

EDITOR'S BIT

Once again it's time to make yourself a nice cuppa as you sit down with the latest Trust newsletter. Maybe even a chocolate biscuit; I firmly believe the calories evaporate if you're eating whilst reading this. I hope you enjoy it. If there's anything you'd like included in future editions, please let me know.

Sally Gadsby, Editor



Reading time



Homework time

LKT MERIDIAN SCHOOL, BUSUMBALA

Much has happened at the school in the bush. Unfortunately, we lost the Headmaster but we have acquired a Senior Management Committee and a new administrator, Paul who has proved to be invaluable (Christian families in The Gambia often give their children biblical names). Due to a large intake at Primary 1, pupils aged between 7 & 8 years old, the year has had to be split into two. It also meant Primary 4 - currently

our oldest pupils - have now moved to an afternoon class, so we are gradually seeing the school being fully utilised.

Teaching staff have also been increased dramatically and across the two sites LKT now employs 23 staff in The Gambia and has a substantial salary bill to find each month.

For those who don't know: The Gambia doesn't correspond with the UK, so Nursery is not for babies, but is the first three years of school before moving on to Lower Basic

or Primary. Younger children attend school from 9 a.m. till 1.30 p.m. and older ones from 2 till 6 p.m.

We also had a scare when the pump died so comprehensively we needed a new bore hole. As this provides all the water it was a rather panic-filled time. Then came our knight in shining armour (well, woman in a fetching cardigan) in the shape of Marion Gadsby who gallantly paid for a new bore hole. Water being just a tad important, it's safe to say there are a lot of grateful thanks abounding.

Did you know:

Sarjo, a common male name, is also always given to a child born after twins. And it's just tough if you're a girl!



Dance time



Play time

Did you know:

May is the "lucky" month to get married, although no-one seems able to explain why.

LKT FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL, SANCHABA



Exercise time

The new Primary teacher, Sally, has fitted in well and is implementing new and exciting teaching ideas. (To all our UK friends: yes, Sally is a Gambian name. To all our African friends who believe I have adopted a Gambian name to fit in when I'm there: it really is a British name too!) The school was blessed in November with Hannah, who was doing her Duke of Edinburgh Award and threw herself into school life with great enthusiasm. Her brief was to work with someone from a different culture; I think we can safely say she managed this!

In January LKT arranged an HIV Seminar at the school which was attended by our teachers, PTA & was an open invite to the local community. This was conducted by the local specialist HIV Clinic

and gave the opportunity for our team & the locals to develop an understanding of HIV infections and dispel some of the adverse myths which abound in a community where discussions of a sexual nature are very taboo. It also hammered home the messages which LKT have been promoting regarding hand washing and ensuring cleanliness in the classrooms.

All staff in both schools have now had performance appraisals, providing the management team with a better understanding of the ambitions & drive of each member of our team. Extra thanks to Julia who has had many sleepless nights devising them but can now relax. Well, for a few hours until follow up reviews are completed at the start of the next academic year.



Home time



Volunteers & Staff at Friendship School

Thanks



Thank you for supporting the Trust in whatever way you do. Another container of generously donated resources has made it across the ocean, these includes chairs & computers from Waterbeach Primary School and tables from Education for All. Extra thanks this time to the Junior Committee of the Mid Anglia Caravanning Club who staggeringly managed to raise nearly £2,000 for us; Jolly Phonics, who continue to donate fantastic resources and without whom the schools would be so much poorer in every sense; and Gamlingay School who donated their obsolete uniform. Believe it or not, sweatshirts and winter coats are very welcome as the Gambians insist it's cold when the temperature dips below 27°C / 80°F. So you can understand the convoluted conversation which results when a Gambian asks about the British winter!

If you would like to get involved with the work of the Trust or join us on our next trip, please get in touch.

Enquiries@lisakenttrust.org

Details of events can be viewed on the website

www.lisakenttrust.org

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