25th June 2015

Dear TBS Charity Contributors,

After the events of the 25th April and the overwhelming messages of support, The British School, Kathmandu set up an earthquake relief fund to support a number of communities in Nepal that were severely impacted by the earthquakes. We have received over 320 individual donations from over 28 countries. The response from the international teaching community has been incredible with messages of support and financial contributions coming from over 54 schools. The fund is still growing and it will go a long way here!

To date the earthquake relief fund stands at just over £135,000. This is an incredible amount which means that we will be able to build more schools and ensure that the rights of students to have safe and secure buildings is assured in more communities than we initially hoped. The messages of support that we here at TBS have received have allowed us to renew hope within local communities, particularly in areas such as Dhading which suffered major destruction, and ensure that the work of TBS charities can be as effective as possible.

Our immediate relief efforts were concentrated with staff that work at TBS as well as with the school communities in Dhading that we are involved with. On 8th May, a team from TBS travelled to Dhading to conduct site visits to the communities that we work with. We distributed sanitation kits, food and temporary shelters. This was the first aid that some of these communities had received and they were incredibly grateful for this. We also visited the three schools that we have pledged to rebuild to understand first hand what the devastation was like and to ensure that our rebuilding efforts would be concentrated in the correct areas.

The response to our appeal for the rebuilding of the Dhading schools has been so successful that we have obtained more funds than necessary to rebuild the three schools that we initially planned to work with. We are now looking in ways that we can rebuild other schools in the Dhading province as well as other community projects that TBS is involved within the Kathmandu Valley.

The rebuilding of Gayatri Devi Primary School, Khanigau Primary School and Rudrakanya Primary School has passed initial planning stages. The British School has appointed an approved contractor to oversee the works and now we are tendering the contract out to construction firms to start the reconstruction. This week the contractor is visiting Dhading to draw up detailed, site specific construction plans. They will
then be submitted to the Dhading Educational Authority for final approval. This is exciting progress as these schools and their students are looking forward to the day when they can again be in permanent classrooms. We hope that students of these schools will be able to move back into their new permanent earthquake resistant classrooms within the next 3 to 6 months. Without your support it could have been many years before this would have taken place and there would have been no guarantee of the quality of the build!

We have also committed funds to the completion of a hostel and training centre at Sungava, another TBS community project within the Kathmandu Valley. Sungava is a day school for girls with learning disabilities, predominantly Down’s Syndrome. The school was established in 1995 and now many of the girls are reaching an age where they want more independence. Before the earthquake construction of a hostel had begun and the intention of this was to allow the girls to live more independent lives. The TBS Charity fund has been able to assist Sungava with it’s construction efforts while ensuring that all buildings will be constructed to an appropriate earthquake resistant design. The girls are absolutely delighted with this plan and they are looking forward to the new simple safe spaces we will help them finish.

Again we would like to reaffirm to all our contributors that all the funds that you have entrusted to us will be spent on our charitable causes and not a penny will be wasted on administration costs. The British School can bear the administrative costs comfortably and TBS students and staff will visit our charities in our own time at our own expense to ensure all donated funds go towards their intended purpose of rebuilding Nepal. The charitable projects that the school is involved in had a massive need for our support before the events of the last 2 months, now their needs are far more important and we will ensure, to the best of our ability that these needs are met.

We wish to thank everyone around the world for donating to our appeal; as you can see your support has had a huge impact in what we have been able to achieve in the last 2 months. We have been able to reach more communities in the immediate aftermath and now we can look to the longer term by rebuilding the schools and getting as many students as possible back into permanent classrooms. TBS breaks for summer on the 26th June and returns in August; when we return there will be another update as to the progress with our charitable work over the summer.

Thank you once again and best wishes from all at TBS!