



Kisima News

February 2014

www.kisima.org office@kisima.org

WELCOME TO THE FORM ONES

Greetings from Kisima! The new school year is well underway, with the students in Forms Two, Three and Four having come back on January 3rd. Shortly after this, the national primary school exam results were announced and we selected our forty new Form One pupils out of all those who had been recommended to us. They come from seven counties of Kenya and have different stories to tell of why they are in need of a place at Kisima - common themes are the death or absence of a parent, the loss of livestock to drought and cattle rustlers, dependence on irregular and poorly paid casual work, and the pressure of many children to be fed, clothed and educated.

The new students reported to Kisima on January 27th, when they were welcomed by some of the prefects and interviewed by a member of staff. After an introductory meeting for them and their guardians, each one was entrusted to the care of a Form Two student who acts as their school 'mother' or 'father'.



One of the prefects welcoming new pupils

Now they are settled into secondary school life. In the last month they have made many friends, discovered a science laboratory, taken their first set of exams, joined clubs and societies and had the chance to play familiar and unfamiliar sports.



Some of the Form One pupils

Thank you very much to those who have signed up to sponsor one of these students. We are still in need of about six more sponsors, who give £25 a month for four years. If you are interested, please contact our U.K. Sponsorship Coordinator - see the new contact details at the end of this newsletter.

The Form Ones have filled the places left by last year's Form Fours, who completed their exams and celebrated the end of their school days in November. Now there are just a few days to wait until the results are out and they know whether they have achieved a grade that will take them to university. We will post the class results on our website, so do check the news section if you want to see how they did.

VISITORS...

The last few months have seen us receiving many visitors from the U.K., who have contributed a lot to school life.

In October, Mel and Sam Locke spent two weeks with us. Mel had been a volunteer here in 2007 and it was great to welcome her back along with her husband for a working holiday. They helped us out in the library and office and taught new songs to the Christian Union and the Music Club. They also enjoyed getting to know their sponsored student, Rebecca, and had a chance to visit her home and meet some of her family.



Sam and Mel with Rebecca

The next arrivals were Daisy Eyre and Ruby Earle, who are still with us as they are volunteering for the whole term. They are currently working on the school magazine, which looks set to be a bumper issue as so many students have been inspired to write. They have also been sharing their skills and interests with the students in extra-curricular activities. For Daisy this has meant teaching French to the whole school, while Ruby has been enlivening games time with her gymnastics lessons.



Practising a French dialogue with Daisy



Learning new skills in gymnastics

In addition, Ruby and Daisy have been making great friends with the students and interacting with them in all the events of school life. This has included attending some lessons, harvesting cabbages for use in the kitchen, and carrying buckets of water from the tank to the dormitory for washing clothes. They have taken part in whole school debates (where the Kisima students have aired their opinions on topics such as devolution, the Kenyan music and film industry, and whether or not Kenya is to blame for natural disasters and other problems it faces), and in the talent night they bravely entered the banana eating and water drinking competitions! Hopefully there are still more new experiences to be enjoyed in the remaining weeks of term.

In the middle of February we had a great time with four visitors from Chorleywood. Richard Walton is a TEFT trustee and has been to Kisima on many occasions, but this time he came with his son Josh, friend Patrick Turnbull and his son Henry. Three mornings were spent visiting students' homes in the regions near Kisima, which was a good chance to understand more about their backgrounds and the challenges they have faced. We were also able to see a couple of former students at their places of work - one in a bookshop and one in the soil testing lab of the Kenya Rural Roads Authority.



Ruby and students hard at work preparing a seed bed

Another highlight during their stay was an afternoon of cultural presentations. Students from some of the different communities represented at Kisima entertained us all with traditional songs and dances. The visitors, teachers and Principal were called onto the stage to join in some of the dances, much to the delight of the students.



Josh and Henry with a student and her mum

On another morning we took them to the school farm, along with Daisy and Ruby and two students from each class, who were visiting the farm for the first time. After touring the land, everyone got to work preparing a seed bed and sowing carrots. There are also some cabbages and maize growing, but most of the land has been ploughed and will soon be planted with wheat. The previous wheat harvest was good, with the five acres yielding 114 bags, each of 90kg. A small amount has been kept for making into flour for chapatis, while the rest was sold and the money used for buying other food items.



Patrick and Richard participating in a dance

After these performances, the visitors presented many gifts they had brought for the school, including a great number of balls, football boots, running shoes and sports kit. We are very grateful for these gifts, especially as since receiving them, the Kisima football teams have ended a long losing streak and have won all their matches against visiting teams!

OTHER NEWS

• After six years of service, one of our cooks, Fred Oira, has left and his place has been taken by Silas Otindo. He is one of four cooks, who between them ensure that everyone gets three meals and plenty of cups of tea every day.

• There have also been some changes within TEFT, our supporting trust in the U.K. We are delighted to welcome a new trustee - Claire Edis - and a new volunteer Sponsorship Coordinator - Lesley Jones. Claire is the founding principal of Bolingbroke Academy, a state secondary school in Wandsworth, which opened in 2012. She was previously the deputy head teacher of Parliament Hill School from 2006-2011, and brings to TEFT a wealth of experience in school leadership.

Lesley and her husband Dave have been supporters of Kisima since its foundation and are members of Christ Church, Chorleywood, where we have a tremendous supporter base. Lesley will be handling all TEFT's day to day affairs for sponsors, Friends and other supporters and can

be contacted at office@teft.org.uk
Please note that TEFT's new office address is:
**22 The Drive
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire
WD3 4EB,**
which replaces the P.O. Box address.



Lesley

Lesley takes over from Samantha Haydon, who continues in TEFT but with different areas of responsibility. Many thanks to Samantha for all her work in this role over the last ten years.



Silas (left) and Francis ready to serve dinner

PRAYER POINTS

Praise God for...

- The arrival of the new Form One students
- The many visitors we have had and the experiences they are able to share with the students
- A good harvest of wheat on the school farm
- All those involved in the work of Kisima, as trustees, sponsors, Friends and other supporters

Please pray for...

- The Form One students to feel at home and to make full use of their time at Kisima
- Enough sponsors to be found for the new class
- Last year's Form Fours as they receive their exam results and make plans for the future
- Silas, Claire and Lesley as they join the work of Kisima in different ways

Thank you very much