Freedom for the next generation

CHRISTIANNA FOUNDATION

TRUSTEE REPORT

END OF YEAR DECEMBER 2023



2023

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Q1 JANUARY—MARCH

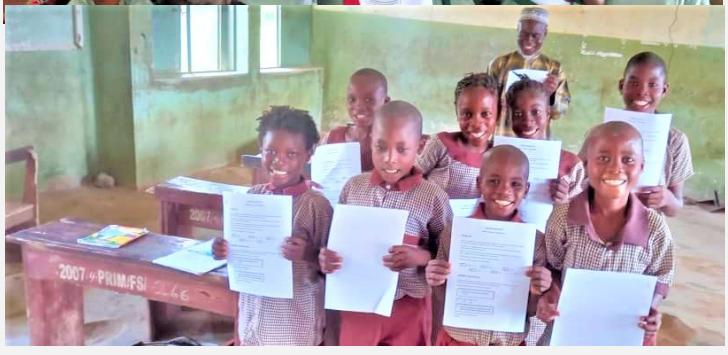
READING MADE EASY LAUNCHES LEVEL 2 LESSONS AND AN INCREASED FOCUS ON PHONICS DECODING

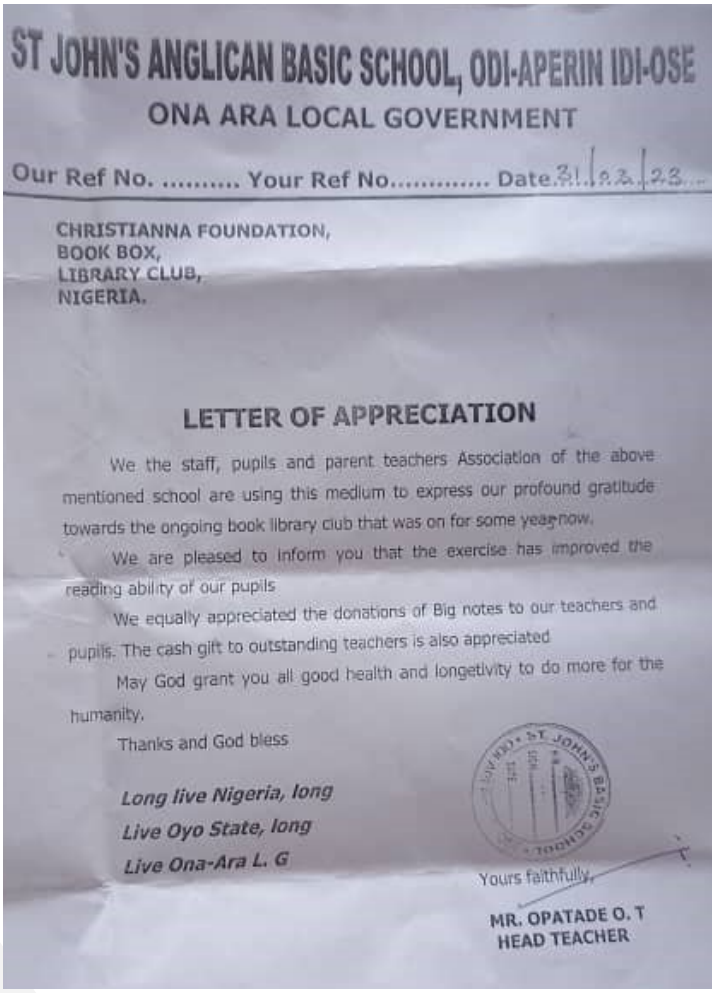
2023 has been a pivotal year for Christianna Foundation. The final year of our 2-year Reading Made Easy pilot programme is well under way and this programme combined with Book Box Library Club will form the backbone of our early English literacy work going forward. Indications from the research to date show that the programme material and design are having significant and measurable positive impacts with regards to early literacy. With the new year came a new series for the Reading Made Easy workshops, with the commencement of the first book at level 2. Book 2A began to teach digraphs, where two letters together make a single sound, such as /th/ and /ch/.

Having received the draft research paper from the first year of the Reading Made Easy pilot at the end of 2022, we immediately began responding to findings to improve our programme. The interim results indicated a clearly positive effect from using Reading Made Easy books.









ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN BASIC SCHOOL, ODI-APERIN IDI-OSE
ONA ARA LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Our Ref No. ..... Your Ref No..... Date 31/03/23

CHRISTIANNA FOUNDATION,
BOOK BOX,
LIBRARY CLUB,
NIGERIA.

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

We the staff, pupils and parent teachers Association of the above mentioned school are using this medium to express our profound gratitude towards the ongoing book library club that was on for some years now.

We are pleased to inform you that the exercise has improved the reading ability of our pupils

We equally appreciated the donations of Big notes to our teachers and pupils. The cash gift to outstanding teachers is also appreciated

May God grant you all good health and longetivity to do more for the humanity.

Thanks and God bless

Long live Nigeria, long
Live Oyo State, long
Live Ona-Ara L. G

Yours faithfully,
MR. OPATADE O. T
HEAD TEACHER

However, reading assessments indicated that pupils were much stronger at reading from sight rather than from phonic decoding.

Although we are delighted to find that the programme is leading to improved literacy outcomes, we believe that strength in phonic decoding alongside sight reading is an important skill. As such we developed word lists for teachers to help improve children's and teacher's ability to read via phonic decoding. The lists were of new 3, 4 and 5 letter phonic words that were new to children and would extend vocabulary. Reports from teachers were that the word lists were very helpful to scaffold learning around the Reading Made Easy series.

We were delighted to end the first quarter with the receipt of a letter of appreciation from the staff, pupils and parent teacher association of St. John's Anglican School in Idi-Ose.

One of the things we are most proud of at Christianna Foundation (CF) is the trust and ongoing strong community relations we have built over the years. This has taken time and a continued commitment to stay with the schools we support, maintaining and improving services over the years and being a consistent and reliable partner who is regularly present on the ground within each school, listening to and supporting our beneficiaries. We know from a strong body of research and evidence that infrequent school visits means that external organisations, no matter how well intentioned, often never become a true part of the school fabric and culture. This is detrimental to programme buy in from teachers, parents and pupils and often leads to poor long term outcomes. Christianna Foundation's focus strategically shifted in 2020 to work with schools within a smaller geographical reach, so our team of two permanent staff and one vehicle could regularly visit each school spending time and learning about the schools and children's needs. Since 2020 every school in Ona Ara that we work with gets at least three visits every term from the CF team.

This year as part of that ongoing commitment we have began a built library renovation project. We first built the Elizabeth Adesola Akinjide Memorial Library at Elekuro High School in Ibadan in 2016 and the library soon became an important part of school reading culture. After 7-years of continued use a heavy rain storm did serious damage to the library ceiling and it required major works to make it safe again. We began work in June of this year and did a complete overhaul to restore the library from rain damage. Tables and chairs were fixed, window frames and louvres were changed, both the floor and the ceiling were fully restored and the library got a bright new coat of paint.







"The entire staff, School Governing Board and Parent Teacher Association of Elekuro High School appreciate the recent refurbishment of the school library. It is crucial to note that this will benefit the school and the students in no small way." Principal Elekuro High School Aug 2023

Also on our renovation list was the Omonike Akinjide Memorial Library at St. John's Primary School 1&2 in Aremo, which we first built in 2018. Major works to restore the flooring were undertaken, library furniture was fixed and we finished with a vibrant coat of paint. The library is now back to its original glory and once again can take its place at the centre of the schools community.



Q3 JULY—SEPTEMBER

FINAL EGRA TESTING FOR READING MADE EASY PILOT PROJECT

As always July through to the end of September is an important time for wrapping up one academic year and then preparation and launch of the new school year in September.

July 2023 marked the final stage of our 2-year Reading Made Easy pilot project. This project saw Christianna Foundation partner with a children's book production company Telling Our Tales to test out new early literacy books and materials, written especially with children from Nigeria in mind. Relevant, relatable and fun, the stories allow the children to see themselves reflected on the page.

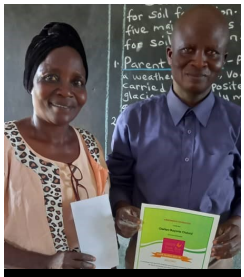
We completed a series of 24 workshops with 300 pupils conducted over 2 academic years. Final literacy testing to measure the impact of the project in terms of improvements in 5 literacy skills, 1) letter name recognition 2) letter sound recognition 3) familiar word reading 4) non familiar word reading—decoding and 5) comprehension took place in July and the results are now with the research team. We will be gathering additional qualitative evidence about the projects effectiveness and a report with the findings will be published in the new year.

The end of the 2022-23 academic year saw another 10 fantastic teachers recognised for their dedication to children's reading by being awarded the Reading Super Mentors prize, which comes with a certificate of recognition and a ₦5000 cash award. This incentive programme has proved to have a big impact with teachers now actively involved in promoting and driving the aims of Book Box Library Club (BBLC) and its programmes.

September saw us distributing new notebooks to all BBLC members ready for a new year of reading.







Mr Oladipo Bayonle



Mrs Adigun Veronica Toyin, Methodist Pry



Mrs Samuel Oluyomi Felicia, IMS Akanran



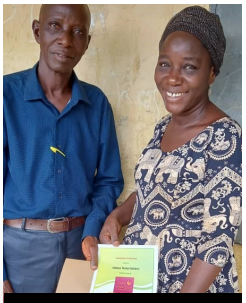
Mrs Yusuf Olajumoke Bolanle, IDC Olohunda



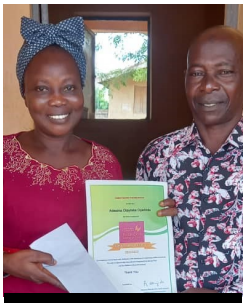
Mrs Oladapo Oyeronke, IMS Akanran



Mrs Azeez Idayat, St.Peter's Ojoku



Mrs Adelayo Risikat St.Joseph's



Mr Adesina Olayinka Oyerinde, St.James



Mrs Adesokan Tawakalitu and Mrs Sangogade Abosede, St.John's Idi-ose







Q4 OCTOBER—DECEMBER

RENOVATION OF SAWIA HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

FINAL STAGES OF POST PILOT RESEARCH

In November we complete our third library renovation in 2023. Community High School Sawia was our first built library renovation back in 2015. A large school with over crowded classes we equipped a library that spanned 2 rooms and donated nearly 1000 books. There was much work to be done after 8 years of use and again we found the ceiling badly damaged over successive wet seasons. We needed to undertake an extensive renovation that fixed the roof and many of the bookshelves, tables and chairs. The library was also given refurbished shutters and a bright new coat of paint.

"The management, staff and entire students of [Community High School Sawia] use this [letter of appreciation] to appreciate Christianna Foundation for renovation and equipment of our school library. We are promising to make use of it properly and effectively.

Thanks for your care and provision."

Yours Faithfully,

Akane R. M Mrs—Principal

As part of the final stages of qualitative data gathering for the Reading Made Easy Pilot research , interviews were conducted across all participating schools. We continue to be committed to the principle of operating "community led" programmes, and for that we needed to get feedback from the community which we serve.

We interviewed teachers, pupils and parents and asked them all the same five questions:

1. What were the benefits of the project to you?
2. What do you think were the best bits about the project and why?
3. What problems did you encounter along the way?
4. What was done to solve the problems or what would you suggest that Christianna Foundation could do to solve the problems?
5. What, if anything, would you do differently in the future?

We got some valuable feedback, most notable was the consistent mention that the learning of letter sounds was the best bit for many teachers and pupils. Help with proper pronunciations was needed for both teachers and pupils, both groups appreciated the phonics instruction. Also, the need to better engage parents and find out-of-school support for pupils who's parents cannot read themselves was a consistent theme with interviewees. Several teachers requested additional training for teachers by way of seminars and the valuable suggestion that parents could also be invited to these seminars was posited.

Having listened to our most important stakeholders, the beneficiaries, we will end our final year report by giving them the last word. We sincerely hope you have enjoyed reading about our work and our successes in 2023. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our beneficiaries, supporters and team.



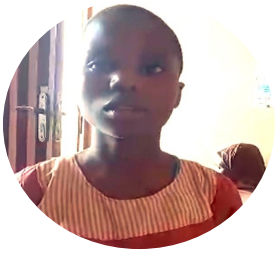
Mr Opatade—Headmaster, St John's Idi-Osi

"The benefits of [the programme] are many. First of all it helps reading and writing… The reading aspect of the children has been developed and the comprehension aspect has been developed...The government should make this programme part of curriculum so it has more time."



Mrs Sangogade – teacher, St John's Idi-Ose

"As a teacher the benefits [of the programme] were so many to me. First of all it assists me in teaching pupils how to read and pronunciation, oral pronunciation and letter discrimination; it helps a lot. The pupils gain through practice of reading and pronunciation, and we teachers gain because it builds us more with our pronunciation… I love this foundation. If I had the capacity I would join to proclaim the reading and pronunciation programme in order to give more support."



Pupil —Pupil, St John's Idi-Osi

"The programme helps me to find something to read so that I can become somebody in the future. It helps me to pronounce words and know letter sounds. The decoding is the best bit for me because it helps me to pronounce the sound of the letters correctly."

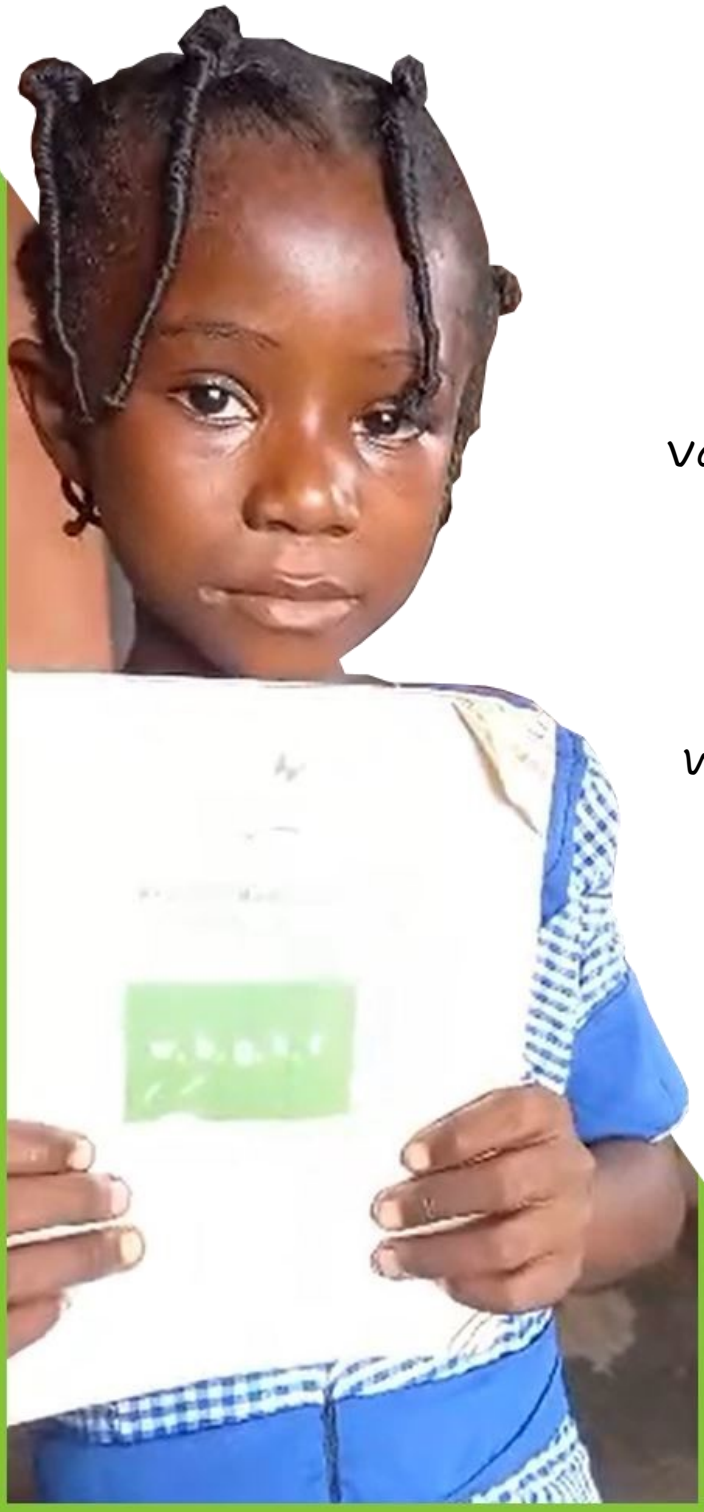


Parent, St John's Idi Ose

"Before I even ask the children at home they pick up the books and start reading it on their own. When children have no books it is difficult for them to assimilate what they are learning in schools. Please, Christianna Foundation should continue its work."

Freedom for the next generation

CHRISTIANNA FOUNDATION



Thank you to all of our supporters and the team for your valuable contribution in 2023, we couldn't do without you. Together we are bringing joy and education to the children of Nigeria.

www.christiannafoundation.org