



TITCHMARSH CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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"We live in one world. What we do affects others- what others do affect us- as never before"

10th November 2006

Dear Parents

The above statement from the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in 2004 outlines the government's vision for all schools within the United Kingdom to become active partners with schools across the world. By 2010 all school are expected to include an international dimension as part of their whole curriculum.

With this in mind Titchmarsh Primary School, along with St Andrew's Primary School, Kettering and St Peter's Junior School, Raunds have formed a cluster to provide exciting and innovative learning experiences for all.

At the end of the summer term, our 3 schools applied together and were consequently selected to become part of a new project, fully funded by the British Council and DfES called *Connecting Classrooms*. There were 111 cluster applications of which 42 were successful. Our cluster was the only successful cluster bid from Northamptonshire.

Connecting Classrooms is a project that involves a partnership between our 3 schools and 6 schools from 2 Sub-Saharan African Countries. This will initially last for 3 years. Our cluster representative, Mrs Grantham attended a very productive contact seminar in October in Cardiff to forge links with schools in Kenya and South Africa. We are now in the process of putting together a 3 year plan to build links within our cluster and with our international partners.

As part of the project, our children will experience;

- Visits from our partnership schools
- Opportunities to work with and communicate with the Northamptonshire partnership
- Developing knowledge, skills and understanding in PSHE, citizenship, ICT, geography and modern foreign languages

- A raised awareness and gain understanding of different cultures and breakdown stereotypical views on all sides

All three schools are currently applying for the full International School Award. The *Connecting Classrooms* is but one element of this. The award is split into 3 categories: Foundation, Intermediate and the full International School Award. After an audit of international work carried out at our school over the past 2 years, we were awarded our Intermediate award!

If you would like more information about this exciting opportunity, please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Grantham or myself. You will also find lots of information on the British Council website www.globalgateway.org.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Milton