

Dear Mrs Malville and year 7,

Bonjour!

I just wanted to say how excited and happy I was to hear that you had all taken part in Save the Children's Christmas

Jumper Day! 

The photos you sent us were really lovely! We are trying to encourage as many people as possible to re-use existing jumpers to be sustainable and help save the planet and that's what you did! Thank you!

Your drawings were so lovely and colourful well done! It looks like you all had a lot of fun :)

Your teacher Mrs Malville told me that you had spent time learning more about the work that we do both here in the UK and around the world.

So I thought you might like an update of how we have been helping children to get through the pandemic.

When schools shut across the world, Save the Children supported **2.1 million children** to keep learning through some really innovative programmes.

'A camel library is giving children out of school in some of Ethiopia's most remote villages a unique opportunity to continue reading and learning, despite COVID-19 school closures'.

Save the Children first began the camel library in 2010. The programme includes 21 camels, which are traditionally used by communities in the Somali region of Ethiopia to transport goods across the hot lowland areas. Camels can carry up to 200 storybooks at a time in wooden boxes strapped to their backs. The project currently reaches over 22,000 children in 33 villages.

Across Ethiopia, over 26 million children are out of school due to COVID-19 lockdowns. By continuing its camel library outreach program, Save the Children is making sure children can continue to read and learn while at home.

Mahadiya, 13, is in grade seven in a remote part of the Somali region of eastern Ethiopia. Since COVID-19 forced her school to close in late March, she has been unable to go to class.

To help her keep up with her studies, Mahadiya is making use of Save the Children's mobile camel library, which visits her village every week. When she grows up, Mahadiya says she hopes to become an engineer.

Mahadiya said:



"Before the coronavirus, we used to go to school regularly. The school used to provide us with a meal each school day, but now that has stopped. I feel sad and disappointed that I cannot go to school.

"I am worried it may not open soon. Because of this, I am worried that we could forget some of the things we learned in school and we could fail our exams.

"After schools were closed, many children were out of school and they were exposed to child labour and exploitation. Many children have become herders and some walk into the bush to look for firewood. When schools were closed, I was very sad. However, the camel library continued to come to our village and supplied us with storybooks. I feel very happy and I am now able to borrow and take home the storybook that I would like to read."

Like 26 million other children in Ethiopia, Mahadiya, 13, pictured, is out of school because of coronavirus. With Save the Children's camel library, she is able to continue reading and learning at home.'

How cool is that!!

By wearing your jumpers you have been part of something bigger and better and are helping us to make the world a better place for children. Merci Beaucoup!

We are counting down the days to the next Christmas Jumper Day on the 10th December and I really hope you will be able to

pull on your jumpers and join us again!



Meilleurs Voeux

Eugene