



Getting back to normal

We closed the school in March 2020 with the arrival of Covid 19. Concerned that our pupils risked losing out on their education, staff and resources were mobilised to deliver a comprehensive learning and support program to the children in their local communities. This included delivering one hot meal to all children participating.

Following a phased return, St Nicholas re-opened its doors to all pupils in January 2021. It is thanks to the efforts of the Teachers and our support staff that we have been able to minimise disruption to the education of our children for whom academic achievement is essential in breaking the poverty cycle they experience in Tema.



Symbol of hope

Having emerged from a challenging year, the school site has been greatly enhanced by the addition of a magnificent mural painted on the wall of our teaching block by Spanish artist Elena Asbert Sagasti and her team. Art is an essential part of the school curriculum and we hope that the mural will inspire our pupils to develop their own artistic talents. To encourage this we are using it as the focus for a school painting competition. During their visit to the school, the mural team also undertook a landscaping project which pupils will be encouraged to look after as part of their environmental learning. This was overseen by Bee Arthur, a Ghanaian fashion designer B'ExotiQ <https://youtu.be/RR9HX2yMl1I>



New appointments

Our summer term started on 4th May 2021 as we welcomed a new Headmaster, Mr Evans Setuagbe. His appointment follows the resignation of Mr Emmanuel Donkor who was appointed in 2013.

Mr Setuagbe comes with considerable experience having previously held senior school management roles and offering both Science and Maths teaching which St Nicholas is keen to promote. He has the additional advantage of having lived and worked in Tema so understands the issues which face our children and their families. He has in a very short period of time made some important changes to the academic studies, which we believe will have enormous benefit to the children.



Mr Evans Setuagbe - Headmaster

Sadly our Deputy Head Mr Joseph Marfo died of a stroke at the end of December 2020. A memorial service was held at the school and his Widow and family received the school's donation. His position has now been filled by Madame Aisha, who was the first teacher to be appointed when St Nicholas opened in 2012 and who brings much valued commitment and leadership skills to her new role.



We are also delighted to announce the appointment of a new trustee, Mr Ivan Quashigah, to the board of St Nicholas Foundation. Ivan is the founder and CEO of Farmhouse Productions, a prestigious film production company in Ghana. He has been associated with St Nicholas School for several years and brings valuable media skills to our charity.

Our new school bus

Because of a lack of local public transport we have been dependent on using our own school bus to bring pupils and staff to and from outlying areas. The road infrastructure is very poor in Tema and our aging bus had already become inoperable before the pandemic took hold. Finding a replacement has therefore been a high priority. With limited funds available we were forced to take a loan to buy a new bus, which was delivered in time for the school's re-opening. We are now launching an appeal to re-pay the loan and are eager to find sponsors for this essential acquisition.



Athletics program

Sport plays an important part in our children's lives. We are particularly pleased to announce that since re-opening, the school has entered into a prestigious partnership with the Ghana Olympians Association (GOA) through The Ghana Athletics Association. The aim is to make athletics an established part of the curriculum with the initial focus being on training our teachers to run Kids Athletic Workshops. Professional athletes have already visited the school to run a training session with the teachers. On-ground activities were facilitated by World Athletics certified coach and lecturer Ms Alice Atubiga and the program was coordinated by Prof Andrew Owusu, a former Olympic athlete, and Mr Bawah Fuseini.



GAA
GHANA ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION

WORLD ATHLETICS

GHANA OLYMPIANS ASSOCIATION

Ghana Athletics Association in conjunction with Ghana Olympians Association is organising

CERTIFICATION COURSE
FOR KIDS ATHLETICS INSTRUCTORS

FRIDAY 9th APRIL 2021

9AM - 3PM

9 ST. NICHOLAS PREPARATORY SCHOOL, TEMA

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST ADHERE TO COVID -19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Medical support

Many of our children suffer from medical conditions which are exacerbated by their living conditions, which can interfere with their learning. We are therefore delighted that the Bloom Medical Centre, a private medical facility in the Accra, has shown an interest in supporting the school. Under this arrangement, Dr Laurentiu Illie has arranged to visit the school on a monthly basis to check the children's health and provide free care where necessary.



Community and family support

At St Nicholas we continue to work closely with the local community and, in particular the families of our children. Our dedicated social worker Ruth Nterful is responsible for monitoring the children's well-being and liaising with their caregivers. She is also leading on a Family Strengthening Project in collaboration with SOS College which focuses on child care training to improve child safety practices as well as empowering women in small scale projects to make them self sufficient.

Another way we support the local community is by distributing shoes and clothing donated by our supporters in the UK. This is done through our regular PTA meetings.



Building and maintenance challenges

The ground floor of our teaching block is fully occupied and the building is now roofed and weather-proofed thanks to our generous sponsor Mytilineos and Sea and Shore Ship agents. Work still remains to be done to complete the upper floor and this is now a top priority as new classrooms are needed to enable us to offer the full primary school curriculum.



During successive rainy seasons the school has suffered flood damage to its perimeter walls and most recently to the main entrance, necessitating costly repairs. With the help of local construction company GHS Engineering we hope that more robust building techniques have now solved the problem.



Our supporters and benefactors

As we emerge from the challenges of the pandemic we should not forget those organisations and individuals who have helped the school through a difficult period. In particular we are indebted to the Tsakos shipping company for their food donations, which enabled us to continue feeding our pupils during the lockdown, as well as their considerable financial support and assistance through the Maria Tsakos Foundation. As the original sponsor, we are honoured to have them work so closely with us and running the school without their involvement would be very difficult.

We are also very grateful to the air crews who fly into Ghana and who, through their New Beginnings charity or individual initiatives, bring generous donations of clothing, school uniforms, books and other goods which are distributed to our pupils, their families and the local community. This has been a lifeline to the community.



Danes Hill School

Danes Hill School in Surrey has been a much valued supporter of St Nicholas. Over the past two years this prestigious prep school has regularly donated school uniforms and sports kits, which our children wear with great pride. We are also excited to announce that Danes Hill pupils have selected our school as their chosen charity for a sponsored walk in the Summer Term.

Last, but not least, we wish to acknowledge the huge contribution made by local supporter Maria Asmarianaki. Maria, a Greek national working in Ghana, has tirelessly championed St Nicholas and voluntarily teaches our children Greek on Saturday mornings. She has also used her connections with the Greek TV media to raise the profile of our school and has upgraded and enhanced our website. Maria has embarked on an ambitious program to bring guest lecturers to support her Saturday classes and has even turned her hand to following up construction work. The children love her and she has inspired them to do well in their studies.



Maria Asmarianaki

How you can help

The school is funded exclusively by donations and fundraising activities organised by our charity, St Nicholas Foundation. With the arrival of Covid 19, our fundraising efforts were brought to an abrupt halt. Fortunately we had modest reserves on which to fall back on, but as we look to the future we must re-double our efforts to ensure the sustainability of our wonderful school. We are often asked by people how they can support the school and so we have prepared a wish-list showing the different ways this can be done:

- Sponsoring our new school bus with your organisation's logo painted on the body of the bus
- Sponsoring a seat on the bus
- Sponsoring one of our pupils, either for a single year or for their full primary education
- Donations of school uniforms, sports equipment, learning resources and teaching aids
- Donations of food or drink
- Donating second-hand computers/IT equipment
- Volunteering to teach at the school
- Mentoring our teaching staff

USD Account Details
 Royal Bank of Scotland
 Account: TSSHST-USDC
 Account Name: Re St Nicholas Fund
 IBAN: GB75RBoS16630000370278
 IBAN BIC: RBOSGB2L

Sterling Account Details
 NatWest
 Account Name: St Nicholas Foundation
 Account No: 68619324
 SortCode: 51-50-14
 BIC: NWBK GB 2L
 IBAN: GB58 NWBK 5150 1468 6193 24