



# Newsletter

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# PHASE TWO COMPLETED!

## EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STOREY

The two new classrooms for the Primary school have created the first two storey building in the village and for the builders, carpenters and welders this project went way beyond their previous experience. The recent introduction of electricity to the village meant it was the first time they had used an electric drill too...



...and possibly the last!

Roofer gets a high



What Risk Assessment?



Minimalist scaffolding



Precision cupboards



After a long five weeks of negotiations and hard work, Mr. Dumbier, the builder, Kebba, the masoner and Tony are pleased with the finished building. It was opened 8 weeks after school started but the excitement of moving into such lovely spacious and airy classrooms blew all memories of delay behind. The whole village can see the building from all around and the Farato people are thrilled and proud to have such a building in their midst.



Ansumana, the acting head



Each pupil now has their own set of text books, a rubber and pencils which means they can learn independently and join in fully with the lessons.

## WONKY DONKEY

The railings arrive.....



....But how to fix them?



Never having built stairs before, it took the welder and the masoner three attempts to get it right



Jorjor and a group of her Grade 1 pupils stand proudly in front of their new school.

## WORKSHOPS GALORE

We held 4 weekend workshops this time: the 1<sup>st</sup> for our own staff; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> for a group of 30 teachers from nursery schools new to the scheme and the 3<sup>rd</sup> for teachers who have attended previous workshops.

The activities are practical and we pursue themes such as Water, Animals from Around the World and Minibeasts. These teachers found a rich variety of creepy crawlies and huge jumping insects!



Very few teachers had done a jigsaw before and a lot of time was spent pouring over books and finding new information



An important part of the workshops is lunch



GAMBLE has designed a 5-year programme of workshops for nursery teachers called GLINTT (Gamble: Leaders In Nursery Teacher Training) and is applying to the Big Lottery for funding. If successful the training will equip Gambians to run their own training in the future.

## HAYESBROOK COME TO TOWN

The pupils, parents and teachers thronged the highway to welcome 9 students and their teachers from Hayesbrook School, Tonbridge, Kent to Farato.



The students stayed for one week and achieved a great deal in that time: a Hayesbrook garden, painting murals and some very successful teaching. The grand finale was an exhilarating football match against the local football team and a riotous sports day. The people of Farato feel very flattered that youngsters want to give up their time to work in their village.



## CRAFT STALL

To book this exotic stall at a function ring Pauline 01622 812296

## FUNDING APPEAL

We still need £22,000.00 to complete the Primary School.

**SPONSORS**—please help by giving regularly. An average salary for a teacher is £10 a week, so a donation of just £5 a month would help a great deal. The more sponsors we have the more security and career opportunities we can offer our loyal staff.

## FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May 17 **Shoreham Singers in Yalding**  
 June (tbc) **Annual BBQ in Yalding**  
 July (tbc) **1st BBQ in Harrietsham**  
 Sept 27 **African drumming evening**

## BRENDA BRINGS FUNNY FONICS

Brenda, a teacher from Boughton Monchelsea, worked in the school for two weeks. Her school in UK had raised enough money to buy text books for the pupils. Gambia is just beginning to introduce the phonic approach to reading so Brenda's books and some brainstorming with Karen resulted in the Gambian Jolly Phonics scheme.



## STAFF NEWS

In September we welcomed Kemo Konteh to the Primary School as Grade 3 teacher. He is proving to be an



Kemo

excellent teacher (and footballer!). Sanna (Nursery 1) has started his training at the College and Abibatou (Nursery 4) is

hoping to come to Kent in April to gain experience in UK schools. Saffie retired as Head Teacher due to ill health and we wish her a speedy recovery. Ansumana has taken over as Acting Head until we have decided how the school is going to be managed in the future.

## APPEAL for materials

Tony and Karen will be returning to Farato on 12th March and staying at their home, *Tonka Kunda*, in the school for 5 1/2 weeks. Please contact us if you have access to:

Exercise books (lined, squared, plain)  
 Metal pencil sharpeners  
 Rubbers  
 Water and sand play toys  
 Science materials: magnets, mirrors

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