

# COGS Summer 2021 Newsletter

COGS Summer newsletter.... at the time of writing this, the sun is shining, but how long for is the big question. I do hope that it will not be too long before the sun returns, and we can finally say 'summer has arrived'.

Over the last year we have all experienced many challenges, had to make adaptations to working practices, been unable to visit and see family and friends and juggled home schooling with all other aspects of family life. Just like us here in the UK, our team in Gambia have also faced a range of different challenges.

After 11 years the water supply to the school and local community stopped working. Upon further investigation it transpired the water pump was completely embedded in the hole meaning it was unable to pump the water which left only one option.... a new borehole was needed.

Thankfully, due to all the amazing orders and donations **COGS** received for the face masks it enabled us to use the £1,500 raised to replace the borehole.

Of course, it is impossible to manage without an efficient water supply but our amazing maintenance team in Gambia which is led by Sam Sanyang were mobilised into action and the borehole was replaced. Our thanks go to Sam and the team in Gambia for their quick response.



Like here, we continued to ensure all new Covid-19 protocols that have been introduced in response to the pandemic have continued at the nursery school. This includes social distancing, with washing and sanitising hands on a regular basis. Simon has informed me that the children have adapted to the 'new normal' well, and the processes implemented now are just second nature to them, which is great to hear.

Sadly, we said goodbye to our Pre-Nursery Teacher Adama who has decided to move onto pastures new taking on a new teaching role at a Lower Basic School. We are in the process of recruiting a teacher to continue the good work that Adama has done. When Adama came to us she wanted to be a teacher but did not have the formal teaching qualification. At **COGS** we are keen to support enthusiastic and dedicated individuals. We supported and paid for Adama to undertake her three years teacher training. By studying this it allowed her to gain her Early Childhood Development qualification. We wish Adama all the best in her new role and thank her for her contribution to **COGS** Nursery School over the 5 years she was employed at the nursery school.



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The garden area has continued to thrive with the children actively involved in this.



I am delighted to say that it is part of the school curriculum. Simon has just sent the following message to me to pass onto all sponsors, supporters, and trustees. ...



***We are still working on the school garden, and we have very good produce. It is good for the children to know how to grow the vegetables and then for them to eat what they have grown. It is an important subject on our***

***curriculum, as it is a practical subject but does have theory on how plants grow. We teach the children about how the seeds germinate and become useful crops and the importance that they need sun, water, and care to grow and then the children can eat what has grown.***



***The new garden tools including forks, rakes hose and watering can have been a great help. We will need seeds in July so we can plant before the rainy season. The banana trees are doing well. Thank you to everyone who makes this possible at COGS Nursery School.***



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I am delighted to be able to share the most amazing news... the power supply to the school and staff accommodation is nearly complete. All rooms have been re-wired with new lights, ceiling fans and power sockets. This is going to make a big difference to the school. The aim over the next year is to have a computer facility in each classroom allowing each child to have dedicated computer time. Raymond who is our Deputy Headteacher will also take on the role of Computer Maintenance. Raymond has completed a Software and Maintenance Qualification in ICT which is going to be very beneficial to **COGS** Nursery.



The children are enjoying their creative lessons which include, drawing, painting, hand printing and gluing.



Maybe you can help by donating resources for the children's creative lessons. Being creative allows the children to express their feelings in a non-threatening way. As we all know creativity can be expressed in different ways not only through art but also through music, movement, and dance. Look at the amazing work of Banksy.... Maybe we have the next Banksy attending **COGS** Nursery School.



Can you take any more exciting news????? Well... anyway. As you know we have been building a Medical/Birthing Facility for the community of much longer than we had planned. However, as come to those who wait. Finally, we are at the home straight. I am delighted to tell you the complete. Once the floor has been tiled this just and out to paint. Over the last 18 months our **Coordinator Sam Sanyang** has been tasked with In true Sam style, he took the task in hand. After a which included not being able to get building cement due to the worldwide pandemic, the complete.



**SAM SANYANG**

I am going to tell you much needed Jabang. This has taken they say, the best things point of being on the facility is nearly leaves the walls inside Maintenance the coordination of this. few technical hitches materials including facility it is so nearly

We know that the community will be delighted with their new facility which will be equipped with a range of items Medical/Birthing items including bed, cots, baby scales, stethoscope and other items that are required in this type of facility. **COGS UK** would like to thank **COGS Australia** for the fundraising completed enabling this facility not only to be available for the community of Jabang but for the neighbouring villages.



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## The Board of Trustees have asked me to take this opportunity of saying a few Thank You's.

Firstly, to you our supporters and sponsors who, despite all we have been contending with over the last 18 months have continued to standby **COGS**. Your continued support of sponsoring and donations has been amazing. Without your amazing support, we would have found it extremely difficult over this time to have sustained the project. As you know, we have not been able to do any face-to-face fundraising which has had a massive impact on **COGS** income. We are hopeful before the end of the year to have attended face to face fundraising.... Watch this for dates of future events.

Secondly, I would like to thank the **Team in Gambia** for working together over the last year enabling the school to provide quality education for the children who are attending. The nursery was closed for 7 months, during this time the children did not receive any form of education. When school reopened in October, the team have ensured the children and themselves stayed safe and have provided a full curriculum for all. They have worked hard to develop the garden and reap what they have sown.

To enable the children to catch up on some of the schooling they have missed, the Ministry of Education have confirmed schools are to stay open until 13<sup>th</sup> August and will not be closing now which is what they would normal have done.

Sadly, due to the pandemic the decision has been made to postpone the summer outing for the children again this year. However, rest assured they will not miss out on this. The children who graduated both last year and this year to the Lower Basic school will be invited to attend an outing when the pandemic situation has improved, and it is safer for them to visit the attraction they choose to go to as well as having their annual visit to the beach.

## HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED, HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT COGS AND SHOW AT THE SAME TIME, JUST READ A LITTLE BIT FURTHER.....

**Do you enjoy shopping???** particularly online shopping. As we all know over the last year, online shopping has increased in popularity for many reasons which may including:

Does not involve wandering around the shops that are crowded, trying to stay a safe distance from the next person, wearing a mask which can often be uncomfortable and cause major steaming up issues for people who wear glasses.

Here is your answer..... visit [www.easypfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easypfundraising.org.uk) or download the App, set up an account and nominate **Children of Gambia Services** as your chosen charity. Every time you visit a shop and there are over 3,000 shops to visit, you make a purchase a % of your purchase is paid to **COGS**.



In addition, if you currently shop on Amazon by simply switching to [www.smileamazon.co.uk](http://www.smileamazon.co.uk) and registering on this platform you can nominate **Children of Gambia Services Tuti Nursery Medical Centre** as your chosen charity. Every single you purchase you make, no matter how small will benefit **COGS**. Again a % of the money spent is donated to **COGS**. I am delighted to say that in the last 6 months COGS has received over £100 in donations. This has been achieved by a simple "click" and choosing **COGS** as your Number 1 Charity to support. Now how easy is that, why not start shopping early for Christmas to stop the last-minute c panic and rushing.

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