

Miss Riddle's trip to the Gambia!

So Miss Riddle, what made you want to go to the Gambia in the first place?

I was really interested in seeing the difference between SBAS and Samba Njابه school. I was also keen to make a difference and help the teachers and the children out there.

What were your first impressions of the Gambia?

Well, when I first stepped off the plane, it was very hot, 47 degree heat in fact! There was no green grass anywhere and it was sand as far as the eye could see. I could see people walking in front of the road carrying everything on their heads.

Wow! A bit different to Hertford then. What would you say were the key differences between the two schools?

At SBAS, the children are in school all day. In the Gambia, there are simply too many children, so some have to go to school in the morning and others go in the afternoon. At Samba Njابه school, they have no running water so they have to send a child to the well to collect the water each day for them to drink. On top of this, the children at Samba Njابه school don't have their exercise books provided for them, the charity has to provide them otherwise the children would have nothing to record their lessons in.

How were you able to help?

I was able to help in lots of ways, especially with the children who had special educational needs. I was able to show their teachers how to include them and adapt things to support them. I helped the teachers with ideas, helping them in the classroom and creating some resources for them. I also had the chance to teach the children through play and not just from a chalkboard which was really good fun!

How did the money that our school community raise make a difference to Samba Njابه school?

At the school, a lot of the children did not have any exercise books or writing equipment, with the money we raised, we were able to provide every student with a writing implement and two exercise books, with some in reserve too! This will make a huge difference to them as they will now be able to revise from their notes and go over their learning rather than having to memorise everything from a chalkboard. The money SBAS raised has undoubtedly made a huge difference to their education so thank you!