



David School Messenger

The David School

Education Changes Lives

The David School and the Emergency Situation in Sierra Leone - Update 1

Dear Supporters

Firstly a **really big thank you** to all those who have contributed to the David School Trust Emergency Fund for the Ebola situation in Sierra Leone. Several hundred pounds have been transferred to our bank account in Waterloo which can be accessed when needed by the Trustees.

The Sierra Leone government has ordered all schools to remain closed after the summer break in order to attempt to reduce the spread of the virus. One wonders whether this will be effective since the children who would be at school will just be playing together outside. The teachers have returned to the David School, and as the school can't officially open, I have asked them to earn their salaries by working with small groups who are preparing for exams, cleaning the school, undertaking some of the maintenance like painting, sorting the books in the resource centre and preparing lessons as well as studying.

The situation continues to change very regularly, and sadly, as expected, is deteriorating. I have recently received reliable news that there are confirmed cases of Ebola in Waterloo, with several deaths including two nurses at the hospital. Four locations in the town have been quarantined, including the Seventh Day Adventist Hospital which is where our pupils are treated by Doctor David when needed. This is at present under military guard, and our thoughts are with him and his staff. Unfortunately supplies of protective clothing and equipment are running out. Many people have little understanding of the virus and this has led to dangerous behaviour, ranging from handshaking to the concealment of Ebola cases.

We have not had any reports of cases at Mile 36. The Trustees are stay in daily contact with our key workers and they will do everything they can to help them and our community. After consultation and consideration, they have agreed that initial spending priorities will be to feed the children from the school and to help to provide protective clothing for the hospital.

If you haven't already done so, and would like to contribute to our emergency fund, then please make your donation to one of the following accounts, including (EF) in the reference.

Barclays Sort Code: 20-43-63

Account Number: 33469395

Account Name: The David School Trust (Reg Charity No 1129314)

Donations from Norway to NORFO account for The David School. 1503.48.37926

Thank you for your continuing support and contributions.

As before, I promise to keep you informed of any developments.

David