



Waterberry Zambezi Lodge supports a number of educational projects in our neighbouring villages. Our emphasis is on working together with these communities to develop and improve opportunities for the local population.

“Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.” Nelson Mandela

“It takes a village to raise a child.” African Proverb



We aim to empower, facilitate and guide educational developments in our local communities. We assist them with resources, salaries, training and development. To us, it's about supporting the communities, enabling them to grow and thrive. Guest donations help us work towards this and are used in areas as diverse as teachers' salaries, teacher training, building materials, supplies, resources, text books and even school outings e.g. to Victoria Falls.

We are currently working together with the teachers at several schools to encourage more use of the creative materials donated by guests. This involves moving away from traditional learning by rote/copying to a more pre/primary school suited style; learning by doing, playing, participating and exploring.

We employ George as our local project administrator. He is from the community and is on the ground liaising between all the projects, the community and the lodge. Currently we are paying the salaries of 31 teachers and school support staff, all of whom live in the villages, and who are committed to helping develop the educational opportunities of the young people in the area.

Our work takes place as a collaboration between Waterberry Community Liaison Staff, the lodge, teachers, parents and community members, ensuring that all projects undertaken are beneficial, supported, understood and with the best interests of the village at heart.



## Tukongote School

Our core support is for Tukongote School. Waterberry's involvement in educational projects began in 2009 with the sponsorship of a preschool teacher in our closest village. Her role was to teach the young children aged 3 - 6 who could not walk the 10km to the then nearest school. Classes were held in the old mud and pole church building. This was initiated by the community and our involvement was to support their efforts. Waterberry agreed to start supporting the teacher and helping with resources. Tukongote Community Preschool was born. The village chose the name "Tukongote" which describes the open billed storks as they fly off together in formation. Waterberry has now adopted this name as the umbrella for all its community projects.



At the end of 2011 the church collapsed in the rainy season. They moved sites to the present location and the preschool moved too. They used one of the mud store buildings belonging to the church. During 2012/2013 many lessons were held outside. The number of children kept increasing and we employed another teacher. In 2014 Tukongote Preschool got its first building. A joint effort between Waterberry and the community saw a mud and pole preschool built on church land. The classrooms were used even before they were finished. By now we had over 70 pupils and 3 fulltime teachers and an administrator. Rural preschool education is a relatively new concept in Zambia, and we are seeing the interest and school attendance steadily growing as villagers realise the importance of this first step on the educational ladder.



Over time we realised that the school was too small and ill equipped for so many children. In 2016, we made a commitment to invest in the

building of a purpose built preschool for Tukongote. A generous personal donation from two of Waterberry's owners, Rob and Tessa, allowed this dream to become a reality. We bought land in the village with the consent of the headmen, with the long term vision of providing a primary school and study centre for the entire community. In October 2016 we held a ground breaking ceremony for the preschool building, which was a lot of fun with songs and dances from the preschool children and also reading demonstrations from some of the primary school children. Over the course of five months we watched in wonder as our new preschool took shape.



We officially opened on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017. The new school has three bright and cheerful classrooms, an outside classroom and learning area, kitchen and feeding shelter and, of course, ablutions. As the headman said in his speech at the ground breaking ceremony, just a few years ago the young children of his village could not speak any English, the national language of Zambia, and they had nothing to do and nowhere to learn. Now in our new preschool we are able to offer up to 75 children the chance of three years of creative, holistic, fun and free pre-schooling in what is probably the brightest school in Zambia. As BB King said, "The greatest thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you."



We now employ six teachers, two per class, and have helped them with a full and clear curriculum to ensure they are covering all the important areas of learning. We are encouraging them to teach with much of their focus on play, participation and exploration. The change has been stunning. Each classroom is full of colourful educational displays, books and toys, with a learning area, playing area and reading corner/quiet area. Even the canteen and the toilet blocks are brightly decorated! For the vast majority of Zambians their only experience of school is learning by rote in bare, overcrowded and run down rooms. Here they have been overwhelmed by the colours and decorations. On the day of opening the whole village turned out to sing, dance and have a look. There were huge smiles all round.



We give the children a mid morning meal everyday which improves their concentration and their performance in class. This is possible thanks to guest donations which, as well as paying for the food, covers the pay of two cooks. This is usually a local "porridge" made from maize enriched with groundnuts and sugar as well as bananas and eggs several times a week.



After seeing the children thriving in their new environment we decided that Tukongote needed to have a long term aim and make a commitment to see these children through their schooling. So this year, 2018, we have opened a Grade One class and the 25 big class preschool children from 2017 have moved a little way up river but still on the same site. They actually have a beautiful Zambezi river view from their classroom. We have employed 2 new teachers and also built the Grade Two classroom ready for 2019. We are currently using it as a reading room. Each year until 2024 we will be adding a new Grade until we have a full primary school up to Grade Seven. This is one of our long term commitments to our community.

If you take one of our village walks you will pass by Tukongote. If it is a weekday morning in term time, you will have the chance to interact with the children and staff. If you would like to spend a full morning at the school, working hands on with the teachers and kids, this can also be arranged. Please speak to one of our office staff.



### Big Tree, Muke & Kamatanda Community Preschools

We also support three other preschools in neighbouring villages. All were started independently by community members who saw a need and were motivated to act. They used their own initiative to give their young children the chance of a preschool education. Only once they were up and running did Waterberry join as a partner. We now support them with teachers' salaries, building materials, books, resources and feeding programs. Both have seen the numbers steadily growing over time and our commitment has increased. We are also assisting them with introducing creative learning.





In 2017 in partnership with a small charity called Building Botswana, we constructed a new preschool at Kamatanda village. Their mud and pole building was becoming too crowded and didn't allow for the creative learning we are trying to encourage. The local community named it "Liyemo", meaning "place where we stay" in Lozi. It's built with all the same ideas in mind as Tukongote. The space is bright, interactive and encourage the children to want to come to school. Since opening it on Independence Day in October 2017 the number of children enrolling has increased and this year we opened with 45. The opening ceremony was a community event with lots of dancing and singing as well as a local traditional dancer, who seemed to scare some of the littlest kids! Thanks to a generous guest donation we were able to get them new school uniform polo shirts and there is a feeding program at mid-morning break.



Another guest, a mural artist from the USA, donated her time and the beautiful mural that now brightens up the school even more. The community have even started using the space in the afternoons for adult literacy classes, where many of the mothers of the preschool pupils are coming to learn to read and write.



## Student Sponsorships

It is very difficult for children from the villages to continue their education after completing primary school. The first hurdle is the fact that there are no nearby secondary schools, meaning the children need accommodation away from home. That coupled with the need to pay relatively high (by Zambian standards) school fees, the uniform, book requirements and transportation, means that many children are forced to stop their schooling. We are currently supporting over a dozen students from our nearby villages with their secondary education. Some are living in town with relatives and attending day schools.



Our preferred method is to pay for them to attend boarding school at Kazungula High. This is 40km from Waterberry. Providing them with board and lodging as well as their education means that they are safe and taken care of. There is no danger of them being forced to work in relatives' homes and they are given plenty of time to study. In 2017 we sponsored two very bright pupils from Mandia Primary School, about 15km from Waterberry, to attend Kazungula High. Thanks to two families who pledged to sponsor them, both Josephine (L) and Gift (R) have been given the chance to stay at school until Grade 12.



By western standards the school costs are low, approximately £200 / \$250 per term, this includes board and lodging as well as school supplies, uniforms and transport. There are 3 terms in a Zambian school year.

After writing about Gift and Josephine in one of our 2017 newsletters, the response was overwhelming and in January 2018, 27 students received fully paid 5 year sponsorships. Kazungula High now has 29 “Tukongote” kids and next year we hope to increase that number. If you think you could help give a bright child from an underprivileged family the chance to continue with their education, please speak to our Community Projects Manager.

We got all of the young people together at Tukongote before the start of term to give them and their parents information about the sponsorship and going to boarding school. Gift even gave them a talk about what to expect! We are encouraging communication between the sponsors and students, so one of the many things they did on this day was write a letter to their sponsor and have their photo taken. We hope that the partnership we are building with Kazungula High will be long term and that every year we can offer bright young people from vulnerable backgrounds in our local communities the chance to complete their education.



### Siandunda Community Primary School

In January 2013 the UK charity, Comic Relief, organised the “Red Nose Hell and High Water Challenge” which saw celebrities paddling down our portion of the Zambezi to raise money for the charity. They made a stop at Siandunda, our closest village, and subsequently funding was allocated to build a primary school there. Previously the children had to walk 8-12 km to the nearest school. The building project was managed by ZOCS (Zambia Open Community Schools) and the school opened in June 2014.



The Comic Relief funding only provided the building. Although the school is registered with the Zambian Ministry of Education, little assistance is offered by them. As a result, the school is now managed and run by a committee from the local community, supported by Waterberry. Generous guest donations allow us to pay six full time teachers a stipend, provide stationery, resources and text books and help them with necessary repairs, for example fixing their water pump.

The school began in 2014 with Grades 1 to 4 and each year another grade has been added. They are currently up to Grade 7, making it a full primary school, with 300 pupils aged 6 - 16. In 2016 we assisted them to complete a third classroom to cater for their growing numbers.



We hope that in future we will be able to support projects which focus on the older children, giving opportunities after they complete Grade 7. Our vision is to create a skills centre to offer training in practical skills, such as carpentry, welding and tailoring. This will assist the young people in obtaining meaningful and gainful employment, allowing them to explore new avenues, opening new doors of development for the community.

## Study Centre and Community Library

In 2018 we will be opening our brand new study centre for the entire community. It consists of three rooms. One will be a community library which will open in late May 2018, A shipment of 30,000 books came in March from the UK to stock it. Then there will be a reading room where we can offer different kinds of reading classes and clubs.

Happy Readers is a scheme that we have been using at Siandunda to encourage children to progress in reading and that will also move to the study centre to allow more people to access it. The third room will be a multi-purpose classroom to be used for tuition classes in many subjects, including Maths. We also hope to start sewing clubs, environmental clubs and many other things besides. We are currently liaising with the community to hear what kinds of things they want to see offered. We have employed a local young man, Jacob, who has just finished an educational diploma in town but comes from this community, to oversee the development and implementation of all aspects at the study centre. The interest from people has been great, with lots of parents of our preschool children wanting to learn to read and write.



In time this project will develop into a skills centre to offer more and more opportunities to the local population.

## Teacher Training

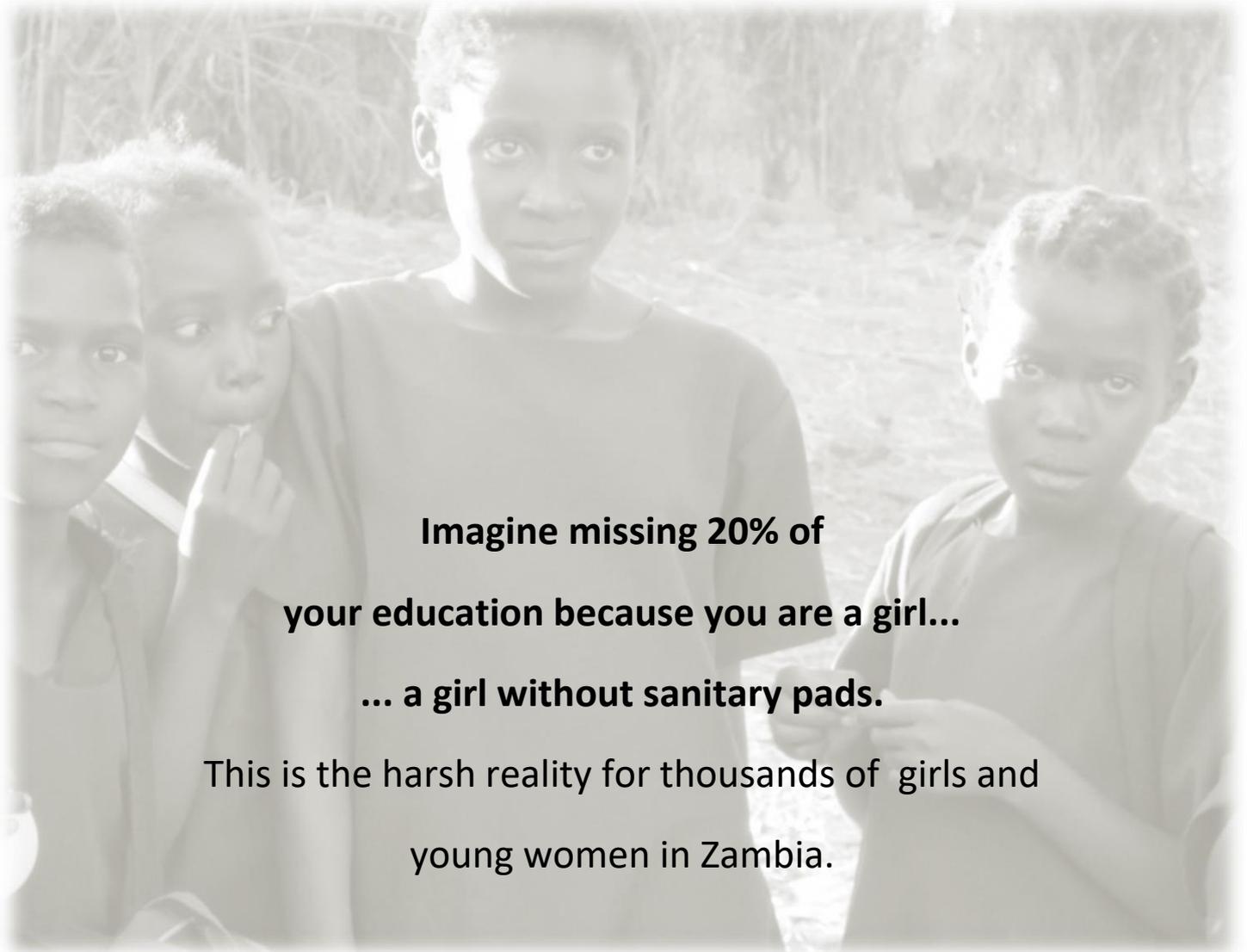


All of our teachers come from the local villages and work with dedication and passion to help educate the next generation. None have had the chance to obtain any formal teaching qualifications. In 2016, Waterberry made the commitment to send ten of our teachers to teacher training college in Livingstone for three years. This is possible because they offer part time diploma courses, recognised by the Ministry of Education, for teachers who are working. Three times a year, during school holidays, the teachers spend a month in town at college, returning in term time to teach and complete their assignments. They all passed their first two years and are now in year three.



The course takes place in Livingstone from April 2016 to December 2018. For these three years this will use a large proportion of guest donations. It is an exciting long term commitment to the schools and will have wide reaching benefits for their communities long into the future. The teachers are all extremely enthusiastic and excited to be given this opportunity and have all committed to teaching in our villages for a minimum of three years after completing their training.

**One new project we introduced in 2017 focuses on menstrual health for schoolgirls.**



**Imagine missing 20% of  
your education because you are a girl...  
... a girl without sanitary pads.**

**This is the harsh reality for thousands of girls and  
young women in Zambia.**

Tukongote Community Projects wants to offer young girls in our local schools the chance to remain in class even during their monthly periods. Traditionally, girls just use rags which often leak, forcing them to remain home to escape shame and embarrassment. Partnering with the established Ufulu (Freedom) Pads project from Eastern Zambia, we wish to provide girls with a locally made kit of reusable, washable, eco-friendly pads which enables them to continue with their everyday life even during their monthly cycle.

A donation of just £20/\$25 will buy a pad kit, panties and fund an educational project to help girls understand what is happening to their bodies. This kit will last at least 2 years. So for less than £1/\$1.25 a month, you can help a girl live life to her full potential and give her the freedom to continue learning.



## Freedom Pads Project

Launched in May 2017, the success of this project has been astronomical. We originally planned to raise money to help support the 100 girls at Siandunda Primary to keep going to school even during their monthly cycle. By the end of 2017 we had raised enough to help 600 girls!! And have distributed the kits to many nearby rural schools.

Giving a girl a “Freedom Pads Kit” is a life changing gift. There is no access to sanitary products in the villages and also often no money for buying even the most basic protection.

Sophia, Mirriam and Mainza, three of the young ladies that work at Tukongote have become ambassadors of this projects. They go to the schools and deliver a short educational workshop to the girls before distributing the kits. The success has been amazing. The girls are so grateful and are no longer afraid to come to school at that time of the month. The kits are packaged in a bright but secure bag which enables them to keep the content private. Teachers at all the schools we have distributed to have commented on the improvement of the girls attendance and also confidence. The female teachers are also given a kit.

We partner with another Zambian charity called “Project Luangwa” based about 1000km away near South Luangwa. They produce the actual pads, which are made by Zambian women. So in buying from them we are supporting another worthy cause. We then package them into a kit with underwear, some literature, flannel and the very popular “Girl Power” wristbands, all put together in a bright chitenge fabric bag. There is still a lot of taboo about the subject of menstruation in rural communities so the kits come with a “secret washing line” enabling the girls to dry their washed pads in privacy.

In the West it’s hard to imagine something so basic being unreachable but here it’s a reality. For a small relatively (by Western Standards) sum of money, a girl’s life can be changed and she can have the opportunity to feel the freedom, continue her education and reach her full potential.





## How can you help us to continue supporting these educational projects?

There are many ways in which you can support the Tukongote Community Projects. You can keep in touch by leaving your email on the form found in your room or by sending us an email to [kelly@waterberrylodge.com](mailto:kelly@waterberrylodge.com). Updates appear on the community page at [www.waterberrylodge.com](http://www.waterberrylodge.com). We also send out a newsletter every few months and you can follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/waterberrycommunityprojects](http://www.facebook.com/waterberrycommunityprojects).

### Making a donation

Buying anything from our community shop which is located next to the office, near reception at the lodge, automatically supports our projects as all profits go directly to Tukongote. Or you can leave a cash donation at reception in the envelope found in your room, or alternatively add a donation to your invoice. We hold school bank accounts in Zambia and the UK. Once off donations or direct debits can be paid in here. Western Union is also an effective way of making a donation. We now have a Paypal account under [community@waterberrylodge.com](mailto:community@waterberrylodge.com) which has become a very popular way of donating. More details are available on request.

Every donation made towards the Tukongote Community Projects goes directly to support and extend the educational programmes in our local villages. Whatever amount, big or small, every Pound / Dollar / Kwacha etc. really helps to make a difference. Below are some examples of how we may use your donation:

- **£5/\$7** – Provides basic school stationery supplies for a child for a term.
- **£15/\$20** – Pays for an educational tour for a pupil. E.g. to Victoria Falls.
- **£20/\$25** – Buys a washable kit of sanitary pads to allow a girl to not miss school.
- **£50/\$70** – Buys a full school uniform, shoes and a bag for a child for a school year.
- **£75/\$100** – Provides a mid-morning meal for 150 kids for a week.
- **£100/\$130** – Pays a local teacher's salary for 6 weeks.
- **£600/\$780** – Sponsors a child for a year at Kazungula Boarding High School.
- **£1000/\$1300** – Funds one of our teachers to attend a teacher training course for a year.
- **£11,500/\$15,000** - Builds and equips a community preschool.



## Sending resources or gifts

We are always grateful for any resources, supplies or gifts that are donated. School stationery and art supplies are distributed among the pre and primary schools. Art supplies allow the teachers to explore much more creative ways of teaching. Teaching aids, posters, games and flashcards suitable for preschool and the first four levels of primary school are also extremely useful. Picture, story and educational books, musical instruments, Duplo and Lego blocks, footballs and soft toys are other suggestions. Please ask for a copy of our gift suggestion list or discuss with one of our Community Liaison Staff if you would like more information. We suggest that gifts are either sent out by courier or, for a slower but more affordable option, through normal postal parcel service. Please label all parcels – “educational material” and “gift or donation”.

If you choose courier, we recommend DHL as they have a reliable office in Livingstone and a good parcel tracking system. The Parcel Monkey website in the UK also works well and is often very good value. Please address couriered parcels to Kelly Geoghegan, Waterberry Zambezi Lodge, Livingstone, Zambia. There is no postal code so you may have to invent one! Please include the following contact details 00260 977 694140 / [kelly@waterberrylodge.com](mailto:kelly@waterberrylodge.com)

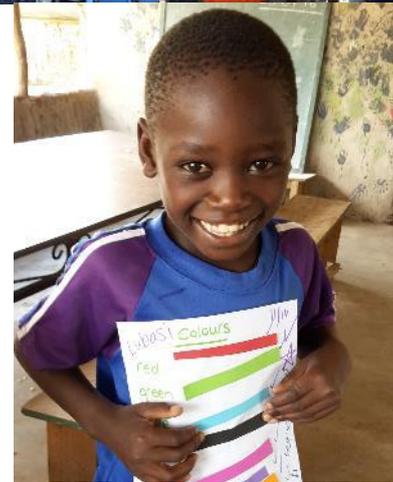
Parcels sent by normal post can take anywhere from 3 weeks to 6 months to arrive, sometimes longer, regardless of what your post office says! (There are usually delays in Lusaka where the parcels have to clear customs.) And sometimes they just get “lost” for a while!

Our postal address is Kelly Geoghegan. Waterberry Zambezi Lodge, P.O.Box 61294, Livingstone, Zambia. There is no postal code, so you may have to invent one! Please include the phone number and email address above.

You are welcome to take photos at the schools and in the villages. The children and villagers love to see themselves, so we really encourage you to post copies of photos to the address above. Photos of the school are displayed and village photos handed out. Please do not email hundreds of them as we have insufficient bandwidth to download, but if you have a few favourites that you wouldn't mind us using on Facebook or in our newsletters, please email them to [kelly@waterberrylodge.com](mailto:kelly@waterberrylodge.com)

We are very passionate about the villages, the residents, the projects and, in particular, the children. Many of our staff reside in these villages and their children attend the schools we support. We would love you to visit them and see the projects in action. We hope that by witnessing Tukongote projects on the ground you will be as inspired as we are by the children and their enthusiasm to learn.

**We thank you for your interest in  
and support of Tukongote Community  
Projects.**





## Gift Suggestion List

We are always trying to make our preschool lessons more creative and hands on for the children. We want to encourage interactive learning with an emphasis on art and craft. However, many of the resources we love to use are not available to buy here. So if you are thinking of bringing along/sending something for our children, please use the guidelines below:

- Good quality wax crayons
- Small scissors
- Glue sticks / small bottles of PVA glue
- Individual whiteboards/whiteboard markers
- Brightly coloured card / paper
- Children's paints
- Stickers / Glitter
- Stencils
- Soft toys
- Toy cars - large and small
- Colouring books
- Children's magnifying glasses
- Items to play with in sand/water pits
- Coloured items for sorting/counting/threading  
E.g. Cotton reels, large beads, buttons



For older children we sponsor:

- Atlases
- Dictionaries
- School rucksacks
- Maths sets
- Scientific calculators (should have solar power)

And finally, for the village knitting clubs:

- Wool
- Cotton
- Knitting and sewing needles



**Thank you for your support and interest in our projects.**

## Preschool Book Wish List

To allow the pupils at the four preschools we support to get hands on experience of books, we are aiming to collect sets of relevant and interesting picture story books. Having sets of **6 or more** of the SAME title means the children can discover the books in small groups, exploring, learning to follow the pages and to handle them with care. The most important thing is the visuals. Sometimes we use the books without reading the actual text, but rather use the pictures to tell the stories in our own words. Books are taken for granted in the western world. Here no children have access to books at home. We want to give them that opportunity at school because we know that books open up a world of imagination, creativity and knowledge.

Below are some suggested titles. Most of them can be purchased online at Amazon or The Book People. If you would like to help us encourage a love of books in our schools, please bring or send a SET of 6 or more of the SAME title.

- |                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| ➤ Elmer's new friend         | David Mckee    |
| ➤ We're all going on safari  | Laurie Krebs   |
| ➤ From head to toe           | Eric Carle     |
| ➤ Brown bear, brown bear     | Eric Carle     |
| ➤ Duck in a truck            | Jez Alborough  |
| ➤ Farm 123                   | Rod Campbell   |
| ➤ How many legs              | Jim Field      |
| ➤ Roar                       | Margaret Mayo  |
| ➤ Catch that goat            | Polly Alakija  |
| ➤ Walter's wonderful web     | Tim Topgood    |
| ➤ Have you seen Elephant     | David Barrow   |
| ➤ Old Macdonald had a zoo    | Curtis Jobling |
| ➤ Handa's Hen                | Eileen Browne  |
| ➤ We're going on a bear hunt | Michael Rosen  |
| ➤ Skunka Tanka               | Steve Webb     |
| ➤ Walking through the jungle | Julie Lacombe  |



Our community library will open in May 2018, so any book donations will certainly be given a good home. The sets of books requested above will be used in the schools but please don't feel limited to this list! If you have other ideas of what you would like to send or questions on what we may need at any given time please contact to Community Projects Manager, Kelly, on [Kelly@waterberry.com](mailto:Kelly@waterberry.com).