



Welcome to Link Ethiopia's School Links newsletter!

I hope you all enjoyed your summer breaks and are looking forward to the autumn term! As summer is sadly ending in the UK, spring is just starting in Ethiopia marking a new year. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of September (or 12<sup>th</sup> September every fourth year) Ethiopians celebrate New Year – *Enkutatash*. During this time of the year much of the landscape is covered in yellow flowers called *Adey Abeba* that are endemic to Ethiopia and only flower once year. It is such a beautiful time to visit!

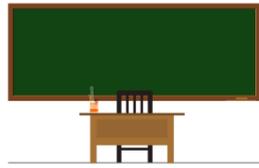
Making the most of the rainy season, on 29<sup>th</sup> July Ethiopians planted over 350 million trees in one day, setting a new world record. This was part of the 'Green Legacy' initiative organised by the administration of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. The aim was to raise public awareness on environmental degradation, to tackle the climate crisis and deforestation, and to create a greener and cleaner Ethiopia for all. The event successfully brought the different regions together and it was covered by many media outlets. [You can read more about it on the Ethiopian Prime Minister's website.](#)

In relation to the tree planting initiative, this term's resource builds on a previously shared lesson plan on climate change and invites pupils to learn new things about the causes of drought and the El Niño phenomenon.

We encourage schools to add the newsletter to their School Link noticeboard, and to share it with the rest of your class and school. We wish you all Melkam Addis Amet (Happy New Year in Amharic) and a wonderful start to the new school year.

**Helen Mebrate**  
**UK Sponsorship and Projects Officer**





## The School Resource



The resource for this term builds upon basic knowledge of climate change and aims to raise awareness on drought and the El Niño phenomenon. In this lesson young pupils draw and colour a mind map poster showing climate change-related issues and older pupils discuss how climate change is related to drought and El Niño and what the impacts are for the UK and Ethiopia.

The purpose is to expand knowledge of climate change and understand how it is related to other environmental issues. The resource includes teaching objectives, a lesson plan, a PowerPoint presentation, and links for further reading.

This resource is a great opportunity to introduce pupils to other climate initiatives happening right now such as the [2019 UN Climate Action Summit](#) in New York. Especially when discussing what actions pupils can take, it would be beneficial for pupils to read about the young climate activist, [Greta Thunberg's journey](#) to New York and her fight against climate crisis.

The resource is available for download from our website.

If you are introducing a new class or school year to the Ethiopia link, we recommend the ['Introducing Ethiopia'](#) school resource to introduce your pupils to Ethiopia, which you can also download from our website.

## Featuring...



Our featured school this term is Longney C E Primary Academy who have a School-to-School connection with Azezo Elementary School in Gondar, Ethiopia. This autumn the school secretary Heidi Hinde and Head teacher Penny Howard will be running the Royal Parks Half Marathon supporting Link Ethiopia and raising funds towards children's education in Ethiopia.

Here is what Head teacher Penny said about taking part in the marathon:



*“As a school, we have a link with an elementary school in Ethiopia. Sport is important to us at our school and we thought it would be good inspiration for our pupils to raise funds and sponsor two members of staff to run this event.”*

We look forward to meeting them both at the event. You can [join us](#) at next year’s half marathon, if you’re feeling inspired!

## Fundraising for Change



Much progress has been made at Gendit Elementary School over the summer break, where we are building classrooms and other facilities to provide the first cycle of primary education, from Kindergarten to Grade 4, for the Gendit community.



Though summer over here means rainy season in Ethiopia, the builders have managed to build most of the classrooms and are waiting for windows and doors before we will furnish them for the new classes. Two new teachers have been recruited and there will be an opening ceremony in November to announce the new phase of the school as a model school for the region. We are very grateful to our Education Ethiopia school links and Sue Eland from [Building Futures Ethiopia](#) for supporting this project through fundraising.

If your school is ready to plan their fundraising event for this year to enable us deliver similar projects, please do let us know and we will send you a fundraising pack.



## The Staff Member



We are excited to announce that three teachers from Ada Model Secondary School in Bishoftu, Ethiopia have been invited to visit their link school Impington in Cambridge. Representatives from Impington had previously visited Ada Model School in Bishoftu and now the school teachers from Ethiopia have the opportunity to visit the UK in October, subject to visas.

Mr. Abdi Yadeta, the principle of Ada Model School, is one of the three teachers invited. He graduated from Jimma University and started teaching Chemistry in a remote part of the country, in a small village called Gedeb Asasa. Mr. Abdi recalls *"I never forget my first Chemistry class that I taught to grade 9, fifteen years ago - it was about, 'what is Chemistry?' - It will stay as a beautiful memory of my teaching career."*



Mr. Abdi is excited to meet all the teachers, students, and visit the facilities at Impington. He is also looking forward to learning more about the British culture and education system. He and his fellow teachers will bring a wealth of knowledge about Ethiopia and letters from their students to the students at Impington to further strengthen the communication between the two schools. Mr. Abdi believes Education is instrumental in shaping a generation to be capable citizens who can contribute to the growth and development of a nation and beyond. He is proud to be a teacher and says *"it is one of the best things I do."*

Thank you for your support!

For more information/inquiries go to:  
[linkethiopia.org](http://linkethiopia.org)



Or send a message to:  
[schools@linkethiopia.org](mailto:schools@linkethiopia.org)