

# 'Use local languages at kindergarten, lower primary'

By Edward Acquah

THE Director of Victory Presby Church School (VPCS), Reverend Florence Benneh Simpson, has called for the use of the local languages at the kindergarten and lower primary levels.

That, she said, would enable the pupils to get a better appreciation of the lessons introduced to them at the early stages of the educational ladder.

According to her, the mother tongue of a pupil was the foundation of all other international languages, including English, hence the need for teachers to resort to its usage in the classroom.

"The teacher may not be able to speak all the local languages. It is, however, crucial that pupils are also made to study the language of the area in which they are," she added.

Rev. Simpson made the call in an interview with the Daily Graphic after some pupils of the VPCS had participated in a reading clinic organised by Afram Publications at the school's premises in Adentan in the Greater Accra Region yesterday.

It marked the 2019 International Mother Language Day observed globally on February 21, to create the awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity.

## Observations

Rev. Simpson described as unfortunate the practice by some parents to communicate in only English

Language with their children at home, a situation she observed could hinder the academic development of the child because "they should be fluent in at least two languages as they grow up."

According to her, the trend also had the potential to erode the country's cultural identity and traditions in the future.

## Reading clinic

The reading exercise saw the Afram Publications assemble 40 students of the school at the basic level to participate in a reading session in which they were offered assorted story books in Akan, Ga and other languages.

Some of the students were made to read selected stories in Ga and Akuapem Twi to the hearing of the gathering after which they were quizzed on the passages they had read by some of their teachers who supervised the activity.

At the end of the exercise, the Sales and Marketing Manager of Afram Publications, Mr Kwabena Ekremet, presented a set of story books to eight of the students who excelled in the exercise.

Mr Ekremet explained that his outfit conducted the exercise periodically as part of efforts to promote reading in schools.

He advised parents to inculcate the habit of reading in their children by purchasing reading materials for them because "It is the basis for their progress in all other subjects."



• Master Praise Jonathan Nii Adjey receiving some of the books on behalf of the team from Mr Kwabena Ekremet (right), Sales and Marketing Manager of Afram Publication (Ghana) Limited



• A section of the pupils applauding. Picture: Maxwell Ocloo