NEWSLETTER

RUKUNGIRI ORPHAN PARTNERSHIP APRIL 2025



The Trustees, Alice & John, the staff and all the children at Rukungiri Modern Primary School would like to wish you a Happy Easter. Thank you for all your support. May God bless you and your families.

OUR VISIT TO UGANDA FEB/MAR 25

9 people including three under 21's from one of our supporting churches, St John's Welling, visited the school in February. The majority of the team spent three weeks with the children. Two Trustees stayed for a further 3 weeks auditing and doing admin. We managed to do a lot with donations given to us by the Church members of St John's. For the second year running, we had a huge party for the whole school. The children were treated to a feast - The starter was a yellow banana; 1st course - beef, matoke, rice, posho, greens, Irish potato, ground nut sauce and gravy. And for dessert - water melon and pineapple, washed down with a bottle of soda. A treat indeed; all prepared by the team and the P6 & P7 children who showed us the right way to peel the vegetables!

The school closed for the afternoon and we had a party with dancing and singing. The children and staff loved it. Other things the group did was teaching in both the primary and nursery school; decorating and painting the staff room in both schools with a wonderful mural and equipping them with new furniture ; buying 20 mattresses for nursery, a projector and two DVD players; repairing the broken window panes and putting curtains and clothes hooks in all the dormitories. The highlight was a 'movie night' with P7 , complete with popcorn and glow sticks. They had never seen glow sticks before and had great fun. We never really get a chance to spend time with them because they are always studying for their upcoming exams so it was a nice change. We also did some work in the vocational school Gables, where our plumber friend bought a sink and toilet to show the students how to install and uninstall them.

PLE RESULTS

The children from P7 last year did well in their national exams. 48 children achieved 1st Grade with 25 children achieving 2nd Grade. There were no 4 or 5 aggregates this time but the school were happy with the results. The marking scheme was reported as much harder this year.

CONTACT WITH THE CHILDREN

The children are desperate for their sponsors to write to them and preferably send a photo. If you feel you can't write a letter, then perhaps send a postcard. The address is Rukungiri Modern Primary School, PO Box 116, Rukungiri, Uganda

GIFTS TO CHILDREN

If you would like to make a gift to your sponsor child, you can do so by sending a donation to the charity bank account with the reference marked as your childs name. Notify us that you have done so and we will arrange for the bursar to take your child shopping.

SPONSORSHIP UPDATE & CHARITY NEWS

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Following our visit, the sponsorship waiting list has significantly grown again. We now have 72 children – 30 of whom are on the priority 1 list. Things are really difficult out there. The cost of living has increased drastically and less people can afford school fees. We reported last time that the teachers have not received a pay rise for many years and as a consequence, a number of them have left. We hoped to be able to increase our sponsorship to give them some support but this hasn't really happened. If you could publicise the charity amongst your friends, family, work colleagues, we would be grateful. The website is in the process of being updated so please point people towards it so they can see what we do. https://rop.uk.net/.

FYI, your sponsorship for your child goes towards the following:

- School fees – (including food and a very small percentage of the teachers salary)
- Uniform – once per year
- Personal Requirements (which include toilet paper and sugar)
- Stationary – Books, pens, etc.

If you need any leaflets to share, please contact the charity email address.

OTHER CHARITY NEWS

We have received a number of donations from individuals and churches in 24/25 towards projects.

- St Edmunds Crickhowell donated £1100
- An individual donor donated £1000
- A sponsor donated £1270 towards the repair of the computers which were damaged when there was a power surge
- GOS engineering donated £500
- Retford Grove Methodist Church made a donation from a coffee morning
- Beccles Harvest Appeal – £2582
- St John's Welling – single donor £625 (towards the party)

To date we have used the donations to:

- Buy English Text Books for all the upper school classes and story books for the lower classes
- Contributed towards the staff room furniture in both schools
- Paid for a new clean drinking water system to be installed and repair of the existing pump to ensure there is always water in school.

Thank you to all who have kindly donated towards these projects.

NEW/ONGOING PROJECTS

The toilet project is virtually complete and should be up and running after the Easter holidays. There were a lot of delays but the project is now the school's first attempt at an Eco project with a bio digester for waste products. This is fully funded.

Construction of a high chain link fence is required both around the school and the nursery. There is a fence in part but it is broken in many places. There have been some incidents with people trying to get in so this is a priority for protection of the children. The quotes have come in around 40 million shillings i.e. approximately £9000 which we will need to raise the money for. We already have £1100 towards this.

The school are paying a lot of money for electricity at the moment and whilst they have a generator, there is ongoing costs for refuelling and wear and tear. The power often goes off. They are looking to install solar across the school. The cost is 20.2 million shillings which is approximately £4500.

The school are extremely proud of their school band although the instruments are third hand and getting very old. We have been fortunate that a musical advisor from one of the London Boroughs is trying to source used instruments to send to the school. Please pray that this can happen which will save us trying to raise £3500 to replace them.

We wrote to you last year with the sponsor letters to say that the sponsor fees for a child was unfortunately going up to £22 from 1st January 2025 for existing sponsors and £25 for any new sponsors. Thank you to those who have put them up but there has been some confusion. The charity does not have the facility for Direct Debits. Most payments are paid by standing order so it is the responsibility of the payer to increase them with their bank. We apologise for any confusion and ask that you increase them accordingly. If this is an issue, please contact the Treasurer at Rukungiriorphanpartnership397@gmail.com.

PHOTOGRAPHS



TEAM OF 2025 ST JOHN'S WELLING



FOOD PREPARATION FOR PARTY



STAFF ROOM - DECORATED AND NEW FURNITURE



NEW RECEPTION DESK AND SIGNAGE

PHOTOGRAPHS



PURIFIED DRINKING WATER FROM THE TAP



P6 ENGLISH LESSON



SCHOOL ASSEMBLY



SCHOOL BAND

With heartfelt thanks from the Trustees
Steve Read - Chair/Governance, Roger Farnworth - Secretary,
Sue Read - Treasurer/Sponsorship Secretary, Judy Cave - Vice Chair,
Sue Letson - (retiring at April 25 AGM with our grateful thanks for her long service),
Teresha Young - Trustee, Dan Watson - Trustee