Africa Day

25 May 2019

Dear Parents

The narrative of Africa is often mired in stories of drought, famine, corruption, poor governance, lack of education and misery for its people. Whilst some of this rings true in some areas, Africa is also a continent grounded in hope, bristling with opportunity and actively producing world-class entrepreneurs, scientists and innovators. It is time for us to tell a new African story - one which does not hide the harsh realities encountered by many of her people but one which also celebrates her successes, hope and good news.

Our African children, of all colours, cultures and creeds, need to hear stories of the hope of Africa and learn to believe in their African roots. The African diaspora has sent many outstanding people into the broader world and these African ambassadors continue to make an impact in many industries across the globe. However, our continent needs Africans who will plough back into growth opportunities and continue to bring hope and light to its people. If our children do not learn of African success, they will be tempted to believe the lie of the hopelessness of Africa. This would be tragic for a continent which is home to 15% of the world’s population, a continent in which the poverty rate continues to decline and economic growth continues to cause a rise in the middle class as people benefit from increased economic activity.

We cannot pretend that Africa does not have serious social, political and economic challenges. These are present realities which require solutions through a problem-solving, innovative mindset. It is our children who will bring many of these solutions to our continent and it is up to us as educators and parents to provide the best possible opportunities for our children to develop the skills necessary to become the generation of hope for this incredible, yet challenged, continent of opportunity. Our team at Sweet Valley remains committed to being a South African school, wholly committed to developing proud citizens who can take their place confidently in our country, our continent and our world. It is a challenge we embrace; confident that African children, equipped with the appropriate skills and knowledge, carry our hope for Africa into the future.

Arthur Preston
Headmaster

Sweet Valley Primary School
An innovative learning community