



# David School Messenger

The David School

Education Changes Lives

# Merry Christmas



*from all the children and staff at the David School*

## Secondary School Build set for March 2014

Thanks to a generous donation of £10,000 from the Equitable Charitable Trust and other money raised by our generous supporters, the secondary school can now be completed.

David Wallwork, Catherine Thomas, Michael Houlden, Kjell Hoydal and Per Helge Josok (two Norwegian Rotarians), have recently returned from a two week visit to the school. During this time the second half of the secondary school was measured and marked out. The local builders were arranged, and a foreman contracted. The foundations should have been put in by the time David and the other volunteers go out again in March, so that the building can be finished whilst they are there. To help with the foundations, the pupils have already started **bringing a rock to school** each Friday. These are being added to a very large pile which will be broken up to form the foundations. Kjell and Per Helge will be there again in March to supervise the building of the roof. They also serviced the solar panels whilst they were at the school this time.

The Grand Opening of the new building has been planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> April and invitations distributed to the local dignitaries.



Pupil reading letter from sponsor

## Teaching & Learning Go From Strength to Strength

There is a much calmer atmosphere in the school, now thanks to the training given by David and other visiting volunteers, and better leadership by the head. The pupils' manners and behaviour is showing a marked improvement. David spent several days during this trip working with teachers on their classroom skills and advising the head with his management.



NPSE Graduates, now JSS1

Results have continued to be good. 22 pupils passed their National Primary School Exam (NPSE) and 9 passed Basic Education Certificate Exam (BECE). On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>, the teachers and those who passed their exams were taken to the beach for a party, a very enjoyable treat for all!



Class 4

## Eye Sight Checked

The children with sight problems have had their eyes checked again, and two pupils who needed new spectacles were provided with them.

## Neil and Nick take a taxi across Peru to raise money for the school

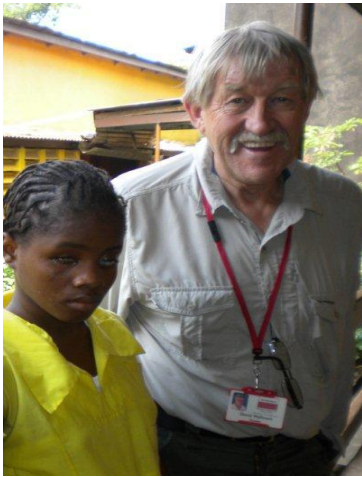
Congratulations to **Neil Thomas and Nick Shuttleworth**, who successfully drove a Peruvian Mototaxi – the mighty Lifan 125 across Peru from Cuzco in the south to Piura in the north, covering over 3000 km of mountains, jungle and desert in just 2 weeks. Their fantastic efforts raised £2000 (with Gift Aid) for the school. Many thanks to the mad adventurers.



### Meetings

David met with the Paramount Chief who continues to be very positive and supportive about the work the David School Trust is doing for the community at Mile 36.

Kjell Hoydal and Per Helge Josok met with the Rotary Club of Makeni on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November, and they are hoping to set up a Rotarian Global Grant between them and their Norwegian District No 2305.



### Education Provision for Isatu and other Blind Children.

Isatu the orphaned blind girl from Mile 36 (with David in the picture on the left in her school uniform), continues to do very well at the Milton Margai Residential School for the Blind in Freetown, although she is now back at Mile 36 for the Christmas holidays.

The Deputy Minister of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs, Mustapha Bai Atila, is the first blind appointed Minister in West Africa and the only blind Sierra Leonean currently serving as a Minister. One of his initiatives is some pilot studies into integrating blind children into secondary schools, and David visited the Milton Margai School to talk to parents and staff about some of the issues and possible solutions. It is going to be an uphill battle because ingrained attitudes to the blind need to be changed. However, Mustapha Bai Atila is already acting as an excellent role model. Many thanks to Isatu's friends and to the Rotary Club of Peterborough Minister for their continued support.

### Promoting Secondary Education for Girls

Unfortunately, many girls do not complete their secondary education due to pregnancy. As part of the David School Trusts efforts to keep girls in school, Catherine, one of the Trust's trustees, and Marion, the school's only female teacher, held a meeting with village elders and parents and gained signed permission for some of the girls to be provided with contraception. Catherine is working with Marie Stopes International to provide the most effective method, as traditionally African men will not use condoms. Whatever is decided, it will be administered by trained personnel.

Girls flying the flags



Girls with new uniforms



Out of school

**A very big thank you & Best staff a**



Girls football team

Please contact David on [wallwork26@btinternet.com](mailto:wallwork26@btinternet.com) or visit [www.thedavidschool.co.uk](http://www.thedavidschool.co.uk)