Open Arms Malawi

Autumn 2026

SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

Open Arms has lots of news to share with you from both Malawi and the UK. We hope you enjoy reading about what has been happening over the past few months.

Families on the Road to Self-Sufficiency

Following the first full year of our Graduation Programme, during which 50 families caring for vulnerable children received farming support to help them become self-sufficient, the families have now harvested their crops.

We're delighted that most families have produced enough maize to feed their households for the entire year, and some even have extra to sell, so they can start generating an income.

This latest support from Open Arms means families can take ownership of their future, and lift themselves out of hunger and poverty.

They are now preparing their land for the planting season later in the year, when they will introduce a protein source to their crops to help diversify their diets.



This family have produced enough maize to feed their family for the year



Learning how to spray crops

Supporting Multiple Birth Families

At Open Arms, it's not just orphaned babies we support; we also help many mothers who have multiple births.

Mothers can sometimes struggle to produce enough milk for their babies, especially if they are malnourished themselves. For families living in poverty, affording formula milk to supplement feeding can be a real challenge.

Open Arms is there to support these families with supplementary nutrition, helping babies grow up healthy and, most importantly, remain together with their mothers.

Currently, Open Arms is supporting SIX sets of twins, SIX sets of triplets, and ONE set of quadruplets!



Quadruplets



Tadala and her aunt when she was a few weeks old



Tadala back home with her aunt

A Brighter Future for Tadala

Tadala's mother sadly passed away when she was just four days old. Her aunt took her in, but without enough formula milk, Tadala quickly became malnourished and was referred to Open Arms, weighing only 3kg.

After receiving care and support at Mangochi Infant Home, Tadala was able to return home to her aunt in late 2025, when Open Arms transitioned to a fully community-based care model. With support from the Open Arms team, her family prepared for her return and were delighted to have her home.

Tadala quickly settled into family life, started nursery school, made friends and became part of her local community. Open Arms continues to support the family through regular visits and nutritional support.

To help the family build a secure future, Open Arms provided farming training and purchased a plot of land for them. As a result, they harvested an amazing 16 bags of maize earlier this year, giving them enough food for the next 12 months and even some surplus to sell.

Today, Tadala is thriving at home, surrounded by family, and her aunt is building a more secure future through farming.

Fun at Nursery Schools

Volunteers recently visited Malawi and donated parachutes to some of the nursery schools, supported by Open Arms Malawi.

Teachers and children had great fun learning the different games with the volunteers, which will help create fun and engaging learning in the future.

Many members of the community gathered to watch all the fun too!





Fundraising with Origami Lotus Flowers

Year 6 pupils from Arundel CofE Primary School celebrated finishing their SATS by making origami lotus flowers and creating a wonderful art installation.

Through donations for the origami packs supplied by Open Arms Malawi, they raised a fantastic £145 for Open Arms!

The school also raised a further £320 earlier in the year when they held a cake sale, non-uniform day, and a raffle.

Thank you to everyone at Arundel for all your wonderful support.

If you are interested in our origami lotus flower packs for your school, please do get in touch.



School Visits to Malawi

The Open Arms team were delighted to welcome staff and students from Lancing College during their trip to Malawi this summer. The school has supported Open Arms for many years, and it was wonderful to show them the impact of their fundraising firsthand.

Erskine Stewart Melville School also visited Malawi this summer. It was a particularly special trip for students Joel and Mateusz, who ran the Edinburgh Half Marathon earlier this year alongside their teacher, Ronan, who completed the full marathon. Together, they raised more than £2,000 for Open Arms Malawi. What an incredible achievement!

Joel was so inspired by his visit to Malawi that he immediately signed up to run the full Edinburgh Marathon next year in support of Open Arms!



Lancing College



Joel, Mateusz and Ronan on Mount Mulanje

Ways to Get Involved

If your school is interested in learning more about Malawi and the work we do, please get in touch. We have a range of free Primary and Secondary school resources available, and depending on your location, we can visit your school to deliver assemblies and workshops.

As we enter the harvest season, October brings several awareness days that highlight the importance of food and supporting those living in poverty. Here are some fundraising ideas that your school might like to get involved in:

- Porridge Breakfast: Serve porridge before school for a donation.
- Pyjama Day: Wear your pyjamas and enjoy a porridge breakfast.
- Bake Sale: Pupils and families donate homemade treats to sell.
- Porridge Pot Collection: Collect spare change in porridge pots. You can also include unwanted foreign currency and old coins, which can be exchanged for cash through LeftoverCurrency.com. For more information, visit our website or contact us.

Dates for Your Diary

10th October
World Porridge Day

16th October
World Food Day

17th October
International Day of Eradication of Poverty

20th November
World Children's Day



Can you help us support more children?

Download our fundraising pack for schools here

Thank you for supporting Open Arms Malawi

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