



Prestbury CE Primary & Maxonia Primer



**Sharing God's love through our partnership.
*Learning together Supporting one another***

Newsletter – November 2014



Welcome to the very first newsletter focussed on the partnership between Prestbury CE Primary School and Maxonia Primer School.

Future newsletters will provide an update on the partnership outlining activities and projects taking place and will include contributions from both schools and from children as well as teachers. The aim of this first newsletter is to provide a brief background to the partnership, highlight the context of Maxonia Primer School and feedback on the recent visit by Mr Jones and myself undertaken. The letter also includes an opportunity for families to support a specific project-more details at the end of the letter.

The partnership has now been in place for just over ten years and is one of the longest global partnerships between two schools. The partnership has a significant impact on both school communities and we are clear that it is an equal partnership as highlighted in the strapline at the top of this letter.

The partnership helps us to achieve one of the aims for the children in our care and part of our school verse, namely that our children (and adults) are able to let their light shine by *The light of being a Good Neighbour*

The partnership is funded by the *British Council Connecting classrooms* initiative whose aim is: We aim to give all young people the opportunity to succeed in a globalised society. Connecting Classrooms enables students and their teachers to:

- understand issues of worldwide importance
- gain a sense of social responsibility
- develop skills to succeed in the global economy.





Context

Maxonia Primer is approximately one hours drive from Cape Town near Grabouw and is in a rural setting, mainly surrounded by farms.

- Agricultural Environment – Farm Workers
- Poverty – Low incomes
- Social Issues – Home environment

The social issues have a significant impact on the children and the school is very much a refuge for many of the children. Most of the children walk to school, some up to two miles on their own, and some of the children do not have shoes. A number of the families live in accommodation without electricity or water. Drug and alcohol addiction is prevalent, consequently children and the school have to deal with all the problems and challenges associated with this. Since we returned from our visit I have heard that one of the children I got to know well has had to move to another school as his mother was stabbed by his father and is in hospital.

Mr Baard, the Headteacher at Maxonia Primer, is working closely with the farm owners to address the issues. I attended a meeting of farm owners with Mr Baard, where they set the aim of eradicating drug dealers coming into the region and so improving the living conditions of the farm workers-so there is hope of an improvement for the children and their families.



As part of successfully receiving money from the British Council the schools need to identify and report on three projects. Below are the projects for the current year and ideas for future projects.



Both schools are currently working to complete the report form for the British Council and getting ready to submit a bid for funding for the next exchange visits- probably in October 2015.

We have booked in a joint Worship via Skype for December 5th and Mr Jones is hoping to arrange for his class to Skype a class at Maxonia –if this works well then we can expand it to include other classes.

Opportunity to make a difference

During our visit Mr Beard mentioned the residential visit that children in grades 4-6 go on every 3 years. This is a visit to Cape Town with a packed educational focus. The school does not receive any funding for the visit and families are not in a position to be able to afford the costs. When I asked Mr Beard how much it would cost to fund a child he said it would be the equivalent of £60 . Knowing how generous and supportive families at Prestbury are I said to Mr Beard that I would inform parents at Prestbury so if they wanted to support the children accessing this important residential visit they would be able to do so. If you would like to support the residential visit please would you send in a cheque payable to Maxonia Primer and mark the envelope Maxonia –Residential. Please do not feel you need to donate the full £60 – contributions of any amount are appreciated. Maxonia Primer break up for their summer holiday on December the 10th and I promised Mr Beard that I would let him know before they break up how much had been raised. I know that Mr Beard, the staff and children will appreciate any support we as a school community are able to provide.

I hope this letter provides an insight into the value of our partnership with Maxonia Primer and the impact it has on both school communities. If you have any ideas/questions/comments please do not hesitate to contact the school.

The next newsletter will be in the Spring term.

Mr Capener.