

Newsletter

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WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE!

£4000 was raised to put a safety lid on the well and insert a stainless steel pump, storage tank and tower. Bert Boxall oversaw the project. He and his wife Beryl stayed in Farato for their third visit. No longer do the caretaker or nursery mother have to haul buckets of water up from 21 metres to provide drinking water. Instead the water is pumped to washbasins, drinking taps and a garden tap. There is a 6th tap that



provides water for our neighbours in the village. Gambians spend half their daily lives fetching water and taps are scarce, so the installation is very welcome.

Yalding school now boasts the first taps in the village!

FIRST CLASS BUILDING



The first two classrooms are now complete and Grades 1 and 2 are settled in the beautiful airy rooms. Derek Hudson, from Yalding, designed the building and a small local firm built it. The aim is to ensure that children can continue a high standard of education at Yalding School, Farato through to 13 years, so we need four more classrooms (one more at ground level and the rest on the second storey. For this we need to raise a great deal of money and quickly, because we will need the third classroom before September 2007.

COLLEGE TUTORS' WORKSHOP

In November, GamBLE ran a second workshop for tutors and lecturers of the Education Department of the Gambian College. The subjects were Child Rights and Human Development and the aim was to provide practical ideas and discussion points that the tutors can pass on to their student teachers. Our close relationship with the College ensures progress in the provision of good teacher training.

TEACHERS' WORKSHOPS

In November we held our 5th weekend workshop for Yalding Farato teachers and their colleagues from surrounding



schools. The programme now involves 3 workshops a year at increasing levels of experience.



When a teacher completes Level 3, s/ he will be qualified to run similar workshops for Gambian teachers.

Our aim is that by 2013 all the courses will be led by Gambian teachers with GamBLE remaining solely as advisors. The Education Department of the Gambia College endorses this project.

UNIFORM ACROSS NATIONS

Thanks to donations we have equipped all the Primary girls with a second uniform. This year we will need more for Grade 3 and the younger, nursery pupils. So please keep scouting for schools with blue/white check dresses.



TONKA KUNDA*

Tony and Karen have made the decision to change their working lives in UK in order to spend at least three months a year in Farato. This decision will enable them to spend more time both in the UK and The Gambia to plan and action the projects of building the new Primary school, planning the infrastructure and running teacher training workshops with the Gambia College. To give them a permanent base, the Village Development Committee have given



them permission to build their own house in the garden of the school. Tony and Karen are not using GamBLE funds for this new home but it will be available for volunteers who visit the village and take part in the project. It will also be useful to the Head Teacher, Saffie, when she stays late for Board of Directors' meetings.

The des res is a modest bungalow with 2bds, lvg rm, verandah, outdoor kitchen and toilet/wet room. AC, electricity and swimming pool not an option but garden boasts bananas, mangoes, avocados and papayas in abundance.

*TON(y) KA(ren), KUNDA means "home of" in Mandinka.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!

Why not ask family and friends to give to GamBLE instead of you?!

GIFT VOUCHERS

What about giving your friends and relations a voucher to donate to GamBLE? Details on our website or telephone us.

CONTACT US

01622 814267 - gambleproject@aol.com - www.gam-ble.co.uk

NEW APPOINTMENTS

We are very proud of the fact that the staff turnover in the school has been nil.



However, Alieu – one of the two original teachers, has left to study as a primary teacher and he has been replaced

by Sannah, a keen but inexperienced young man who is quickly picking up the skills of working with Nursery 1.

The new Primary teacher, Jorju started work in December. Ansumana



has been promoted to Senior teacher for the Primary school and Abibatou will become Deputy Head of the Nursery school. There will



be regular changes in staffing as the school grows and, eventually, Saffie will retire in 2008. Despite the loyalty and hard work of the teachers we really want to raise their salaries to reflect the value of their work and to equate the jobs of teaching in the Nrsery and Primary schools.

To save our costs, please let us know your email address so that we can send you future issues electronically

HELP!

Sponsorship is the sole resource we have to pay the teachers' salaries. If we are to keep well-trained, competent and committed teachers we **MUST** pay a competitive rate. Some private schools offer much higher salaries than we can currently afford and there is a real danger that we are investing time and money in training only to lose the teachers. However much or little you can afford, regular sponsorship means we can offer increments and regular salary reviews and maintain a dedicated staff.

Fund-raising ideas and volunteers please come forward to help fill the huge coffers that will ensure the completion of the next two stages of the Primary building. Can you run a **coffee morning** or **lunch**? Raise sponsorship for a slim, marathon or daring feat? Please think hard.....!

CRAFT STALL

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



BOOK THESE DATES NOW!

7th July – Harrietsham

Medway Singers

14th July – Annual BBQ

VOLUNTEERS

who want to work on the project are always welcome. GamBLE cannot pay expenses but can guarantee a very real and worthwhile experience. Do ring us if you would like to know more.

COSTS

A basic teacher's salary - £40 pm
A set of text books for a child—£10
A pair of desks/chairs - £35
A teacher's desk—£60
A classroom cupboard—£75