



PRIMARY NEWSLETTER



No. 7 – 2023/2024

The British School of Lomé

12-01-2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ IBDP and IGCSE Mock Exams 22nd – 30th January
- ❖ Music on The Grass 14th February
- ❖ Half Term Break, 15th – 16th February
- ❖ Safer Internet Day, 6th February
- ❖ STEAM Week (Coming Soon)

Head of Primary Message

Happy New Year from BSL!

Welcome back to school after the break! We hope you had a wonderful time with your family and friends, and are ready for a new term of learning and fun. We would like to thank you for the great effort that so many of you have put in to follow the uniform requirements, we really have noticed a lot of smart children in every way!

Here are some of the highlights and events coming up soon:

Assemblies - This term each class will take an assembly on a particular theme or event. You are invited to attend a class assembly that your child is involved in. The class teachers will be in contact with you via ClassDojo to tell you when their class assembly is.

Safer Internet Day - February 6th is a special day when we focus on safe internet practices, we will send you more information nearer this date.

Swimming will continue this term - Please encourage your child to be part of our swimming lessons; this is a fantastic opportunity to learn a life-saving skill. A letter from a doctor is essential if you cannot swim for any reason. Well done to those who received their Swimming Proficiency Certificates today.

Reading with your child

Reading is one of the most important skills that your child can develop. At BSL we try to cultivate a love for reading from an early age. Reading helps your child to improve their vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking. Reading also stimulates your child's imagination creativity and cognitive growth. Here are some tips on how to read with your child at home:

- **Set aside a regular time and place for reading.** It can be before bedtime, after dinner, or any time that works for you and your child but it should be part of your daily routine.
- **Choose books that interest your child** and match their reading level. You can ask your child's teacher or librarian for recommendations, or let your child choose their own books.
- **Read aloud with your child and take turns.** You can read a page or a paragraph, and then let your child read the next one. You can also ask your child to read to you, or listen to them read independently.
- **Ask questions and talk about the book.** You can ask your child to predict what will happen next, to explain what they learned, or to share their opinions and feelings. You can also relate the book to your child's own experiences and knowledge.

Head of Primary Message (Cont.)

- **Praise your child's reading and encourage them to read more.** You can celebrate your child's reading milestones, such as finishing a book, learning a new word, or reading a difficult passage. You can also suggest other books that your child might like, or join a reading club or challenge.

Helping your child to do their homework

Homework is an essential part of your child's learning. Homework helps your child to review and practise what they learned in class, to prepare for the next lesson, and to develop their study skills and habits. Here are some tips on how to help your child to do their homework at home:

- **Create a homework routine and stick to it.** It can be right after school, before dinner, or any time that works for you and your child. Make sure your child has a quiet, comfortable, and well-lit place to do their homework, and remove any distractions, such as TV, phone, or toys.

- **Check your child's homework planner and assignments.** You can help your child to plan and prioritise their homework, to break down large or complex tasks into smaller and simpler ones, and to set realistic and achievable goals.

- **Provide guidance and support, but not answers.** You can help your child to understand the instructions, to find the resources and materials they need, and to check their work for errors and completeness. However, you should not do the homework for your child, or give them the answers. Let your child work independently and learn from their mistakes.

- **Motivate and reward your child's homework efforts and achievements.** You can praise your child's homework completion, quality, and improvement, and give them positive and constructive feedback. You can also reward your child with a treat, a break, or a fun activity.

We hope you find these tips useful and helpful. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working with you and your child this term. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Gareth Jones

Head of Primary

Websites of the Week

National Geographic, Kids

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

PBS Kids

<https://pbskids.org/>

Children's University!

<https://www.childrensuniversity.manchester.ac.uk/>

The Eye:- How the eye works video (Make me genius YouTube clip)

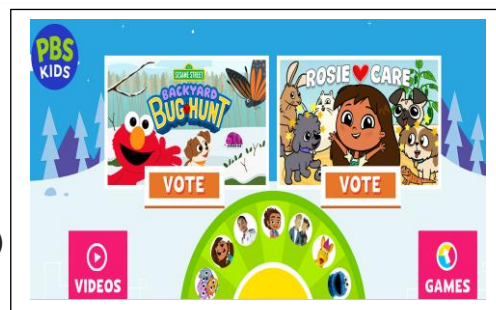
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZH8L3i-qxuE>

The eye explained (Skool website)

http://lincs.skool.co.uk/content/primary/science/eyes_and_seeing/index.html

The Ear:- The ear explained (Skool website)

http://lgfl.skool.co.uk/content/primary/science/ears_and_hearing/



Crèche and Nursery

This week in Nursery children have settled back into routine well and have been very busy.

Our topic this term is 'Patterns All Around Us'

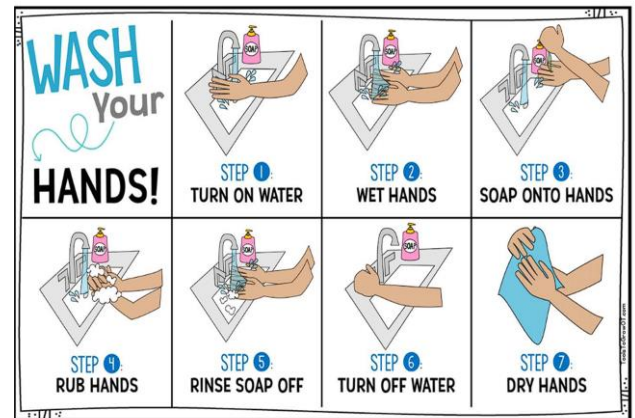
Through the course of the term we will be exploring seasons, weather and patterns in nature.



Can you spot Elmer the Elephant? He is very well camouflaged with his multicolours!

Lunch Menu and Advice from the Nurses

Our nurses would like to remind you to wash your hands thoroughly before and after eating your lunch. Make sure you use soap not just water and wash between your fingers too.



Sources
<https://www.toolstogrowot.com/>

Year 1

Exciting happenings in Year 1! This term's theme is 'Being Alive' - animals and plants. Our little explorers dived into the world of animals, sparking curiosity with 'I wonder' questions. In maths, learners revisited addition and subtraction facts, strengthening their number skills and problem-solving abilities, while in English, they creatively shared holiday experiences through words and drawings. Stay tuned for more exciting updates as our Year 1 class continues to thrive in their 'Being Alive' journey!

MATHS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place value within 20 Place Value within 50 Addition and subtraction Measurement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Length/Height Mass/Volume Time 	SCIENCE BEING ALIVE! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animals Plants Healthy food and drink
TOPIC To be able to discuss and locate hot and cold countries in relation to the equator. To devise a simple map and a story.	
ENGLISH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehension: Fiction, non fiction. Retell stories, with some appropriate use of story language. Use knowledge of sounds to write simple regular words, and to attempt other words Adjectives Know that a capital letter is used for I, for proper nouns and for the start of a sentence 	PSHE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and safety To know the process of growing from young to old and how people's need to change



Year 2

In Mathematics, we will be exploring multiplication and division using pictures and simple equations to build foundational skills. We will be identifying and counting money of used place value to represent order and compare numbers. We will understand different ways to measure objects' length, height, mass, capacity and temperature using non-standard and standard units.

In English, we will be studying different folktales, fables and fairy tales. Students will identify the moral and lessons, retell, compare and contrast stories. We will also be writing poetry, letters and writing to persuade the reader. Students will incorporate synonyms, homonyms, conjunctions, apostrophes and parts of speech such as prepositions to extend their writing.

In Science, students will be learning about biomes and different habitats. Students will learn about what is found in these different ecosystems, and how living things function in these environments.

In Humanities the topic will be the World Around Us. We will be learning about different continents, countries, bodies of water and cities on our earth. We will explore the people, animals, changes, and resources in each region.

Year 3

YEAR 3

TERM 2 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Learning content taught between 8th January to 22nd March 2024

ENGLISH

- Phonic spelling sounds
- Poetry and Rhyming
- Non-Fiction features, comprehension, chronological and non-chronological reports.
- Grammar
- Independent writing.
- Comprehension with inferencing.

MATHS

- Multiplication and Division
- Measuring Length - m, cm, mm
- Calculate perimeter.
- Fractions
- Money -
- Statistics – Pictograms, Bar charts.

SCIENCE

- Skeleton – Bones in Humans and Animals.
- Movement and Materials
- Forces and Friction.
- Light

TOPIC

- Ancient Egypt – Hieroglyphics and famous Egyptian landmarks
- Significant People in History
- Research and analytical skills.

ART

Creative expression through drawing, colour, construction and fabric

- Cross curriculum learning to incorporate themes in Science and Topic.

Year 3 French

This week, in Year 3 French HL we learned about common and proper nouns, consolidated our spelling and practised extracting information from an image. We also began reading a book about animals, starting with the hippopotamus.



Year 5

It has been incredibly busy first week back this term. Pupils have been introduced to their new topic, 'explorers'! It has been fantastic to see the vast prior knowledge the children already possess on this topic. We are excited to research how exploration has impacted modern day living. In maths, pupils reinforced their understanding of multiplication and division by applying the operations to real life situations.

We have been particularly impressed with the improved uniform standards within Year 5 this term. Let's keep these standards up!



Year 6

In English we will be learning about the features of biographical reports, and we will combine our report writing with research into 'African American Change Makers'. The children will be inspired by various historical figures in African American history, they will learn to construct timelines, and be able to situate various historical events against the backdrop of world history. Grammar, punctuation and spelling lessons will continue each week. The second half of term 2 will be 'Traditional tales from different cultures'. This learning will link to our topic study about the Ancient Benin Kingdom. We will read 'Diary of an Edo Princess' by Fidelia Nimmons, and learn to write a persuasive argument for the return of Beninese artefacts to West Africa.

In Maths, Year 6 will be completing work on multiplication and division of fractions, as well as beginning to work with ratios, proportions, scale drawings, algebraic problems, percentages, decimals and statistics.

Our Science topic for the first half of term 2 will be 'Electricity and Renewable Energy', in which children will learn to construct and represent circuit diagrams. They will gain an understanding of voltage and load on a circuit. In term 2 will be 'Adaptation of living things to their environments', including variation and inheritance.

In PSHE, year 6 will focus on the virtues of determination and perseverance, as they learn how to set goals for themselves. They will also learn about managing emotions and mindfulness.

LEADER IN ME

If you think you can do it, you just need to put your mind to it!

Elidjah's dream has always been to join a professional football academy. His parents have supported him at a football school academy in France, and after several interviews and educational assessments, he made it through and got accepted.

What inspired your passion for football, and when did you realize that you wanted to pursue it professionally?

When I was in Primary, we were living in Nigeria. I used to play football and basketball with my brothers and father. There I decided to pursue my dreams in sports.

Tell us about the journey and challenges you faced during the selection process for the football academy in France. How did you prepare for it?

Having studied in an English school, I had to improve my French so that I could fulfil the application process.

How has your experience at BSL contributed to your personal and athletic growth? Are there any specific teachers or moments that have had a significant impact on you?

I am grateful to all my teachers and especially the PE staff for helping me to reach this point. I would like to thank Mr. Jibril Chitou, who helped me cope with my emotions and guided me to calm down. Mr Chris Aryee helped me improve my game techniques. Also, to the Football club staff who gave me practice after school hours. Without BSL combined with my family's support, I wouldn't have reached this far.

How do you plan to balance your academic and football commitments, and do you have any advice for fellow students aspiring to follow their dreams?

I would like to tell my fellow students that even if your ambition is to join sports as your future career, you must be very good academically. Don't let sports take over your studies. Have a balance in everything you do in life.

My advice to everyone would be, "If you think you can do it, you just need to put your mind to it!"

On behalf of all staff and students, we wish Elijah that one day we will have the pleasure of witnessing Elijah play international football, bringing pride to his country and BSL.



A Message from The Head of School

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians,

I welcome you back to school after the holiday break. I hope you had a refreshing and enjoyable time.

As we commence this term, I want to recognise and appreciate our students and staff members' efforts and achievements. Teachers are the core and spirit of our school and the reason why our students thrive. Our staff have shown strength, adaptability and generosity in the face of challenges.

This term, let us continue to aim for excellence, innovation and collaboration. Let us also focus on the following areas:

WASD (Wellbeing and Support Department - Learning Support): We will be working on re-energising the much-needed learning support for our students who have additional educational needs or face learning difficulties. Working side by side with the teachers and parents, the WASD will help to identify these students, assess their needs, and provide them with appropriate interventions and accommodations.

Saturday Secondary Bootcamp and weekly intervention: To support our students, our Head of Secondary, Mr Jackson, along with his team, is working on starting the Saturday boot camp and weekly afterschool intervention lessons to help students who need extra support.

Curriculum coverage: I want to address the students' and parents' complaints from last year about the curriculum not being covered before the exams. To remedy this situation, with the help of Mr Jackson, Mr Anquandah and the team, we have revised the secondary timetable to have the UK standard minimum expected teaching hours for certain subjects. This will give teachers more time for curriculum coverage and revision.

Exams, assessments and Years 11 and 13 Mocks: I want to emphasise the importance of exams and assessments for our students' academic progress and future opportunities. Our teachers are fully on board to prepare the students well and administer the tests fairly. This week our staff went through a training on exam invigilation organised by Mr Anquandah.

Leader-leader is better than Leader-follower, and everyone at BSL is a Leader: I would like to continue the culture of empowering the staff to make their own decisions, with the right level of guidance and support from their managers. This term, we will emphasise the importance of empowering leaders at every level within BSL.

I am confident that we will have a fantastic term ahead. I am here to support you in any way I can. Please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the school management if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Akif Naqvi

Head of School

Continuing Professional Development

At BSL, we firmly believe in fostering the continuous improvement of our staff. In addition to our internal training activities, our team members have completed the following external courses in Term 1:

- **CAT4- Data for Senior and Middle Leaders course - GL Assessment UK**
- **Working as a Teaching Assistant - Training Facility UK**
- **Physical Education - Coaching Styles and Techniques - XSIQ Australia**
- **Reversing Underachievement in Students - UK**
- **Introduction to Leadership in Teaching - UK**
- **HR and recruitment courses - Teacher Horizons UK**



We are confident that fostering such a culture of continuous training will help maintain our high standards.

A fitting End to a Busy Term 1

On Friday 15th Dec BSL organised a beautiful end-of-year staff lunch, a fantastic way to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts and support of every staff member at BSL. While some staff received awards for their outstanding service, for the first time every member of the BSL staff was presented with a gift from the school's management. This gesture marked a wonderful conclusion to the busy, challenging, yet productive Term 1, where each person contributed in their way.

Also we would like to mention that after 33 years of fantastic hard-working service to The British School of Lomé Mr Ben Bonni is retiring at the end of this month. We wish him all the best in his retirement.



After School Enrichment Programme (ASEP)

Welcome to Term 2 of The British School of Lomé's AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME. The school will continue to offer a broad and balanced range of activities where the emphasis is on enriching the curriculum in a fun and secure environment. One of the most exciting aspects of the programme is the clubs available to the pupils. We will provide the opportunity to learn skills in sports, games, music, coding, mandarin, languages and more! The clubs will run on a termly basis, with pupils attending their chosen clubs weekly, following the attached schedule.

As the school anticipates significant interest, pupils will be assigned clubs on a first-come, first-served basis. The clubs will run between 3:30 and 4:15. Children will be collected from the front office in the administration building. Please discuss with your child the activities/clubs that interest them. Complete the Google Form by 4 pm on FRIDAY, 12th JANUARY.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeINCjFL0y644JLvfhRuCBBe0kZ6e87ywt4Xsc3gsfwRE1NUoA/viewform>

Mr Andy Williams

After School Enrichment Programme Coordinator

LEADER IN ME – An Interview with Gabriel Brutus and Rokhaya Tighrini Year 5

What's your favourite thing to do after school or on weekends?

Gabriel: I do my homework. I also like to make investigations of useful inventions.

Rokhaya: Saturday and Wednesday I love to do martial arts.

Do you have any hobbies or activities that you really enjoy?

Gabriel: Mandarin every Monday.

Rokhaya: Basketball.

What's the best thing about school for you?

Gabriel: I learn a lot.

Rokhaya: Learning from my mistakes. Rewrite a word in a new sentence to learn the meaning. My mother taught me this.

Can you tell me about something cool or interesting you've learned recently?

Gabriel: A new way of doing multiplication.

Rokhaya: New topic about explorers and how they discovered things.

If you could create a new game, what would it be about?

Gabriel: How to cooperate in order to achieve success.

Rokhaya: A game to cooperate in order to win.

If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?

Gabriel: Stop motion in order to prevent fights.

Rokhaya: Time travel to go back in time and see what happened.

What's something special you love doing with your family?

Gabriel: Talking to each other.

Rokhaya: Board games.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Gabriel: Dubai. I have stayed at their hotels.

Rokhaya: Algeria, where all my family on my father's side are.

★★ Nine Lessons and Carols Service ★★

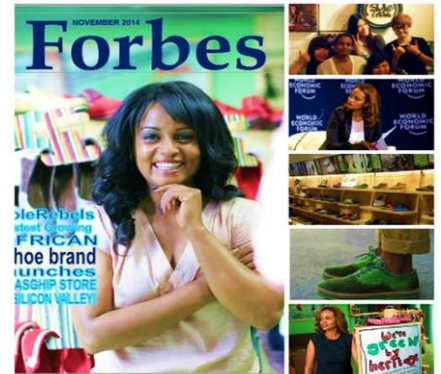
The school community and the broader Lomé community were treated to the singing of traditional carols and reading of the nine lessons that ushered us into the Christmas season at the Sacré Coeur Cathedral in Lomé. It was a beautiful to end the term.



By Akif Naqvi.

Entrepreneurs are the driving force behind innovation, economic growth, and positive change. They possess a unique blend of vision, determination and risk-taking spirit.

One remarkable example is Bethlehem Tilahun Alemu, the founder of SoleRebels, Africa's fastest-growing footwear company with an initial investment of \$5,000 and five workers. Bethlehem established SoleRebels with a mission to create sustainable jobs for her community. Inspired by traditional Ethiopian shoe craftsmanship, she transformed recycled car tyres into stylish footwear.



Beyond shoes, Bethlehem ventured into luxury leather goods and Ethiopian coffee and is in the process of opening a mortgage bank. Today, her company boasts stores across the world, including locations in Ethiopia, Singapore, Switzerland and Taiwan.

Beyond shoes, Bethlehem ventured into luxury leather goods and Ethiopian Born to a working-class family, Bethlehem Tilahun Alemu grew up in the poor neighbourhood of Addis Ababa. After receiving her accounting degree from a local university and working briefly as an accountant, Bethlehem launched the idea of designing shoes based on used tires, working with cheap raw materials, and exploiting artisanal skills in the poor residents of her neighbourhood.



Some of the Honors and Accolades Bethlehem has received:

- **100 Lionesses of Africa** - www.lionessesofafrica.com
- **12 Female Entrepreneurs Who Changed the Way We Do Business**- *CNN*
- **Young Global Leader** - *World Economic Forum*
- **20 Youngest Power Women in Africa and 100 Most Powerful Women to Watch**- *Forbes*
- **100 Dynamic Women Who Are Shaping Modern Africa**- *Arise Magazine*
- **15 Most Powerful African Women**- *Madame Figaro*
- **Africa's Top Women Achiever** - *The Guardian*

I had the privilege of meeting Bethlehem in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in her humble but classic open-plan office, showcasing the décor of local craftsmen with elegance, blending modern ergonomics with Ethiopian traditional values.

What inspired you to become an entrepreneur?

When I see problems and complaints, they become ideas for me to reframe challenges into opportunities. Problems help me to adopt a more positive and creative mindset and find solutions that work for me and others.

What are the biggest challenges you faced starting your own business?

I come from a supportive family and grew up with three brothers. My family had initial doubts about my ambitions, but then they gave me their full support.

How do you maintain the quality and standards in all your businesses that you expect them to be?

Of course, I cannot be everywhere, and micromanaging is impossible. I teach others and cascade everything I know to my team. My staff also share everything they know with others, which helps empower everyone in the team and results in high standards.

What are the important lessons you learned as an entrepreneur?

- *People want you to lead by example*
- *Treat problems as challenges*
- *Do good market research*
- *Focus on services and serving*



And most of all, have positive habits and show consistency at work and in life

How do you keep a work-life balance?

Time management is the key to everything, whether in business or life. I wake up very early in the morning, reflect on yesterday, and gather ideas about what I need to do on the day. By doing this, I get those extra few hours to be myself. In the evenings, I give full time to my family.

Who is your favourite singer?

Of course, Teddy Afro and Aster Aweke.

What is your favourite book?

The Power of Thinking Without Thinking by Malcolm Gladwell.

What's your favourite colour?

I like darker, mellow colours.



What is one message you would give to our students and youth, especially those who would like to become entrepreneurs?

You're not in a dynamic business if you're not experiencing challenges. Nobody is going to help you. You have to do everything yourself. Be prepared, be resilient, and be better at what you want to do. Do that and repeat relentlessly, but always with a smile.



What is your plan?

As with the motto of my company, SoleRebels, "making the world a better place, one step at a time."

Would you visit Togo and The British School Lome?



I feel proud that Ethiopian Airlines is collaborating with Togolese ASKY Airlines and flies to the US via Lome. I would like to explore business opportunities in Togo and would love to one day visit and also meet the students, staff, and parents of BSL.

She welcomed me warmly into her office with a traditional Ethiopian Bunna (coffee) and snacks called Tefftastic which is one of her businesses. These snacks are made from gluten-free Injera flour (teff) with a touch of chocolate coating to give them a sweet taste and texture. The motto of Tefftastic is *'That's our way of saying be good to yourself and others, do great stuff, and above all, be good to your gut...'*

Bethlehem's story inspires aspiring entrepreneurs to harness their creativity, uplift communities, and drive positive change. She aims to challenge the traditional narrative about Africa and, specifically, Ethiopia, "countering the belief that Africa and Africans lack the ability to create their path to prosperity."

If you would like to know more about this inspiring African entrepreneur, you can watch this video by clicking here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jweSr9liuVg>

Congratulation swimmers for receiving your certificate



Lunch Menu Jan-Feb 24

Monday	Chilli Con Carne With Rice (Beef) 08 <i>Mixed Salad</i>	Beef Goulash With Pasta 15 <i>Salad</i>	Frenh Fries with Burgers + Bread + Cheese and Salad 22	Bourguignons + Pasta (Beef) 29 <i>Salad</i>	Coq au Vin + Rice 05 <i>Salad</i>
Tuesday	Quiche with sau sages 09 <i>Salad</i>	Pizza with Tuna 16 <i>Cole Slaw</i>	Peanutbutter sauce with chick-en and Rice 23 <i>Option: tomato sauce</i>	Chicken Mary land (Rice) 30 <i>Ratatouille</i>	Shepherds Pie (Hachi Parmen-tier) 06 <i>Salad</i>
Wednesday	French Fries with Chicken Pieces 10 <i>Salad</i>	Meatballs and Rice 17 <i>Salad</i>	Chinese Spaghetti with Beef 24 <i>Mixed Salad</i>	Black-eye Beans stew with beef + fried plantain + Gari 31 <i>Option: Potato sauté</i>	Beef Casserolle with pasta 07 <i>Mixed Salad</i>
Thursday	Jollof Rice with Beef 11 <i>Mixed Salad</i>	French Fries with Fish 18 <i>Salad</i>	Sauce Basquese With Frich and Rice 25	Lasagnes (Minced Meat) 01 <i>Salad</i>	Atiéké + Fish 08 <i>Option: Rice</i>
Friday	Spaghetti Bolognaise 12 <i>French Beans</i>	Chicken Curry and Rice 19 <i>Mixed Salad</i>	Couscous au gras with chick-en Pieces 26 <i>Salad</i>	Liver Casserole with Potato sauté 02 <i>Salad</i>	Tambour with potato sauté 09 <i>Salad</i>
Every meal is balanced with a serving of protein, carbohydrate and fresh vegetables and every day there is fresh seasonal fruit available.				In extraordinary circumstances the menu may change at short notice.	

School Production- Matilda

The Primary School pupils with the assistance of a few secondary learners put up a fantastic musical performance to end the school term in grand style. The performances of some of the pupils were incredible and credit must go to "Oba" Silver Ojieson for the amazing work he put in to bring out the creative talent in the children!

