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"EDUCATION is the key to reducing poverty"

# *Christmas Greetings*

Keith and I would like to wish all  
***A Merry Christmas & a very Happy New Year.***  
We hope that **2009** will bring you all much  
***Cheer, Peace and Prosperity.***

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the wonderful support you have given us during the last 12 months. 2008 has been another busy and successful year for BEFSA. We now have 54 school partnerships involving schools in Oxfordshire, Kent, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Hertfordshire, Manchester, Bury, Liverpool and London, with several new ones waiting in the wings.

Without your support we would have been unable to carry out any of our work to support schools in the Eastern Cape. Special thanks must go to Jackie Wheatley who donated her 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday presents to BEFSA, to Bernard and Anthea Clarke who donated the proceeds from a quickly arranged lunch and impromptu auction for BEFSA, Sarah Borien who raised a remarkable amount for BEFSA doing a sponsored silence for a week and to Sheila Darnborough, a good friend from the USA who sent us a generous donation. We would also like to express our gratitude to several Oxfordshire schools which held fundraising events for their partner schools. These include Brookside Primary School (Bicester), St Philip and St James Primary School (Oxford), Sandhills Primary School (Oxford) and Cherwell Secondary School (Oxford). Whilst the money raised on these occasions was used to pay for non ICT activities, it is clear that the internet and email are the key to good communication between schools and to the sustainability of the school partnerships. BEFSA continues to pay the two year connection charges and would appreciate any support UK schools can give us to help cover these costs. To those who have already done so please accept our gratitude for all the help you have given us.

[www.befsa.co.uk](http://www.befsa.co.uk)

Best wishes...

*Catherine and Keith Borien*



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