

CHink Newsletter 2017

January 2017 CHink Academy, Kenya

This visit to Kenya will be very busy as the schools in Kenya broke up at the end of October, due to the New Government Exams Ruling. So what should have been organised in November had to be scheduled for this trip. The first item on the agenda was the children's party, this had to coincide with Ingrid, the Belgium lady who also funds the Party, and was held on Friday 3rd February. The food, Disco and entertainment was the best party that we have ever had and was held in the dining area and the new playground. The previous parties were held on the roof of the first school building, this was a big problem as the children kept running up and down the stairs, plus there was no shade from the blazing sun.



The school outings were organised for Standard 1-6, Std 5 & 6 had the pleasure of visiting Mr Berry, the bubble-gum and lolly-pop factory. The children loved the experience of the trip, and they all ended up with pockets full of pink gum and lollies, lovely.

Std 1 & 2 had the thrill of the Glass-bottom boat onto the coral reef, they all had a great time searching for different kinds of sea creatures and splashing about in the water.



Std 3 & 4 travelled into Mombasa to the old railway station where the children went back in time to the 1960's when Kenya gained its independence from the British. On the return to

school the bus stopped at Buxton Junction on the main Mombasa – Malindi Highway to see how the traffic lights work, which is not very often. This was very interesting as there are only 2 sets of traffic lights in Mombasa. Taking the children on these educational gives then a good insight to how the country is progressing and how things work.

The school building is complete, the electric fence is up and working. Solar Panels are being installed on the roof and at a later date there will be wind turbines to generate the electricity at night for the electric fence. The Kenya power suppliers are not reliable, as the electricity can be off all day causing problems with the borehole water pump supplying water to the toilets.

There was a new intake of pupils to the school and all the children were vetted on their circumstances to qualify for a place at **CHink Academy**. The charity caters for the very poor, orphaned, unwanted children into in academy. There are house checks made to see what conditions the children live in, who they live with (parent, grandparent or guardian) the conditions within the house and the health and hygiene of the child. These house checks can take several hours to complete as the children live in the surrounding areas which are inaccessible to vehicles, so it's a long trek through the bush on foot in 30 degree heat. It is more and more difficult in getting these children sponsored, if anyone, club, school or organisation is interested in supporting a child through **CHink Academy**, please contact Georgina on 01777 871320 or Mobile 07762245523. Sponsorship includes the education, 2 meals per day whilst at school, school uniform, all stationary needed, medical care and annual outings. During holiday periods there is a feeding programme supported by the Retford Lions and Francis Soubry, so all children who attend **CHink Academy** can have a decent meal once a week.

As with all the visits to Kenya, there has to be a Staff meeting to update each other on the progress of the school and any problems that have or may occur. Normally all is satisfactory.



The purchase of a minibus for the school, to help with cutting the cost of hiring vehicles for school trips and deliveries of food and stationary was on the agenda together with a scanner/printer for the office.

As for the security with the electric fence and razor wire, the contract was finally finished in July 2017. The problem was blamed on the rainy season and the hot sun. The school is now secure and at night there is a Pinkerton Security Guard.



For the children's activity time during breaks, Volley Ball, Basketball /Netball posts were very much a bit hit with children and the teachers. But, as the heat and the sun were so intense on the play area, that a canopy was erected for shade. This has also made a big extension to the dining area, so the children are not cramped together and can also be used for functions such as Presentation Day and the Annual Christmas Party.



Presentation Day

The best turn out of parents ever

In September, the area outside the kindergarten classrooms was cleaned of all rubble, a good screen of sand applied before the "Astro Turf, or "grass carpet was laid. The children enjoyed playing on the new carpet and also doing some activities without them getting dirty. This was a lovely donation by a hotel guest who visited the school whilst on holiday. The hotel guest, who wants to remain anonymous, is doing a fund raising activity for play equipment for the small children in the KG classes.



At the end of the year we have the usual Presentation Day where the children get rewarded for doing so well with their education, this encourages all the pupils to show their appreciation to their sponsors. There are awards for the top 3 pupils in each class, the most improved, the cleanest, the best sportsperson and the best pupil in the sewing class. A big thank you to Retford Oaks Academy for donating the medals

In January saw the sponsoring of a School Manageress who will control everything within the school so as to make the school run more efficiently. Since January there has been many changes with the controlling of all the school equipment and stationary. Dealing with any staff and children's problems. Dealing with any parental issues. Keeping with up to date activities with the Private Schools Association and the Government curriculum by attending all the educational meetings. The children who attended Karibuni School, are being helped through their Secondary Education by the Charity, as they have been with us right from the start and are doing very well. Some of the children are at boarding school, but still find time to return to CHink Academy when trustees are in Kenya

