

Bana ba Sekolo – ‘School Children’ (Is a nursery rhyme of French origin, adapted into a children’s song by the Batswana and Basotho people of South Africa. This song is famously known as Brother John in English and Frère Jacques in French.)

Language: **Setswana and Sesotho**

The song translates to

<i>Bana ba sekolo.</i>	<i>School Children.</i>
<i>Bana ba sekolo.</i>	<i>School Children.</i>
<i>Tlang sekolong!</i>	<i>Come to school!</i>
<i>Tlang sekolong!</i>	<i>Come to school!</i>
<i>Utlwa tshipi ya lla!</i>	<i>Hear the bell ring!</i>
<i>Utlwa tshipi ya lla!</i>	<i>Hear the bell ring!</i>

Ting! Dong! Pelele!
Ting! Dong! Pelele!

This song is targeted at school children who are in their 1st and 2nd grades at school. It is sung mostly in the mornings as a call to the children to come to class (often it is sung at recess, serving a similar purpose). This song is appropriate for ages 6 – 8 years.

It must be noted that this song is also credited within the Basotho people. The text is similar in both languages (Setswana and Sesotho) with the exception of one word. In the Setswana text we have the word: “Tlang”, and in the Sesotho text we have the word: “Tlong”. Both words have the same meaning which is “come”. However, they are written and pronounced differently.

Setswana Text is translated into English by Mr. Bennett Nkwayi Mulungo

Mr Bennett Nkwayi Mulungo transcribed and arranged this song in 2017 for Jiwe Publishers (an online African Music library). Jiwe is a non-profit organization which seeks to both preserve and make African music easily accessible to the African continent and beyond. It accepts contributions from all genres of music. This song falls under the category “children’s songs.

Voice

Bana ba Sekolo

"School Children"

Jiwe Music
African Rhythms, Cast on Stone

Setswana and Sesotho children's song (South Africa)

Trans. **Bernett Nkwayi Mulungo**

$\text{♩} = 92$

mp *p* *mf*

Doh is F

Voice

Ba-na ba se - ko__ lo. Ba-na ba se - ko__ lo. Tlang se-ko - long!__

V.

Tlang se - ko - long!__ U - tlwa tshi-pi ya__ lla. U - tlwa tshi-pi

12 *mp* *p* **rit.**

ya__ lla. Ting! Dong! Pe - le - le! Ting! Dong! Pe - le - le!

Jan. 2017