



LISA.KENT.MEMORIAL. TRUST

Latest Update

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LATEST NEWS FROM THE LISA KENT MEMORIAL NURSERY SCHOOL

Fatoumatta Baldeh has been promoted to new Headteacher following the marriage of Marian Jarju, who left at the end of last term.



A new teacher Kadijatou Jallow (dressed in pink) has been appointed to teach nursery 3 & 4 year olds.



The Headmaster and an additional teacher are holding classes in the evenings to teach additional maths and English to nursery and primary school children, who are particularly keen to improve their education. The children are divided into groups and attend 5 evenings per week.

We had 11 children move up to primary school in September for the start of the academic year.

There are two primary schools, to which the children usually move to, these being Sanchaba or Bakoteh, which is some distance away.

Brief from the Headmaster

I, the headmaster of the Lisa Kent Memorial Nursery school, on behalf of the children and staff am hereby thanking you very much for your generosity and commitment to our Gambian children and school.

In the picture, there are two children standing under a tree, Adama and Alimass, these are some of the most needy children in our area.

Without a sponsor one/both of them might not be educated, which will bring hardship for them in the future. "As you know, education is not filling a bucket but lighting a fire. **So please help.**

THANK YOU! To all those who give their time freely to help with the work of the trust, without their help, the trust would not exist.

We rely on the support and generosity of others to operate.



Continued

The tree under which the two children are standing is known here as cashew nut. The tree is very important in West Africa, especially in a country called Guinea Bisseau, where it is their main cash crop.

In Africa the leaves, roots and the back shell of this tree are used by herbalists as medicinal herbs to treat certain diseases/sickness. This tree bears fruits green in colour when they are ripe. They are edible.

In the Gambia, we have a tribe called the Manjago, these people used to make local palm wine from the fruits of this tree too. There are small seeds attached to the fruits. These seeds are sometimes prepared by some women by roasting them, peeling them and find something spicy in, just like roasted peanuts. This is edible too and very costly.

The seeds are mostly exported to India and other countries. Here they reform them and produce fuel from them. This is why it is a main cash crop of some countries in West Africa.

Thank you for reading our newsletter. We hope you will sponsor a child.

All good wishes

Aljuma Camara (Headmaster)



Occasionally children move away from the area. Where possible, The Trust will continue to help support this child. It is very difficult when they are sponsored and we hope very much that if you are offered a replacement child you will not be offended. Please do let us know if you are not happy with this arrangement.

Sadly, we actually lost a sponsored child to malaria last season.

A HUGE thank you to Trevor Benton, for very kindly printing our newsletter. The Trust are extremely grateful to him.

Thank you to all those who have kindly opted to pay their sponsorship by standing order. Please let us know if you would like to set up a mandate. Don't forget Gift Aid.

Gambian currency

The Gambian currency (dalasi) has fallen drastically over the last few months, resulting in a 20% loss against the pound.

The Central Bank of Gambia has worked hard to appreciate the dalasi against the major currencies. This is good for the Gambia, as dalasi are needed by the business community and prices of imported commodities are reduced.

For us it has led to a deficit. The 10 dalasi fall in each pound has resulted in a loss of dalasi for sponsorship. It is good that the local currency has appreciated, but means a poor exchange rate for us. As a result the Trust has had to use reserves to pay towards school fees in order to meet the funds necessary to pay for sponsorship, teachers salaries and day to day running costs.



New project

The trust is regularly looking for new projects to undertake. Three of the trustees recently visited a new settlement; an area which has had no schools.

A very rural area, where families have had to move because the cost of living is so much cheaper, mainly the cost of land and rental of the compounds.

Children living here at the moment, have to walk several kilometres to school.

It is noticeable how much land has been burnt and cut down for forthcoming families to build compounds and develop a settlement.

We were met by the representative of the chief of the village, who will give the land to the charity for purposes of the school. The size of the land is 25m x 30m. There is an additional plot of 25m x 25m, which the trust has been offered at a discounted price of 25000D.

The first stage of this new project will be to build a wall around the boundary. Once this has been carried out, work will begin in stages to build some classrooms, with the possibility of extending this at a later stage.



The aim is to build a nursery and primary school, with two nursery and primary classes. The whole surrounding area will have new roads built in the near future, so the position of the "new school" will be much more accessible for people to reach.

This is a huge undertaking for both the villagers and the Trust. The villagers are very excited about this new project and very keen to be involved in its development. All labour will be sourced locally and the blocks made on the site. The villagers have already cleared the site since we have confirmed the Trust's support



Children participating in a singing les-



Two of the trustees on a recent visit

THANK YOU to all those who give their time freely, to help with the work of the Trust.

PLEASE NOTE

If you are able to pay your school fees by standing order, this would help the Trust, in both time and

GIFT AID

PLEASE, PLEASE, return your Gift Aid forms, as every penny helps!!

BUSINESS BEFORE PLEASURE

Thank you for everyone for their support. Without this the Trust would not be able to operate.

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