



# CHink Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 1122874

November 2009

## LATEST NEWS OF OUR VISIT TO KENYA

It was wonderful to be back in Kenya to see the children and the school with the New Gates & Concrete Pillars, surrounded by a garland of flowers. Felister, our administrator in Kenya, organised everything and the end results were spectacular. Friends of CHink, Alan & Sue Parker from Yeovil, spent the 2 weeks with us assisting where necessary in the tasks that were on our schedule. Firstly, painting the gates with 4 coats of green gloss paint and the pillars with 3 coats of white emulsion. Rajid Omar, a local signwriter, put the finishing touches with 'CHink School' in the centre of the gates.

The appointment of a new teacher, who could

picnic was organised for the younger children, and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves as this was the first time that they had ever seen the sea, a very pleasing afternoon.

The money sent for sponsored children, from sponsors, was well spent in the local market



stalls in Mtwapa, where essential items of clothes, shoes and food were purchased. Whilst Georgina, Chris and Sue were busy shopping for the children, Roy and Alan had the task of doing the shopping in Mombasa for school books and essentials needed for the school as well as 16 mattresses which were tied to the roof of the car for the long journey back to Mtwapa. Many of our school children when not in school uniform, have very little to wear, many wearing dirty raggy old clothes that we wouldn't use as rags. Many thanks to all sponsors who sent money to their sponsored child for their birthday and/or Christmas.



teach Standard 1 & 2, was filled by the successful applicant Justin, who started the next day. The end of year outing for the older children was a visit to Bamburi Beach Hotel for a pool party and lunch. Hotel guests from all over the world joined in with the children playing and teaching them how to swim in the pool. After lunch of sausage and chips, provided at a minimal cost by Charles the hotel manager, the children sang songs of thanks to the hotel guests, then marched around the hotel grounds singing their version of 'If your happy and you know it .....'. We were proud at how well the children behaved and enjoyed this special treat. The outing continued to 'Jumba La Mtwana', the ruins are the remnants of a 600 years old slave port situated on Mtwapa Creek, an educational experience for us all. This most enjoyable day ended with games on the beach. A beach



The construction of a permanent brick built school was discussed and quotes were sought from 3 contractors. Because of the price, in the region of £30,000.00, the whole building project would have to be done in stages when the children are on holiday, December, April & August, and when we have raised sufficient funds. We hope to have 3 ground floor classrooms completed by the end of next year.

As usual a prize giving morning was held with many parents and guardians attending the event. We all wore Kenyan clothing for the presentation. The top 3 children from each class receiving educational presents for their outstanding progress throughout the year. Well done.

A 'Thank You' chicken was given by a grateful



Stephanie, who suffered from Meningitis was presented with her prize as the pupil who achieved the most



parent, so for lunch we ate fresh chicken and vegetable stew with coconut rice, cooked lovingly by Isabella, (recipe produced by Roy)

More desks were made, the extension to the kitchen roof making it more water-tight but still with plenty of ventilation, spiky shrubs and thorny trees planted around the fence for added security, a clock in each classroom were just some of the items on the shopping list.

There have been many visitors to CHink School during the 2 weeks, experiencing what life is like in a Kenyan school and showing their emotional side. This has led to 6 more children gaining sponsorship, with a further 4 upon our return.

A question that is often asked is "Would you like a holiday?"



*After the difference that has been achieved over the years, seeing the children learning, playing and laughing and what can be done to change the lives of these children and seeing how their self-esteem is growing, this is our holiday. We feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to make this contribution to help these children and to have achieved something worthwhile.*

## What Next?

On the latest visit to Kenya we met new friends who are going to help us in many ways to raise more money for the next stage of the school - a permanent brick building. If you have any ideas how to help us raise money please contact us details below. Donation forms, Gifts Aid forms and Sponsorship form are available to download from the website as well as events we are holding or attending.

**OUR THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR ALL YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT**

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