

David School Messenger

The David School

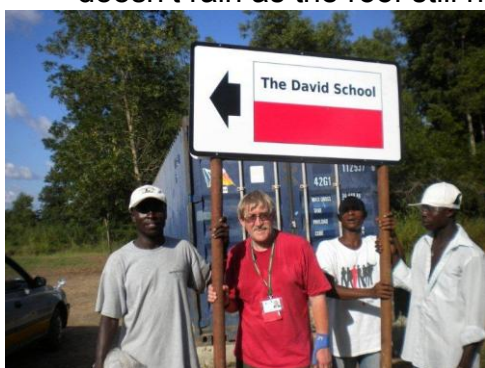
Education Changes Lives

Trip to Sierra Leone

Between 6th and 15th November, David Wallwork, the school's founder, and Mike Houlden visited Sierra Leone to review the school's progress and plan for the future.

Progress Report

- The school is now registered with the Sierra Leone government.
- All children now have a FREE school uniform.
- The latrines are nearly finished, so that staff and pupils can answer the call of nature in private. However, at the moment they are still hoping that it doesn't rain as the roof still needs to be added!



- The 40ft container sent over in April 2009 (carrying JOEY, the school vehicle, classroom furniture and lots of other much needed resources) is now in its final place next to the school, providing a large secure area.
- The drilling for the well has commenced.
- The sign for the school is up at the side of the road into the community

The school celebrates its first birthday!

On Friday 13th November, The David School celebrated the first anniversary of its opening, and this was a highlight of David and Mike's visit. The pupils put on entertainment for parents, community members, tribal chiefs and other invited guests.

The school has formed a cultural dance group who performed for the visitors.

There was also a quiz won by Class 6, some children recited poetry and others sang. Food for celebration meal was provided by the community, after which there was a football match between David and his men, including Mike, Fayah, Zak, Ali, Junior, Alfred and Pappa, against the locals. African football skills must be in-bred, as the visitors lost 5-3!

Before the children all went home, each pupil was given a toothbrush and toothpaste, which the community's nurse has taught them to use.

MANY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO DONATED THESE.

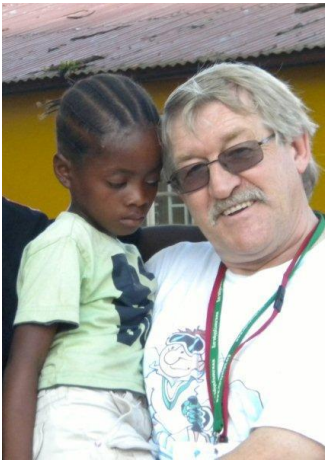
Pupil Progress

There are now 217 pupils registered at the David School, aged 4 to 15.

David and Mike met with the local school inspector who was very pleased with the work the school is doing and the excellent progress pupils are making against the national standards. Many of the children could now speak to Mike and David in English!

20 pupils will sit the Leavers Examination in May 2010. After this they are eligible to attend the secondary school in Waterloo, but this is 7 miles away, which makes their attendance problematic.





Isatu Bangurra

Isatu is a seven year old girl from the David School who is totally blind. Her future was bleak – she was heading to have to be a beggar on the streets.

However, after a lot of negotiations, David has got her a place at the Milton Margai Residential School for the Blind in Freetown. Here she will be taught Braille, and other skills to allow her to live effectively with her disability. Her confidence and self esteem will be increased, and at the age of 14, she will be given a work placement.

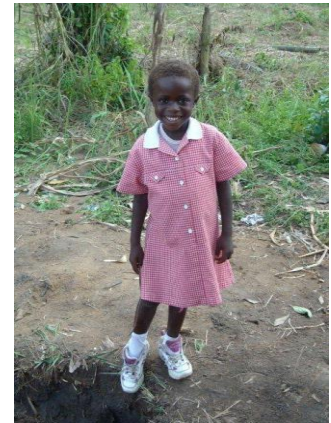
David took her to her new school during this visit. Isata will return to her village during school holidays.

What's next?

David & Mike are planning to return to Sierra Leone in March and April 2010.

The **projects planned** for completion during this visit are:

- Providing every pupil with a pair of serviceable shoes.
Many of the infections that the children pick up (some of which can be fatal) are from cuts on their feet. This will be greatly reduced if they each had a pair of shoes with closed toes & heels and a sturdy fastening.
- Building and equipping a new 2 classroom block for the youngest pupils.
The school has over 60 nursery children, more than can be fitted into one class, so two new rooms are needed.



- Providing 60 more slates.
The youngest children learn to write on slates with chalk, to save the precious paper for the older children
- Organising of the school office.
- Painting the existing school.
- Giving every pupil a basic health check.
- Refurbishing & restocking the clinic.

The school has its own Bolton Wanderers fan!

Everyone who knows David is aware that he is a very loyal fan of Bolton Wanderers. Now there is one at the school, as Josiah Johns, one of the teachers, also supports this team. Josiah also has a pet squirrel which is popular with the children

Can you help?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF THE GROUP WHO GOES OVER IN 2010?

CAN YOU ORGANISE A SHOE COLLECTION?

ARE YOU ABLE TO DONATE MONEY TO BUY SLATES, NEW BLACKBOARDS, OR MORE PAPER & WRITING MATERIALS?

HAVE YOU ANY BALLS AND OTHER BASIC SPORTS EQUIPMENT THAT YOU COULD DONATE TO THE SCHOOL?

If so, or you think you can help in any other way, please contact David on wallwork26@btinternet.com

A very big thank you from all the pupils

For more information about the David School in Sierra Leone, visit www.thedavidschool.co.uk