



# David School Messenger

The David School

Education Changes Lives

## The School Goes from Strength to Strength

Thanks to all the school's supporters

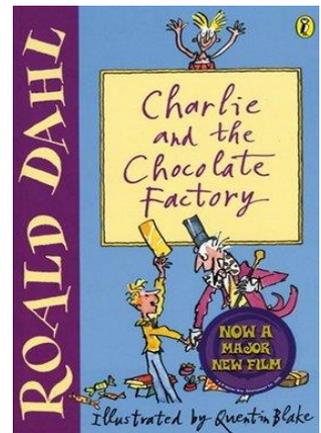
David spent another four weeks at The David School recently. During this time, he was joined by Catherine Thomas, Janet Wallwork, Michael Houlden, and Ramsey Rotarians Sylvia Abblitt, David and Maggie Furniss.

At present, there are 379 pupils at the school distributed over 10 classes, this includes more than 100 in the secondary department.

### The Pupils Meet Charlie



In order to improve the children's English, which is the official language in Sierra Leone, a reading programme was set up based on *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl. Lessons in reading and comprehension were based on the book and David took some chocolate spread for the children to taste. Maggie and David Furniss (pictured left) are both retired teachers and helped with lessons during their stay.



### Wilds Lodge Gifts Distributed



The pupils at Wilds Lodge in Rutland, which is an independent specialist boarding and day school for boys aged between 5 and 18, filled shoe boxes with gifts before Christmas. These were shipped to Sierra Leone and every child at the David School received one. The picture shows Janet with the boxes prior to being distributed.



The children really liked them, and send their thanks to everyone involved.

## Indestructible Footballs??

Futbol produces nearly indestructible footballs which can withstand the roughest terrain, and they ran a *Buy One, Give One* project to support disadvantaged communities around the world. For every purchase, a ball was donated by the One World Futbol Project, and the David School Trust was among the recipients from several countries including the US and Australia. It remains to be seen whether they will withstand the conditions in Sierra Leone!



## Sewing Success



The sewing machines that have been donated and shipped out to the community at Mile 36 are now being used regularly to make both school uniforms and other clothes for the adults. As the picture shows it is not just the women who are involved! Janet Wallwork and Rotarian Sylvia Abblitt (shown in the picture below relaxing after a hard day at the school) both spent time during their stay helping teach more of the adults to use the machines.

Many thanks to all the people who have donated machines and material, including churches in Pondersbridge, Whittlesey and Coates.

Thanks also to Martin Yates for servicing the sewing machines prior to shipment.



## Sports Day



This is a big event at the school, involving all the pupils and staff, and attended by families and friends. This took place during the recent visit, and here are some of the pupils lined up ready to compete.



Medals were kindly provided by Michael Vincent, Chroma Sports & Trophies, Peterborough.



## Health Checks for all Pupils

During David's visit, all the pupils were tested for parasites transmitted by mosquitoes, such as elephantiasis and river blindness. Luckily, all the blood tests were negative, so all the pupils were clear.



Many of the pupils were very apprehensive about having a blood test, but the reward for having the test was a packet of biscuits which was extremely popular!

## Isata Receives Typewriter

Isata Bangura, the community's blind girl, continues to flourish at the very prestigious Freetown Secondary School for Girls (FSSG). She is very happy, and is making excellent progress in this mainstream school.

Last year, the Rotary Club of Peterborough Minster bought her a Sony Dictaphone on which Isata records all her lessons. As she can type by feel (amazingly!), a member of Peterborough Minster Rotary Club has now sent her a typewriter, and she now types up her lesson notes when she gets to The Milton Margai School for the Blind, where she lodges.

Peterborough Minister Rotarians also provide Isata with living expenses for clothes, lunches, braille paper and other materials.



*The picture shows Isata receiving the typewriter, with her is Alfred, one of the schools supporters in Sierra Leone.*

She also received a braille machine sent by a Rotarian from the Rotary Club of West Derby, Liverpool.

Many thanks to all the Rotarians involved in helping Isata become a happy, independent young woman, as she could so easily have been forced to beg or be totally dependent on others in the community.

## Other News

- ✓ Michael tiled two classrooms which makes them much easier to keep clean (one of which is shown in the left-hand photo at the top of the page).
- ✓ The older girls were all given sanitary products, to which they have not had access in the past, and which will be more hygienic and easier to use.

**Thank you for all your continuing support.  
It is much appreciated by the pupils and teachers at The David  
School, and the community at Mile 36.**