

Coworth-Flexlands School Buys 2 'ShelterBoxes' for Haiti

On Monday 8 March the head of fundraising for ShelterBox, Miss Becky Maynard, visited the children of Coworth-Flexlands School to show them what their hard-earned money had helped buy the people of earthquake struck Haiti. ShelterBox is a registered charity established to provide people affected by disaster with a 'Box' of essential items to use while they are displaced or homeless.

Miss Maynard spent an hour with the entire school showing them the contents of their life- saving Boxes. In addition to a 10 person all weather tent, the Box contained a stove, pots and pans, blankets, waterproof sheeting, malaria nets, water purification systems and tools to help families rebuild their lost homes. There was also basic school equipment to help build some familiar and important routine back into the lives of any children affected.

The children at Coworth-Flexlands were particularly interested in how the Boxes reach disaster stricken countries, recognising that transportation systems are often no longer working. They were expecting helicopters and boats to be mentioned but there were a few surprised faces when Becky mentioned donkeys and camels!

The children raised over £900 through various activities at the school including a mufti day just after the earthquake struck. This enabled the purchase of two Boxes which are already in Haiti being used by two families. Unique numbers on each box allowed them to be tracked by Coworth-Flexlands all the way to their final destination.

ShelterBox has distributed over 10,000 Boxes to Haiti since the earthquake and are planning distribution of a further 10,000 over the next few months.

Mrs Stephen, Headmistress at Coworth-Flexlands School commented; "Not only is it very interesting for the children to see how the money they have raised is being used but also inspirational for them to meet and talk with someone like Miss Maynard who is so actively involved in such an important role."

