



# GETS News!

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Issue 28

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## Trustees Report by Dawn and Paul

At last we were able to get the results of the National Assessment Exams taken by Grade 3 in June. 88% of the class achieved the pass mark of 40% or above and both the teachers and the cluster monitor were surprised and pleased with the very high marks achieved by many of our pupils.

Two third year students from Gambia Teacher Training College are with us this year on their final teaching practice, teaching Sewing and French.

We were at Sunrise just before the start of the school year as this is always a very busy time with externally sponsored students coming in to collect cheques for their school fees and new students registering at Sunrise. We had far more applications for places than places available as we limit class sizes in the primary school to no more than 30, so it was a case of first come, first served. It was pleasing to see that the community recognised the quality of the education provided at Sunrise. This was during the rainy season and we had thunderstorms and rain everyday of the four weeks we were there!



*Heavy rain at the start of term brings mud into school and makes travelling harder!*

We are back in Sunrise again now after Christmas and our Grade 2 teacher, Fatoumata Darboe, is back with us after spending last term at Gambia College as part of the in-service course for the Primary Teaching Certificate. Our Grade 3 teacher, Fatou Cham, who is in the second year of the PTC course has just had an excellent assessment from the College of her classroom teaching skills. It is great being back at Sunrise amongst all the happy smiling faces of both teachers and pupils!



## Christmas Cards 2015

Fresh on the back of our great NAT results, Tony asked our new Lower Basic teacher to work with the successful Grade 4 to produce a Christmas card to send to supporters this year. Mr Saidy, pictured (below) with his class, worked hard to encourage the colourful creations - though scenes of snow and reindeer were lacking.

The winning entry from Nasarata Sanyang, aged 11 was used to create our card.



Nasarata can speak Spanish, and very kindly helped Tony translate from English for the benefit of a recent Spanish-speaking visitor. Nasarata is the tallest pupil in the Lower Basic school and she helped to set the height of the new playground climbing frames too!

To see more creative entries, visit our [Blog](#)



# Working with NTA (now called NAQAA)



Sunrise has a legal obligation to meet the standards required of all the skills centres in The Gambia, set by the National Training Authority (NTA). GETS welcomes this requirement to improve the standards of our facilities and of our teaching.

As part of this work, Sunrise has had to undergo a public health inspection in the food production areas. This raised a new requirement to enclose the Bantaba area, where students prepare dishes, prior to cooking.

The wildlife and some of the sand is now kept at bay by adding a new false ceiling as well as the addition of doors and windows. New sinks capped off this requirement and inspectors were then happy to approve our facilities.

Tourists are often surprised by how clean the insides of buildings are, given all the sand and dirt in the environment but the picture (right) shows the secret. Everyone slips off their shoes before entering!



## Building Works! We've made good progress completing our new classes.

The smallest children are now in our reception (or Nursery 1 class). They are here with their new teacher, Mrs Jawara. We also have a new Nursery classroom assistant, Yassin Jammeh, who came to us after graduation from last years Sunrise Skills 3 class.



All 90 Nursery children, with teaching staff are pictured (left) outside their new block.

The new drinking fountain is operational and teachers have been trained on its use!

Mr Bah's classroom is complete, or very nearly. He has found it a little hotter than his previous classroom due to the orientation and we're looking into that now.

There is still a little to do to complete the playground but the children are trying things out already, as you'd expect. We've had a few cuts and bruises as they push the boundaries and we realise that we need a bit more staff supervision here!

## Mufti Day

Last term we celebrated our annual Mufti Day.

The children paid a small fee to come without uniform, just D5 or 7p. The day began with Mrs Sally Cessay (N2 Teacher) drumming with an oil drum to allow the staff and children to dance, in turn.

The venue was the school sports area, ringed with children. Staff, like Mbacho Jallow, encouraged the children to entertain, whilst the others clapped out a rhythm, allowing dancing Jola style (with much stamping of feet).



*Nursery children enjoy the see-saw and 'monkey bars'.*



# Staff Matters...



We were sorry to announce that our Principal, Madam Kaddy Fofana, left us, right at the start of the new term this year. This led to a lot of activity trying to recruit someone new to fill her shoes but I'm delighted to say that we have found a worthy successor.

He is called Mr Alkali Cham. He has worked in the education sector as a teacher for some time now and came to us from a local private school, where he was deputy-head. Mr Cham lives near the Turntable (in Brufut) and helps with youth work. He is pictured here showing the Nursery assembly a new song about donkeys, with help from Mbacho Jallow.



*Mr Cham and N1*

Our employee list now adds up to 27 and this gives us quite a bit of work on the HR side, plus management, recruitment, payment etc. Helen helps us with a lot of professional input to this but we're keen that the centre runs with Gambians in control as much as possible.

We really value our team who work very hard helping us deliver education in a poor area.

Most of the teaching, cooking and admin staff are pictured (left), including some of our 7 new members who started within the last 12 months. Very exciting for all of us!

The lady in the middle wearing an orange head-scarf is Fatou Bojang. Fatou is teaching Sewing in Skills Training as part of the final year work placement from her Gambia College HTC course. She is regularly observed by tutors and getting good feedback on progress.



## Beginning to teach French

We are pleased to welcome another new teacher and a new subject to the Sunrise Centre, Mariama Jarju. Mariama speaks French as pretty much her first language, after the local languages of course. She is training with Gambia College on a Higher Teaching Certificate (HTC) and working with us as a work placement teacher. The Education Ministry are asking all schools to start teaching French and we are lucky to have Mariama.

For Mariama, English is quite a new language and she is challenged to work in our environment since we're not too good at French. Everyone is learning!



*Mariama Jarju*

## Continuing to Run GETS

It was great to come together with some of our supporters for our AGM, this year in Banbury, Oxfordshire. Thanks go to Ina Bakker for making the day possible and all the Trustees and other helpers. We discussed lots of things including our future plans, many now a reality, holiday plans and how well the charity is doing generally, thanks to its generous supporters.



# Our Newest Trustee . . .

A key feature of ensuring that this great work continues is to welcome new people to the Trustee team. We're delighted that Barry Young, who has supported us for many years, has agreed to become a Trustee and do a little more.

Barry brings a new range of skills to the group from his previous lives, running a Ugandan Charity and also from the insurance industry.

Barry is pictured here, in deep concentration, explaining a letter to Ousman Cham from his sponsor, Ann Eden, a good friend of Barry and his wife Barbara.



**Barry  
and  
Ousman**

## Students Seeking Sponsorship



**Igeoma Nwagbaraocha**

**Nursery 3**

**D.O.B. 21.05.2010**

Igeoma and her younger sister are both in the nursery at Sunrise They live with their parents at their aunt's compound in Sukuta.

Would you like to help our students even more directly? The students on this page have been means tested and are unable to afford any contribution towards school fees, meaning they are at risk of dropping out of education.

It costs just £10 a month to sponsor a student and support them through school. With this programme, you will be their sole sponsor.



**Bubacarr Wally Jeng**  
**Lower Basic Grade 3**

**D.O.B. 23.09.2006**

Bubacarr Wally's father supports seven children. He was a civil servant but is currently a mature student at Gambia University.



**Aji Sohna Mboob**

**Lower Basic Grade 2**

**D.O.B. 28.09.2007**

Her mother is a widow and looks after three other dependents in addition to her own five children, who all go to school. She values education highly but she is struggling to get the money needed for their school fees.

**Abdoulie Jallow**  
**Lower Basic Grade 3**

**D.O.B 01.03.07**

Abdoulie's mother died last year after a long illness so he and his brother are cared for by their grandmother.



If you would like to offer to sponsor any of these children please click here to see more information on our website: [SPONSORSHIP](#)

*Thank you.*



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