



## Who are SOS Africa?

To celebrate Picture New's recent partnership with the charity SOS Africa, this week's newspaper is a special, focusing on the education and the children of South Africa.

The SOS Africa Children's Charity is a small UK based organisation which invests donations in the education and care of African children. Since 2003 they have provided 90 disadvantaged children, from ages 7 to 15, with a personal education programme.

Without the help of sponsors, the children

supported by SOS Africa would have little hope of securing any education at all. Often the only government schools available to these children have average class sizes of between 100 to 200.

If you would like to find out more about the work of SOS Africa please visit their website: [www.sosafrica.com](http://www.sosafrica.com).



## Driving lessons to be included as part of South African curriculum!

The South African Road Traffic Infringement Agency have announced a partnership which includes extending driving lessons into high school curriculums. This will mean children from the age of 16 will be taught driving as part of their everyday education.

Transport Minister Dipuo Peters said that the announcement was part of a long-term initiative to establish and enhance road safety by teaching important skills. He also added that it will not affect the teaching and learning of more traditional subjects.



### Facts about education in South Africa:

- 🍏 Around 245,000 children of school-going age do not attend school.
- 🍏 19% of secondary school children travel at least 30 minutes to get to school.
- 🍏 Schooling is compulsory from Grades 1 to 9, school starts for the children in the year they turn 7 and they have to attend school until they are 15.
- 🍏 In Grade 3 a second language is introduced, usually Afrikaans or English which depends on the first language offered. Some schools offer French instead of Afrikaans.

*Source: Department of Education: Latest Statistics on Education in South Africa.*



# Meet Mbali!

Picture News are sponsoring the education of 7 year-old Mbali.



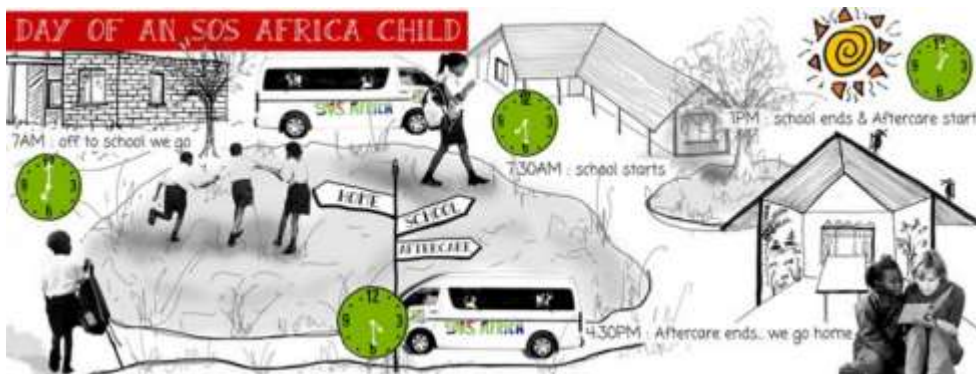
7 year-old Mbali pictured at school.

There are lots of different types of schools in South Africa but all of them need to be paid for by the families of the children who attend them. Some families, particularly those with lots of children, can't always afford to pay for schools.

Mbali lives with her mother, father and four siblings in Lwandle Township. Her father works full time and her mother is at home looking after the children. Mbali is a quiet, well-spoken little girl who always wants to help in class. She is described by her teacher as hard working and diligent in all that she does. She loves to sing and play with her friends! Mbali's parents are wonderful and caring parents doing the best they can for their children but the family struggle financially. They understand the importance of education for the children and are so excited for Mbali to be on the SOS sponsorship programme.

## A typical school day...

A school day in South Africa might be different from your school day. Think about what is similar and what is different.



### YOUR COMMENTS

I think...

**Peter visits South Africa! Peter is going to travel to South Africa. What would he need to travel there and how will he get there?**

Can you find out how far away South Africa is from where you live?



Will he need lots of warm clothes in March?

**Could Peter visit you?**

Do you have any exciting adventures or trips planned? Let us know and we'll send Peter through!

**NEXT WEEK:**

Email: [help@picture-news.co.uk](mailto:help@picture-news.co.uk)

or post to: Picture House, Hungate Rise, Eavestone, North Yorks, HG4 3EX

