



# KAKUNYU SCHOOL

united for the good of the children

## Newsletter January 2016

Welcome to the latest newsletter from Kakunyu School. The children and staff have just returned for the beginning of a new school year following the long Christmas holidays. Last term was a very busy one and a lot of changes were made!

### A new look for the school

One of the many projects that was completed at the school last term was a facelift for the main building and the completion of two temporary classrooms.



With the help of some of the school's visitors, the staff and the children completed two wooden semi-permanent classrooms, which means lessons are no

longer disrupted by rain coming in through the walls.

The main building was colourfully brought to life with an alphabet-themed mural designed with the help of the

children and painted by everyone, even if it was their first visit to the school. The children and staff also put their own special mark on their school by painting a tree of helping hands, complete with everyone's hand-print.

### Transport

Aitel, a Ugandan mobile phone company, has recognised what the school is achieving and wished to help. They have renovated some of the buildings in the dormitory area of the school and also donated a new car for the school to use. This will be incredibly useful for the school as they continue to grow their business side, allowing them to transport their produce to Masaka town, as well as enabling them to take the children to hospital or other appointments safely.



## Fish come to Kakunyu



Amir the school's business manager has taken advantage of a government initiative to develop fish farming and has constructed a lake with water feeding into the lake from a natural water course. We are eagerly awaiting the first occupants! This is another significant step in the school's move towards self-sufficiency and generating additional income streams.

School director Mary Kabiito is also developing a soap making scheme.

## Visitors

The Autumn brought a flow of visitors to the school. Post Graduate 'gappers' Rachel Miller and James Sharp spent three months at school supporting teaching and development work. They will use their experience to develop further gap year opportunities at the school.



Rachel Skett, one of the trustees of Friends of Kakunyu School (FroKS) took a family group, combining a wonderful time at the school with a highly recommended safari. We hope that this may form the basis for other groups to visit the school and experience the beauty of Uganda.

Jan Lowe, Chair of FroKS, and Kathy Malia, an experienced and inspiring primary school teacher also visited and were able to spend some time modelling teaching methods for the staff, a fantastic opportunity for

the school to learn new skills from other professionals, and to share skills of their own.

Visiting the school makes one aware of how much of a community hub it is growing into. In the space of just a few weeks the school hosted a local women's credit union, a day of training in association with Sign Health Uganda, a parent's visitation day with a seminar on communicating with people with disability, and their first speech day.

This strengthens both the school and the community around it.

## Meet Jeff



Jeff is one of the pupils at the school with additional needs. He has been at Kakunyu for about a year, and in that time his parents have seen an incredible change. At the parent's visitation day, Jeff's mum gave a testimony about the difference that being at the school has made. Jeff is now able to feed and toilet himself and is communicating more effectively. He is also a much happier child and no longer fights with his brothers and sisters. Jeff is a real example of how Kakunyu School is improving the lives of the children with additional needs in South-West Uganda.

## Like to know more?

If you would like to know more about Kakunyu School, just contact Jan Lowe (01494 890675) ([jan@friendsofkakunyaschool.co.uk](mailto:jan@friendsofkakunyaschool.co.uk)) if you are in UK or, if you are in Uganda, Mary Kabiito (0701 489834) ([director@kakunyuchildren.org](mailto:director@kakunyuchildren.org))

Or visit our websites: [www.friendsofkakunyaschool.co.uk](http://www.friendsofkakunyaschool.co.uk) for information for our growing band of supporters worldwide, and [www.kakunyuchildren.org](http://www.kakunyuchildren.org) for school information.