



GETS News!

June 2018

Issue 34



Keeping Sunrise Running

A big part of our work at GETS now is keeping our school in good condition, now that the building is almost completed. This year we have painted the whole of the outside and also the sports floor, Skills Training and Lower Basic classrooms. Apart from lots of patch painting by Steve Humphries, the last time we painted large areas was 7 years ago now so things have lasted very well, all things considered.

We are also improving things by laying the remainder of small oyster shells in our entrance way. This really helps in the rainy season, keeping the mud out of school but the surface is very expensive.



A big challenge is keeping our stock of Sewing Machines going in Skills. We have 13 Treadle machines left now but one is considered beyond repair.

Our expert sewing machine technician often fixes them as he sews but the students can't do this! ***We need new ones . . . with your help please.*** Some are more than 8 years old and are Chinese copies of an original UK make – Singer. These are named "Butterfly". **The best ones available are only £100 each!**

Failing Sewing Machines – Often held together with string!



AGM 2018 – In Lichfield again – Saturday 1 Sep

To all of our friends, old and new, please consider joining us for our annual general meeting on Saturday 1st September. Our venue this year is **Martin Heath Hall, Christchurch Lane, Lichfield (WS13 8AY).**

Lunch is provided, free, at 12pm and the meeting starts around 1pm.

It's a great chance to meet the trustees, other supporters and get a round up of the year's events. It also give you a great opportunity to ask questions and have a say in how we spend your donations.

Please drop a note if you can come to our secretary, Sue: nelsonsue4@googlemail.com

Great Results again – Thanks to all our Staff

When we test the children each year I think I can hear many holding their breath as results emerge but we needn't have worried. Results are better than ever. (NAT – National Assessment Tests)

End of Term 2 Lower Basic School 178 Pupils

English	94%
Maths	88%
Integrated Studies	89%

NAT LB5 Mock Exam 30 Pupils

English	97%
Maths	90%
Integrated Studies	97%
Science	87%

Why do we run a Skills Training Centre?



Fatou Ceesay working in Marouns Bakery

Keeping our Skills Centre running is quite a challenge but it is the right thing to do. This is confirmed by the feedback we get every year from employers on the quality of our students that go for work placements.

One such student is Fatou Ceesay (from Year 3) who went to work for Marouns Bakery from January until April this year.

Fatou really enjoyed her time there and learnt a lot, coming back to school with certificate of appreciation from the Executive Chef.



When we asked the returning students if they had a promise of a job after they have graduated from Sunrise, more than 70% confirmed that they had. This is a great reward for everyone's effort. Although some of these offers may fall through for business reasons, it does show that our students have the character, discipline and ability to learn required by local employers.

In fact several students are already working in the afternoons when school is closed.

Finding jobs in Gambia is not easy but we continue to help with Skills!

Training Staff at Sunrise



We have been sending staff to teacher training courses at Gambia College for many years now., so that all of our teachers are now either trained or completing the courses to become fully trained to the level at which they teach. Our Teachers have attended either courses in Early Childhood Development (ECD) for Nursery or Primary Teachers Certificate (PTC). Our Cookery Teacher (Alimatou Jammeh) is completing at "Hotel School" too.

A number of our Classroom Assistants are also training on teacher training courses. Generally we have sponsored all of these courses and allowed time to go to college. Courses were part-time, mainly in holidays previously.

From the start of 2017/18 academic year however, new students to Gambia College have to attend Full time for 2 years to complete the Teacher Training PTC course. One of our Classroom Assistants (Yassin Jammeh) has started this course so we effectively lost her support in our LB classes but she is now back with us to observe and practice her teaching skills in Term 3 work-placement. The picture shows Yassin watching the Teacher, Mrs Darboe, intently as she does a lesson on soil types as part of her LB2 class.

Yassin went on to do a Maths Lesson with the class, supported by Mrs Darboe. Something Yassin really enjoyed.

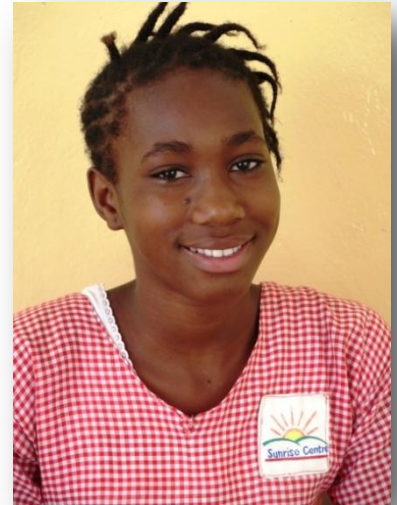
8 Teachers/Assistants Trained with support from GETS

Story – The Greedy Man by Isatou A Jallow LB6

Once upon a time there was a man named Anase. Anase wanted to be the only wise man in the world so he set out one day to search for wisdom. He travelled from place to place collecting any wisdom he found. He put it all in a pot and covered it firmly. At last when his pot was full, Anase set off for home carrying his pot of wisdom.

Soon Anase came across a huge tree across his path. He saw that he could not climb over it, neither could he creep under it while he was still carrying the pot. A hunter who was watching from the bush came out and advised him to set the pot down on the trunk, then he should creep under the tree and reach for the pot from the other side.

Anase saw how foolish he had been, he who was carrying all the wisdom of the whole world. He hit the pot hard on the ground and the wisdom in it flew to every part of the world.



Isatou is sponsored by a GETS supporter and she lodges with Mrs Cham (LB4 Teacher). She is very capable and writes and reads very well as this short story testifies. Isatou hopes to carry on her schooling by attending a nearby Upper Basic School after her Graduation from LB6 in late June. **We all wish Isatou well.**



Binta Jammeh - DVD/TV Teaching Nursery 3

From a new member of Staff

My name is Miss Binta Jammeh, I am Gambia and I am 23 years old. I live in Tallinding (near Serekunda) and I am a Grade 12 Graduate.

I started working at Sunrise at the Nursery section as a Classroom Assistant on 16th Oct 2016. When I started it was not that easy for me because with subjects Phonics and Knowledge & Understanding, I didn't have much knowledge.

As time went on, I learnt a lot of things about all the subjects from my able seniors, more especially Mrs Sanneh, who has opened up her heart for me, sharing or teaching me all what I need to know to help me teach the children in a better way.

In those early days, I didn't feel comfortable for my senior to absent because I don't know enough about how to control and teach the children but now I can teach the class without having a problem.

I thank the administration for giving me this chance to be an assistant teacher here at the Sunrise Centre.

Helping Spread the word with Facebook

As Sunrise continues to thrive we need to keep working hard to raise funds to help with maintaining everything and of course paying our 32 staff. This is not an easy thing to keep doing but the local community continue to need our help.

Raising the profile of our work (spreading the word) is all about communicating to a wider audience and I'm delighted that Christopher Hill has offered to help publish words and pictures onto our Facebook page so that more people can follow what we are doing. Working hard to help Bakoteh families every day.



Chris already has many years helping GETS

If you think that you could help us by sponsorship or fundraising go to www.getsuk.org