



David School Messenger

SPRING UPDATE ON THE SCHOOL

David, Catherine and Michael recently returned from their latest trip to the school. They found that the pupils were working hard and making good progress. Those studying for exams are making use of extra lessons. The children and staff are very appreciative of their shower and toilet block, which is being well used and looked after.

INTERNET AT THE SCHOOL

In 2023 the David School won internet provision from the Sierra Leone government, as one of the ten most successful schools in the district. The Ministry attempt at connection was unsuccessful but it was redesigned, using some of their equipment and other newly purchased items with help from **The Worshipful Company of Girdlers**. This has now been connected to Africell, the largest company there. David can now contact the staff using Zoom, which makes things far simpler. During the visit, the staff were given training in using the internet.



PERIOD POVERTY & REUSABLE SANITARY WEAR

At present, the trustees and supporters collect and send out supplies of menstrual care products. Last year, the ladies of the Rotary Club of Ramsey bought some reusable period pads, which are designed to be worn, washed and reused, and Catherine took them out to trial with one class of 14 & 15 year old girls.

They have proved to be very popular and successful, so it is now hoped to supply more, and extend their use to more girls. This will free up the regular costs of shipping sanitary ware and the money saved will be used for other things.



STAFF SUPPORT

The teachers are absolutely crucial to the success of the school. Whilst he was there, David saw each of them individually and training was given in

- ✓ classroom management by giving pupils clear rules and sanctions;
- ✓ Checking understanding by asking for feedback (in English) from class members on key points and issues e.g. by asking 'Explain what I said';
- ✓ Updates on first aid and hygiene;
- ✓ Teaching children how to cross the road safely as the road outside the community is a very straight dual carriageway;
- ✓ Monitoring pupils' physical and emotional well-being through observation.

The staff were given bonuses to help with increased costs of food and fuel, as fares on local transport have increased dramatically.



MAINTENANCE

The climate is hard on the school's infrastructure, as the photograph of the school's signs shows. These are on the list for replacement when possible.

As usual, maintenance and repair of the school buildings was carried out under Michael's supervision. Goods in the container were sorted, a storeroom was cleared and reorganised, dead tree branches were pruned and stumps removed.

FEEDING THE CHILDREN

This is the biggest challenge at present.

The cost of living, with the latest rate of inflation at 46%, means that it is very hard for parents and carers to buy food for children. The government is not providing any, and there has been none through other sources like the United Nations either. At present, it costs about £100 to feed the pupils each day. The trustees are looking at ways of providing regular food.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Make a donation

Set up a monthly standing order of £5 (or more)

The Trusts Bank details

Barclays Sort Code: 20-43-63

Account Number: 33469395

Account Name: The David School Trust



You will recall that on the flight out to the school last year, Michael met a representative of an American pharmaceutical company, who offered to donate vitamin supplements. This continues and **the pupils are receiving a daily multi-vitamin pill.**

Whilst they were there, the trustees provided food for the children before the start of Ramadan. The picture shows the cooks and their kitchen.



The Trustees Report and Accounts for 2023 are now available on the Charity Commission website. Charity Number 1129314.

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THE SCHOOL'S WORK

- recycle your empty printer cartridges through [Recycle4Charity](#)
- collect bars of soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes,
- use [Easy Fundraising](#) when you shop online

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT
from the pupils, staff and trustees

WITHOUT YOU WE COULDN'T CONTINUE TO HELP THE SCHOOL.

