



David School Messenger

The David School

Education Changes Lives

In April 2012, David Wallwork and his daughter, Catherine Thomas, spent over 2 weeks at the David School. In the second week they were joined by Michael Houlden and Kjell Hoydal, a Norwegian Rotarian from Volda.

Progress with the Secondary School

The first 3 classrooms of the secondary school were completed when a group of 15 volunteers visited in November 2011. During this visit, these rooms were wired with two electric circuits: one for lighting and one for sockets. Michael & Kjell also built a box to contain all the batteries and the controls for the photo-voltaic panels which it is planned will be fitted later in the year.



The exterior of the primary school and the nursery extension were both painted, and the school flagpoles put up.

The Flags

Raising the flags is an important part of the school assembly which starts each day. There are three flags: the school flag in the centre, that of Sierra



Leone on the left, and the Union Flag on the right. The staff and children sing their country's National Anthem and the School Song each morning when the flags are raised and before they have prayers. The school asked for the Union Flag to acknowledge the charity's irreplaceable support in getting education to these children.

Securing the School's Future

The villagers gave David land for the school when the building was first started in 2006. During this visit, David helped map and mark the boundary officially, and the documentation is being drawn up which will mean that the land and buildings will belong to the David School Trust in perpetuity.

School Meals

With help from **UN World Food Programme**, children in the Primary School now receive a meal every day that they attend. This is providing them with much needed nutrition, and is in line with the school's aim to improve health alongside education.



The children receive bulgar wheat with split peas, all cooked in oil with vitamin supplements. This is prepared by three of the village women.

Unfortunately, the funding does not cover providing food for the secondary school pupils, so a sponsor for this would be much appreciated. It may also make the community more prepared to let their daughters continue with their education.



Lighting for Secondary School Pupils

All the pupils in the secondary classes were given a wind-up lantern to take home, thanks to money raised by **Strathaven Rotary Club** in Scotland. These lanterns are very versatile and have many LED bulbs which can be used in a variety of ways. Not only will they provide the children with the means to study in the evenings, but will also be a light source for the family. All the secondary children were also given a new pair of shoes.



Giving out these lanterns is Catherine Thomas, a volunteer and trustee of the David School.

New Head Appointed

Mr Patrick Kargbo has been appointed the new overall head of the David School, and will start in September. He will be in overall charge of both the primary & secondary school and the adult classes, and told David that he was really looking forward to starting.

Sports Day

The school's annual Sports Day took place whilst the group was there. As well as events familiar to most of us, like long jump, high jump and running races of different distances, more unusual races are held. There is *Carrying the Baby*, where girls run with a doll strapped to their backs, Africa fashion; *Bottle Carrying*, where the winner is the first to complete the course with a bottle balanced on their head; egg & spoon, and even musical chairs! All the pupils take part in at least one event and receive a medal. The races are followed by a big party for all the community where they sing and dance.



How you can help

- **Sponsor a pupil** In order to continue the excellent work that has been started at the David School, the Trust still needs more people to sponsor pupils. This is especially important now that the secondary school is open. It costs just £5 a month to support a child in school.
- **Sponsor meals for secondary pupils** If you know of any organisation who might like to sponsor meals for secondary pupils, David would be very interested to talk to you.
- **Collect toothpaste, toothbrushes soap and sticking plasters** New supplies are badly needed. Perhaps you could set up a collection at work, at a club or amongst your family and friends.
If you can help in any ways, please email David on info@thedavidschool.co.uk

Another very big thank you from all the pupils and the community

New website

The David School now has a new website: www.thedavidschool.co.uk. Please visit it to get the latest news, and other ways you can support the school.