



KAKUNYU SCHOOL

united for the good of the children

Newsletter August 2012

www.kakunyuchildren.org

Welcome to the latest newsletter from Kakunyu School for Nursery Children and Children with Special Educational Needs. We have just reached the end of the second term of the year and it's a great time to update you with what has been happening.

Perhaps one of the most exciting things that has happened since the last newsletter, is the arrival of our first Headteacher. Nalugemwa Ritah Madreen brings to Kakunyu experience from World Vision, Blessed Foster Family foundation and other NGOs and has worked in a number of different roles prior to being appointed as our Headteacher earlier in the year. We welcome her to the school and wish her a happy and productive time with us.

There was great excitement in the school in June as we prepared to join the celebrations for the Day of the African Child in Masaka (our local town, some 10 miles from Kakunyu). Our school has never been represented before and we were very excited to be part of the celebrations.



We were able to entertain visitors with our singing and dancing as well as showing them our craft projects.



You may remember that we were able to buy mattresses and blankets for the majority of boarding students last November. These have been BRILLIANT but it has always been our intention that every child would have a proper bed – not just a mattress. SO you can imagine the glee when the truck pictured below arrived at the school.



The new bunk beds are being assembled so they will be ready for the children when they return to

school in September. There are a number of children who live permanently at the school and they are enjoying the luxury already. FANTASTIC!

We have also taken delivery of 30 desks which will enable the nursery children to concentrate better when they are practicing their reading or writing. Up til now the children have had to kneel on the ground and use the benches as desks. Look good don't they?



We have been thinking for a long time about other ways to support the local community and to encourage and facilitate income generation, and we are delighted to have launched our Knitting, Tailoring and Craft project. This is a co-operative made up of local craft workers who will use our facilities and sewing and knitting machines to make items for sale. The project is in its infancy but is a really exciting step forward. We are really keen that we can share the great facilities of the school with members of the local community and hope also to provide craft training for some of our older students. More details and photos to follow!

The school is definitely taking on a more ordered and permanent feel. There are now 2 large sign posts to the school from the main Mbarara road and visitors speak of a well-organised and inspiring atmosphere. New and existing students are benefitting from the new assessment form, developed in conjunction with a special school in UK. This helps us both to plan an individual teaching programme for each student and to track their development. Our aim is to ensure that every student achieves their maximum possible potential.

And although the school is far from self-sufficient, I am delighted to tell you that every parent has

contributed either money or food towards their child's education. This is an ENORMOUS step forward – not just in an economic way but for the parents to acknowledge that their children are worthy of their support. This change in attitude has always been a key driver of our work.

And our fame has continued to grow! One of the most popular Ugandan TV stations visited us and gave us 5 bars of soap, 5kg of sugar and 2 loaves of bread. We will be shown on air in the near future.

We have been truly blessed by the kindness and generosity of so many people and organizations. I hope you will forgive me if I cannot mention everyone by name. We have received gifts of bed-sheets as well as learning and playing materials. World Vision has donated 14 wheel chairs for our wider community and 30 pairs of shoes for students at the school. Thank you to Response Initiatives for Learning Disabilities (RILD) for their gifts to us. Indeed thank you so much to EVERYONE who has helped us continue with our work.

We have received many visitors from overseas as well as Uganda. Most people find that if they visit once, they will return again! And how could anyone resist returning to smiles like this....?



If you would like to know more about Kakunyu School, just contact Jan Lowe (01494 890675) (jan@kakunyuchildren.org) if you are in UK or, if you are in Uganda, please contact Mary Kabiito (0701 48 98 34) (mkabiito@yahoo.com).

Do visit our web-site (www.kakunyuchildren.org) for more information and pictures and videos.

Thank you so much for reading this – and for your interest and support of this small but special school in Uganda.