



GETS News!

November 2018

Issue 35



Sunrise places in demand

We are getting used to always having full entry classes, at the beginning of each year, with waiting lists too. Of course some children and students drop out during the year so some places are available further down the school.

Our challenge at this time is to get the children and students to pose for class pictures. We managed to get the majority of the 32 staff to come together for a picture too.



From our AGM in Lichfield



Our formal AGM was organised by Chris and Steve Humphries in Lichfield and we caught those that could attend in a picture.

It was lovely to see everyone but especially Julie Limbrick, one of the founding Trustees who worked in those early days to make GETS a success story.



We were sad to say goodbye to Barry Young who resigned as a Trustee this year. We are happy however that Barry and his wife Barbara, continue to support us with our work by sponsoring Sunrise students. Tony presented Barry with a card and gift to say thank you for his support as a Trustee.

Thank you for answering our call for help!

We talked in our weekly blog and also in a previous Newsletter about the need to replace many of our sewing machines and how expensive this would be. We thought it might take some time to raise the funds for this but we were really pleased by offers to help us.

Joyce Turner has raised a magnificent sum from a coffee morning that she ran with ladies from her church, this will cover the cost of 4 machines. Thank you so much to Joyce and her friends. Rudy and Yolanda Nachtegaal from Holland, who have supported us in lots of ways, are also currently fund-raising to help pay for more of these machines.

We have already purchased 7 sewing machine heads to replace the very worst of our inventory. We now have just one machine to repair to have our all of machines working again.

Our next target is to get to 20 working machines so we now need 7 more new machines, complete with tables. This will allow us to split our skills training class so that 20 students sew and 20 students cook at any one time.



Fatou Nyassi (Classroom Assistant) helping with the new Butterfly sewing machines

NAT Results LB Grade 5 – overall pass rate >90%

Our boys and girls in Lower Basic Grade 5 achieved excellent scores in their National test paper, externally marked within The Gambia. This is an excellent result for pupils and staff, particularly Mr Saidy (LB G5 Teacher). Interestingly, performance in the science area was the poorest. We didn't expect this because children had performed well in the mock exam and it is Mr Saidy's favourite area to teach.

Coming to see us in Sunrise



Annette Taylor bought us gifts of clocks, wool, pencils, pens, pads and many other items of stationery/resources from Acocks Green Primary School in Birmingham, UK. She is seen here presenting the gifts to Mr Cham, Education Director.

Annette also gave us cash from a friend who had asked her to donate it.
Thanks for Everything!



We were delighted to show 4 new supporters around at Sunrise from the UK. Pictured, right amongst the Lower Basic students and Mr Saidy are (L to R) Jacqui, Carol, Annette and Maxine in the playground.

Facebook – See us there too!

Did you know that we have a Facebook page? If you are on Facebook you can find us by searching for Gambia Education and Teaching Support. Our profile picture is just our lovely green logo and our current banner picture features some of our youngest pupils.



The page is maintained by one of our wonderful supporters, Christopher Hill, and we are very grateful to him for doing this important task. We would love to see more of you commenting on our posts, so please 'Like' us and 'Follow' us and 'Share' our posts and tell us what you think. The more people we reach the more we can raise the profile of our charity, and maybe raise some funds.



If you have been to the Sunrise Centre and have a story to tell or a picture to share, please let our page Admins (Christopher Hill and Sue Nelson) know and we'll be happy to feature your post. Currently our posts are seen by up to 200 people and produce reactions from around 20, with just the occasional comment. Let's see if we can make this grow and spread the news about our charity further afield. Lastly – if you are not on Facebook – we can only apologise for this item, which must appear as complete gobbledegook!!

How does GETS help with Education?

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There are many ways in which GETS helps

1. Sponsoring within Sunrise (or occasionally outside)
2. Getting help from our friends
3. Building play equipment
4. Bringing quality resources
5. Providing excellent classrooms
6. Providing and sponsoring training for teachers
7. Having fun with extra-curricular activities

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Can you help us do more?

GETS is achieving a lot but we could do even more with the help of you or your friends.

Could you :-

- Sponsor a child or young adult who has dropped out of education due to a lack of money for fees
- Sponsor a class or a teacher
- Send us cash to improve facilities or keep those we have in great shape
- Check our Amazon Wish list and bring us something that we need from it (see www.getsuk.org)
- Give us your time as a charity Trustee to run GETS and help set out our future plans to do more