

CHINK JANUARY 2019

I can't believe it is 12 years since we started the Charity with 6 children and now we have 192 sponsored and 22 awaiting sponsorship, plus 65 in High-school which is also funded from the Chink Shop.

Our latest visit in January was a great success. The school party was arranged with disco and magic show and dance. Ingrid our friend from Belgium, who joins us every year, was a great help and along with the chefs from the Hotel, food was provided for 220 excited children, staff and helpers.

The children get a new uniform every year in January, they are measured in October/November and never ready when we arrive in January, but after chasing them up they eventually arrive. We have also had new Games T shirts made in Blue, Green and Red with the Chink Logo. Every child receives 2 pair of new pants, and girls gets a top or a bra.

The sponsored children who get extra money for birthdays/Christmas go shopping for food, Schoolbags, shoes etc. Some of the children who aren't sponsored are not left out, as we take suitcases of clothes donated to the Charity Shop, so don't be surprised to see pictures of the children proudly wearing your donated clothes.

We had 10 new children start this term that all need sponsoring. As you know we only accept the very needy, poor or orphans, and house-checks have to be done and some of the poverty we see is heart-rending. All these children need sponsors, so any help would be appreciated.

New teachers were needed this year and we are pleased to say the interviews went well and 2 new teachers and a school secretary were appointed. New contracts for existing teachers were signed.

The school also have a Scout Group so again uniforms were needed.

The saga of the hot water continued with the installation of the 4th tank. The problem was the tanks safety valve was defective.

The repairs to the dining tables, make 2 new benches



and replace the toilet door were all completed. Thank goodness something went right!!!

We were delighted that some of the older children came to visit and express their thanks for all that the charity has done for them, it all worthwhile to know how much our input is appreciated.

The last visit to Kenya in April 2019 was for once nice and steady. Firstly we met with many of our children who now attend high school, taking them shopping for items to take back to school. As some attend the school in Voi, where it is considerably colder than the coast region, we bought blankets and jumpers and also toiletries. We then took them out for a meal of chicken, rice and pop. There were 13 boys and the total for the meals was less than £20.

School re opened on 28th April, when we sorted out clothes, taken to school from the shop, into boys and girls, from small to teenage size, ready for the next year enabling every child to have new clothes. We also took clothes for the cooks, cleaners and teachers. This is usually done in January.

No building work took place this time, as, another plot of land we were buying, had not been finalised. This will be used for a new playground area, maybe a small shower block and perhaps a small safe house, where children in difficulty can be safe and protected.

We took children on two trips this time. The first was to Haller Park for baby class, PP1 & PP2, for children up to the age of 6. Although the children are young it is never too early for them to learn about orphaned animals and at Haller Park they could see rescued and orphaned wildlife in their natural setting. The second trip was for the top two classes, 7 & 8. What a very interesting day we all had. Firstly to visit the archaeological Ruins of Gedi, then to visit the weather station near Malindi. Even the bus driver found this very interesting, as there are only 3 weather stations in Kenya, Mombasa Airport, Nairobi Airport and Malindi. Next stop was a visit to the Vasco da Gama Pillar, built to commemorate the arrival of the Portuguese explorer into Africa. We had lunch and then the children had a 25 minute swim in the sea, not long, but we had to be back at school by 5pm as it was a 2 hours journey back. It was a long day as we left the school at 7.30 in the morning. The cooks made chicken sausage and vegetable pilau rice. This saved us a lot of money and tasted delicious and went down well.

Last but not least, our boy Travis Baraka, who got top exam results in November, was taken by the top school in Nairobi. He achieved top marks from the whole district of Kilifi South. He received a letter of congratulations from the first Lady of Kenya, Margaret Kenyatta, and an invitation to join her at State House Nairobi and the other children in Kenya, who gained top marks, for four days and to go on educational trips around Nairobi. Travis has sent the charity a letter of thanks for all the help he has had since his sponsorship started.

Our latest visit to Kenya was to be for 3 weeks, as there was a lot to do. Arriving on Monday 14th October we went straight to school to pick up the van. All the children were there to greet us and welcome us back. We met up with Felister, to catch up on things and work out a program of things to do on this visit. Firstly one of the computers was broken, so we arranged for Alfred to come and repair it.

Arriving at school the following day, we were greeted with Mothers, Grandmothers, Guardian etc. who were all waiting at the gates to see if their child would be able to attend our school in January 2020. We had vacancies for 16 in baby class, 8 in PP1 and 4 in PP2 classes. All children taken on by CHinK, have to have a house check as only the very poor and needy can get a place. There were 40 applicants for 28 places. It is a long involved job doing that many house checks, but essential. Children who are being admitted into PP2 class, have to sit an exam, because if they are not up to the same standard of the children in PP2, it would be difficult for them to catch up. Once the children had sat the exam and passed, it took 3 long days to do the house checks. Thursday afternoon was taken up by giving every child a toothbrush kindly donated by Sanderson's Toothbrush Company and also giving every child 2 pair of pants. Friday afternoon included taking photos of every child. This went very well as all the children's photographs were taken with the exception of one child who was off sick. All Saturday involved sorting the suitcases of clothes out which we have taken to Kenya. This included sorting them into boys and girls, large and small.

Sunday we started to organize prizes for the prize giving day. This may sound an easy task but it is not at all. As Monday was Bank Holiday, we went to order the food for prize giving day. All children will take home rice, beans, maize flour and chapatti flour. This totals 240 children in all as we give the children attending high school the same. All this food comes in large sacks and has to be weighed and bagged up for individuals, a laborious task. We also shopped for food for the Christmas Party, which was to be held at the end of school term, before some children leave and move up to for High School. Food for school trips had also to be ordered, including water, cake, biscuits and sweets. When done we returned to school to drop all the shopping off. Once we had a list of children who had gained 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions in class, the rest of the prizes could be decided and another job was eventually finished. On Tuesday when children were back at school, 2 tailors came to measure them for their uniforms. This time instead of 1 tailor we asked for 2, as it was too much for 1 and to get them ready for the uniforms to be given out in January. An educational trip to Mamba Crocodile Park was planned for Standards 1, 2 and 3. It was an excellent informative morning and afterwards they were treated to rides on dodgems, pirate boat and bouncy castle. We arrived back at school for a late lunch and then they were measured for their uniforms.

The following day was a full day, taking standards 4,5 and 6 on their educational outing to Malindi to see the forest, then on to see the reptile park, then into Malindi to the beach for ½ a hour after visiting the Vasco de Gama monument before returning to the bus for a 2 hour journey back to school. The children were very excited when they saw a herd of elephants, much better than going on safari.



Thursday was school party day, with entertainment for the children from jugglers, a magic show and the hotel's animation team. Of course there was also a disco which everyone enjoyed too and the party eventually ended a 5 o'clock.



Friday was prize giving day and distributing the food for the end of term, enabling them to have food for over the holiday period. The money for the food came from donors who we would like to thank very much. These donations are very much appreciated.

The following Saturday, Tuesday and Wednesday were taken up with Christmas shopping. This is done for the children whose sponsors send them money. It is a big task taking 88 children shopping as they all want something different - shoes for school or Christmas, clothes, bags for books and even food. The children whose sponsors don't send money are also treated to clothes, shoes etc in January when they return to school.

Monday was when we saw a lot of the children who had left CHinK Academy and gone onto high school. We complemented them on how well they were doing at high school and also gave them their food. Class 8 finished their exams on Thursday, so we treated them to a delicious meal at Pistachios, a local eatery.

A staff meeting was called for Friday, followed by a chat with the carpenter about repairing broken dining tables. 2 painters came to school with quotes for painting the old school block and we also had a discussion with a builder about the store room. The building had started to sink, probably because the footings weren't dug deep enough. Also today we visited the education office to get some advice on Kenyan teaching methods etc.

Another day had flown by and the three weeks in Kenya were nearly up. A welcome rest was needed.

It was a very successful trip and we would like to say a big "Thank You" to everyone who helped to make this possible.

