



KAKUNYU SCHOOL

united for the good of the children

Newsletter February 2012

www.kakunyuchildren.org

Welcome to the latest newsletter from Kakunyu School for Nursery Children and Children with Special Educational Needs. It's been such an exciting period and I hope to give you a flavour of a few of the things that have been happening.

The children are just about to return for the new school year – and they will notice a number of big changes since they left in early December. The new school kitchen has been finished, complete with a fuel-efficient stove that will reduce the amount of wood we need and a chimney that will ensure that the atmosphere is much less smoky than the old kitchen.

The new mattresses, sheets and blankets that we bought at the end of last term are waiting for the boarding students to return – the bright colours make the dormitories look completely different and we hope that the softness of the blankets will help the children to feel comfortable and cherished. Here is the celebration of the arrival of the mattresses!



As the children prepare to return to school, we are nearing the end of an exciting recruitment process for our first **Headteacher**.

As part of the strategy for future development, the Management Committee have resolved to recruit, manage, develop and maintain a strong team of teachers and therapists to take the school into the next five year period – and of course a Headteacher is central to this strategy. The appointment will release Mary to concentrate on her role of School Director and her wider responsibilities, whilst ensuring the day-to-day running of the school is in good hands. I look forward to introducing you to the new Headteacher shortly. We are very grateful to our regular supporters who have enabled us to make these longer-term plans with confidence!



Other exciting developments have included the completion of the installation of the water tanks, harvesting the water that falls on the roof of the

school and of Mary's house. Anyone who has witnessed (or taken part in) the trek down to the well to fetch water twice a day will appreciate the amazing difference that this is making to the lives of EVERYONE at Kakunyu.

And I just HAVE to tell you about the slot drains! (see the awesome close-up below)



.....Since we constructed the new classroom block, we have suffered from water run-off whenever it rained (and when it rains in Kakunyu it REALLY rains) – so much so that the water was threatening to undercut the building's foundations as well as making the entrance to the school more like a lake than a play area. But now we have the most wonderful network of slot drains that carry the water away from the front of the school to where it can be harvested and used. This, combined with new kerbs and landscaping, have enabled us to plant up the approach to the school with hedging plants that will stop any stray water from washing the soil away. We have also planted fruit trees in the play area to look lovely, to provide shade and (of course) to provide fruit!

Some of you will remember that last year we were able to invest in a bicycle for Master Tom to use to visit the children on the home-based programmes.



Visitors to Kakunyu are always welcome (do get in touch if you fancy a trip) and many of us have been made to feel at home by Mary, Moses and their staff and family.



Kayla from Canada has become part of the school family and has helped us enormously with her knowledge and her generosity. Supporters from Douglas College, led by Bob Shebib have spent time with us, and we are grateful to them, in particular Rhaman and her husband. Rachel Wetherall spent 10 weeks with us gaining experience in OT prior to starting her training in UK (and we are hoping she will return soon). Pat, Liz and Jan visited from UK just at the end of last term. Liz has since been preparing the assessment programme for the children with special needs with the help of a Headteacher of a school for children with SEN in UK. Pat has been developing brochures and the web-site (check out www.kakunyuchildren.org for videos of Mary and others).

And Kakunyu School has become famous! We were featured in Kingshill Baptist Church Christmas services, we have a developing link with James Brindley School in Birmingham, and our group of supporters is growing!

Please don't forget that 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).

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