



Uganda Newsletter

November 2006

New head teacher



James, our newly appointed head teacher, will join us in February 2007. He has had 10 years teaching experience in a good school in town. He is originally from this area and wants to return to help the children there



Mary, with some of the family who originally donated the land on which the school is being built. Mary took them a kilo of sugar as a present. The father said, "Mary, this is like Christmas."

Work begins on 2nd classroom block

Bernard, the metal worker, on the right, and Joshua, the carpenter, receive the metal as it arrives from Kampala.



Work begins the next day, with the new generator being put to good use.



Work continues on the classroom block

As the metal structure begins to take shape, the foundations are broken up and dug down to receive the metal plate and poles.



The first classroom block was built by the same two men from Kenya. They aim to build the second one identical to the first.



Children work hard as more children are enrolled

The present pupils work hard in the classroom as more hopefuls are interviewed for enrolment in February 2007. The teachers are checking whether they are six years old, the legal requirement in Uganda. Sixty more children will then join the 155 already in the school.



Books donated by Macmillan publishers

For the past two years, we have received help from the managing director of Macmillan Publishers, who was a former pupil at Bedwellty School, just as I was. This photo shows Joseph, from the bookshop in Mbale delivering some more books to us for our Primary 4 class which will be restarting school in February 2007.



Ecosan toilets



These are the new Ecosan toilets erected at the school in March 2006 following the collapse of the pit latrines. The villagers offered their labour free and re-used building materials from the former latrines to keep the cost as low as possible. The parents who were unable to do the work, themselves, gave a little money to pay for others to work in their stead. We were really encouraged to see how much support we have from the local community.

Attendance board

This is the daily attendance board at the school. The children are so desperate for a good education to raise them out of their poverty that the attendance rate is very high.



DAILY ATTENDANCE 13/10/2006				
TEACHER ON DUTY IWANZALA CYPRAN				
CLASS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	ABSENT
P.1A	15	18	33	—
P.1B	16	16	32	—
P.2A	14	17	31	—
P.2B	16	12	28	—
P.3	13	18	31	—
TOTAL	74	81	155	—

Joy and her family



This is Joy, one of the pupils at our school, and her mother. Just before Easter, 2006, Joy was bitten by a rabied dog. She was rushed to a hospital in Kenya to try to save her life. The family are very poor and to try to raise some money for her treatment, the family sold their only valuable possession - their goat. The owner of the rabied dog also sold a calf.

This was still not enough, because there was a course of three treatments and the hospital fees to find. They appealed to us for help.

The previous day some friends at church in South Wales had donated some money to EZRA, but not specified what it was for. I contacted them and it was agreed the money be used to save Joy's life. Along with another donation from a couple at another church, there was also enough to replace the family goat. The goat purchased can be seen in the photo with Joy's parents on the left and our EZRA trustee, Michael, seated on the right.

Races, netball and football competitions

The children are on holiday during December and January, so we decided to give them a surprise, early Christmas party this November. This was their first party at the school. They enjoyed races, a netball shooting and football shooting competition with prizes for the winners. Donations for this were given by a solicitor in Cardiff, South Wales.



Presents given

Money for presents was donated by a solicitor working with Alwyn. The children were bought some fragrant soap and a bag of sweets. Soap is always a favourite gift because it can be used by the whole family and sweets can be shared with brothers and sisters.



Presents, boys races

The boys' races and another class receiving their presents.



Generator, Welsh flag



In November, 2006, we bought a generator/welder from Kampala. This is the first time we have had any sort of power at the school.

The generator has already been in use for welding the metal structure for the commencement of the second classroom block which began last week. The metal structure and the roof should be completed by the end of November.

Every school in Uganda has to fly the Ugandan flag. We had permission from one of the cabinet members to fly our Welsh flag alongside the Ugandan flag to show our partnership.



Party

The children, staff of the school, Management Committee and members of the PTA share a meal together out in the sunshine. Cakes followed, which were so big, the children took them home to their family.

