



CoGS
United in Care & Learning

Dear Supporters, Sponsors and Friends;

Wow, where has this year gone, it's hard to believe that it's April already and depending on where you live, you can probably count on the fingers of one hand how many days of sunshine we've seen. Even when we started writing this newsletter, the weather reports were saying that snow was forecast again. Come on Spring - hurry up please!

However, luckily for our Gambian team, they don't experience the extreme weather conditions we have here relating to the cold, but they do however, experience the opposite with the heat. In their summer months between June - October, not only do they have very hot and humid days which are up in the 40's, but they also have terrible thunder storms and heavy rain. So, we should be grateful really.....!

Over the last few months, we are pleased to report that there has been a real hive of activity at the School due to some very generous donations which we will individually thank later.



As you can see from the pictures, the School has had a complete face lift and not only has the kitchen been rebuilt but also the classrooms have been painted inside and out.

The first room to have its makeover was our kitchen area, which as you can see from the picture on the left, the roof has been raised. This was no mean feat and took several guys quite a few days to complete. But as you can see, by making the roof higher, it allows more air to

circulate, therefore, making it a lot less Smokey for our wonderful cooks Isa and Haddy to work in. Meaning they only need to concentrate on the lovely lunches they prepare. OH, its making our mouths water just writing this!

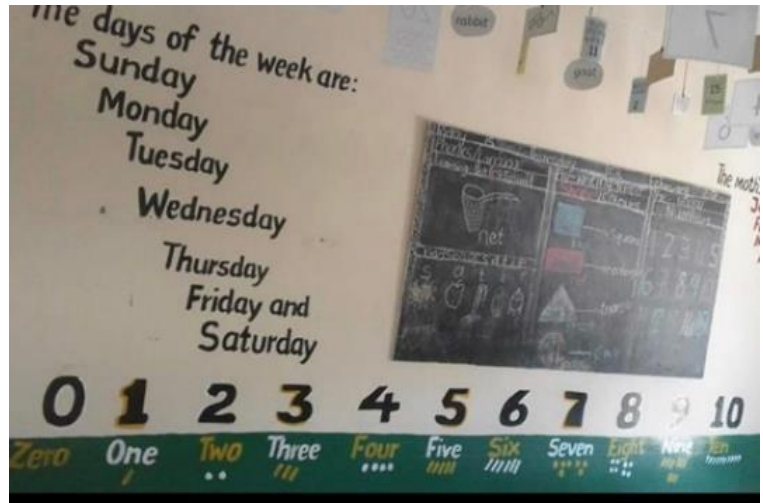




The next area to receive a total facelift was the 'entire school'.

I'm sure you will agree from the pictures, it looks amazing! The painted pictures, alphabet and numbers on the walls provide a great instant learning resource for the children

and staff. And we are pleased to say all classrooms now look like this.



All the recent upgrading, maintenance and facelift the school has received has completely modernised the School making it an amazing learning environment for all who attend or work there.



Another exciting yearly event in the School calendar, is Commonwealth Day celebrations. This year's event took place on 12 March and we are proud to announce that that all Children and Staff attended and took part in a range of activities. As you can see from the picture on the left, part of the day is a 'Parade of Schools' and in the picture is Amy Colley (Nurs 3) looking very smart in her uniform carrying the School banner with her friends.

Another activity included one of COGS pupils being the 'Minster of Justice' at the event. You never

know, maybe Musa Njie (Nurs 3) will be inspired to become a member of the 'cabinet' in the future!



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS MADE THIS POSSIBLE

A very **big shout out and thank you** needs to go out to **Adrian and all his friends and fellow pupils at Knole Academy** who generously raised and donated an amazing £800. This incredible amount, enabled us to complete the building and maintenance works undertaken at the School, fund the final years training for Adama our Pre-Nursery Teacher as well as supply a bag of rice towards lunch for all.

Thanks to the **Worsley Family** for their kind donation which their sons raised at school from a cake sale! This has enabled us to completely tile one of our classroom floors which helps preserve the floor and make it safe for children to work and play. It is now our aim now to get the other three classroom floors tiled.

Following a very large shipment of resources which included tables, nursery resources, clothes and computers. We would like to **thank Jenny and Mike Woodhouse** for the amazing nursery equipment and tables, the children are going to be delighted with their new toys and equipment.



In addition, a **big shout out** to **Runway**

Training who donated laptops which will be used by the children in Nursery 3.

Bethany School

raised and donated £600.00 through

various fundraising events. And this enabled us to purchase Mosquito nets to all the children and staff at the School. As you can see from the picture on the right, Simon our Head Teacher is helping hand them out. You can see from their smiling faces they were happy to receive them, so **thank you**. The great news is that they are big enough to enable several children in one family to sleep under them. Look what £6.00 can buy and how something as simple as a mosquito net can prevent Malaria and save lives!



Tina and her team who visited Gambia in February and COGs are very fortunate to be one of their chosen projects they support. **Big thanks** to them for as well as providing the school with valuable resources, they have also kindly paid for Nursery 3's outing in the summer. Photos and an update about this will follow in our next newsletter.

Over the recent months we would like to **thank everyone** who has kindly donated milk bottle tops which we have made into alphabets and numbers for the children to use when they are developing their numeracy and literacy skills. We are still collecting these and donating them to other schools that we support. As well as our continued **love and thanks** to our 'army of knitters' including **Sarah, Betty, Caz, Pauline, Sally and Vi.**



Our final piece of extremely exciting news is the forthcoming launch of our 21st century website which will feature the latest news and updates as well as ways to support, help and donate. Together with our timeline of events and fundraising activities. Watch this space for further details!

Love Nina & Toni

Wanted Volunteers

*Volunteers required to help support car duties at Penshurst Place for their Weald of Kent Craft Fayre on 5- 7 May 2018
You donate your time and the charity get a donation. Contact Nina or Toni at chair@coqsgambia.org for more details.*

Also needed

Donations of children's toothpaste, brushes and soaps for hygiene bags.