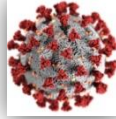




GETS News!

July 2021
Issue 39



Covid-19 in The Gambia

Covid still remains an issue in The Gambia, deemed as an Amber list country by UK Government. This limits air travel into and out of the airport due to the need to justify travel "against FCO advice".

The "Indian" Delta variant has been detected in incoming travellers and there are concerns about just how much of this infectious variant is in the local population, although official testing doesn't support this view (see Covid update). Many of our staff have had vaccinations now but not all, a few having 2 jabs.

Sunrise still remains open but Covid-19 controls from Education Department protocols continue meaning that staff and pupils are frustrated by no assemblies, sports days, excursions or Graduation ceremonies.



More support within our Sunrise Office



I'm delighted to welcome Sulayman Saïdy to the Sunrise office staff this year, as Sunrise Office Manager. Sulayman is well known to us in GETS, because he ran the nursery school in London Corner that Helen also administered, supported by a church group in Dumbarton Scotland. Sadly that school has now closed.

Sulayman brings considerable admin experience to work with Ramatoulie and Alkali in the office. We hope that all of these skills will go some way to replace Helen as she steps away from her duties in Sunrise.

Sulayman has been shadowing the work that Helen does for us, supporting sponsorship payments, banking, purchasing materials for Sunrise and helping capture pictures for the blog too, besides many other important tasks.

Sulayman is able to rely on Ramatoulie for help too which is vital as we realise just how much work Helen does for us, even now, as she copes with a lack of volunteers and Trustees who usually appear to "share the load" but can't due to Covid-19 travel restrictions.

AGM 2021 – 4th Sep 2021 Virtual Zoom - Again!

We will run an AGM, as we did last year using Zoom meetings in the "Virtual World" This at least does allow others to attend without the need to travel! We hope to see you – more details to come.





Sad News – Losing our friends



Eric Whitehead

Eric was our main school builder. He had been living in The Gambia for many years when he died, very suddenly, in January this year.

He has helped GETS for most of that time, transforming the original Sunrise building into a school for nearly 400 children, with many new facilities. (Further details on our web site)

..... We'll never forget Eric!



Mrs Fatoumatta Chow

Mrs Chow sadly passed away at the end of last year. She helped and encouraged GETS to go into Sunrise and often facilitated things for us when it was tough.

She lived locally in Bakoteh, had relatives at Sunrise and also ran her own school "Chow's School of Excellence" in Bakau.

Mrs Chow visited many counties outside of The Gambia, once staying with Tony and Erica in Suffolk UK.

Another huge character that we'll always remember

At Sunrise, life goes on as usual (well nearly)



Staff Leavers – July 2021

We wish Good Luck to Alimatou Jammeh who has been at Sunrise since Sep 2013. She qualified with GETS support and is now fully accredited.

Also to Babucarr Njie who has only been with us, teaching in Skills Training for 6 months

Pictures (clockwise) – Sirrah Sambou (ex Skills 3 now Teaching Assistant), LB pupils in the Library, Skills students with practical work, Mr Babucarr Njie (New Numeracy and Eng Teacher), Nursery 3 pupils, Alimatou Jammeh (Cookery and Pastry Teacher)

