet face to face and appreciate each other's' teaching disciplines. It has also helped to enhance the engagement of learners in various projects that directly involve them, promoting a range of skills across the curriculum such as literacy and numeracy.

Teachers Exchange Visit 2020

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, schools in Malawi were closed in March and were later opened in October. So sadly, the much-anticipated teachers' exchange visit was cancelled as a result of the surge of the pandemic.

Clean Hands Project

The project was launched in Malawi in October following the re-opening of local schools. The main objectives of the project are to understand how poor hygiene and lack of first aid knowledge contributes to disease and ill health and appreciating the importance of clean water. Children both in the UK and Malawi share their experiences, similarities and differences through the project.

As part of the project, Starfish donated 27 washing stations to various schools in Salima and Kasungu. The project will also help learners to wash hands properly and frequently as part of the preventive measures of the Covid 19 virus. We also donated facemasks to children in schools as part of the preventive measures.



Left: PhA learner at Chikombola washing hands

Mr William Chiweyo, a teacher at Kapira primary school, received facemasks and a 200-litre washstand. He said, "We are thankful that Starfish Malawi thought of coming up with this important project. Times are hard and the only thing we can best do is follow preventive measures like that of washing hands and wearing facemasks. The washstand and liquid soap will reduce the infections that are passed on through contact".

Right: Mr William Chiweyo.



The Clean Hands Project is being taught over the course of 2020/2021 with much emphasis to improve health and caring for one another through the thorough washing of hands, healthy living and clean toilets.

Many schools have welcomed the project whole heartedly.

Sadly, cases have been rising again in Malawi since the end of 2020 and, like in the UK, schools have had to close again in January 2021. The Malawi government has instructed people to stay at home and these measures are set to remain in place for the foreseeable future.

We have been encouraging schools to form WhatsApp groups with their partner schools. Some Starfish representatives from both countries are included in the group so that we can keep in touch and share information even while the schools remain closed.

We look forward to the time when these restrictions are lifted and this important work for the health of our children and communities can continue

If you would like to know more about the Schools Linking project, please contact

Esther Barnes at schoolslinking@starfishmalawi.com Mob: 07972 737278

Head Office: Alderden Cottage, Sponden Lane, Sandhurst, Kent, TN18 5NR

01580 850251 Mob: 07913 710919

www.starfishmalawi.com Charity No: 1130350

