



## NEWS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

#### ST. MARGARET'S PRIMARY GETS SECURITY FENCE

**Bridgetown, Barbados. 21 July 2023** - When school resumes in September, both the students and the parents of St. Margaret's School in St. Joseph should feel a little safer with the recent repair of the fence around the property and the installation of a new entrance gate to the premises.

The Corporate Communications team of CIBC FirstCaribbean recently visited the school, just before the break for the summer holidays, to view the completion of their Adopt-a-Cause project that saw the repair of the fence around the area where the children play on the field, and the installation of a gate which had been broken for some time.

In addition, the team examined the newly installed cover, which they also donated, for the vegetable garden that the school is trying to cultivate as part of their Agricultural Science classes. Principal Deborah Howell explained that they badly needed the cover for the garden because of the influx of monkeys that pull up the produce before the students can reap what they sow.

She further explained that sometime before, the children planted lettuce and tomatoes, some of which they were able to reap, and those items were shared among them and their teachers. They have now planted butternut squash, okras and cucumbers which the general worker will care for during the coming holidays.

The project was a joint effort by three departments at the bank which came together to pool resources to assist the school as each department is given a set amount of money to support a worthwhile cause in the community. The Corporate Communications department joined with the Legal and Strategy departments to ensure that they had enough funds to complete the project.

During their visit to the rural school, and just prior to the tour, the team presented the children with some posters featuring valuable information on various vegetables that are plentiful in Barbados and around the region.

The team was also pleasantly surprised to meet there, another benefactor of the school who happened to be a retired manager of the bank, Patrick Thomas, who has been assisting the school on occasion. It was almost a reunion of sorts as the team caught up with Mr. Thomas who now lives in the area.

Debra King, Director of Corporate Communications at the bank, spoke to the children explaining that it was not the first time that the bank visited St. Margaret's, and she encouraged them to work hard and to be safe during the upcoming summer holidays.

Head girl Talia Miller presented Shantelle Griffith, Corporate Communications Analyst with a fruit basket and Teacher LaWanda Bellamy presented a gift to Mr. Thomas.

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Shantelle Griffith accepts the basket on behalf of the team from the Head Girl Talia Miller while the children applaud behind them.



Patrick Thomas accepts the gift from LaWanda Bellamy in front of the children of the school.



Two of the children display one of the vegetable posters while Debra King back left and Principal Deborah Howell look on with the other pupils.



Students of St. Margaret's pose by the newly installed gate with members of the Comms team, Principal Deborah Howell (left) and Patrick Thomas (third left back row).



Principal Deborah Howell explains why they had to cover the area for the protection of the young seedlings. There are plans to expand the area and create more space as they grow bigger.

#### **About CIBC FirstCaribbean**

CIBC FirstCaribbean is a relationship bank offering a full range of market leading financial services through our Corporate and Investment Banking, Retail and Business Banking and Wealth Management segments. We are located in twelve (12) countries around the Caribbean, providing the banking services through approximately 2,700 employees in 48 branches and offices. We are one of the largest regionally listed financial services institutions in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean, with US\$13 billion in assets and market capitalization of US\$1 billion. We also have a representative office in Hong Kong that provides business development and relationship management for our fund administration. The face of banking is changing throughout the world and CIBC FirstCaribbean intends to lead these changes with the expertise, integrity and knowledge gained from banking in the Caribbean since 1836.

CIBC FirstCaribbean is a member of the CIBC Group. CIBC is a leading Canadian-based global financial institution with 11 million personal banking and business clients. Through our three major business units - Retail and Business Banking, Wealth Management and Capital Markets - CIBC offers a full range of products and services through its comprehensive electronic banking network, branches and offices across Canada with offices in the United States and around the world.

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