RUVUMA DEVELOPMENT AID (RUDA) UK SUPPORT GROUP

NEWSLETTER

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SCHOOL BUILDING UPDATE

Those of you who followed the website blog when we were in Tanzania last month will know that we have begun the process of creating a clinic in one of the vacant rooms of the admin block. The walls have been painted and there are beds and some basic medicines. We decided to do this after experiencing first hand the difficulty and discomfort suffered by the children when they are transported to and from the hospital at Peramiho to get treatment for Malaria. We are being helped in this work by the new matron who will purchase additional medicines and equipment once we have raised some new funds for this purpose.



SPONSORED CHILDREN

T-shirts and book bags were printed for free by Alice's daughter Louise with the school logo and the children's names and we filled the bags with pencils, rubbers, stickers, balloons, bubbles and small toy cars etc. The children had great fun opening their bags and playing with the bubbles and toys inside.

We now have 30 sponsored children at the school and we were delighted to see how strong and healthy they are looking. The grade one students in particular have made huge progress this year and we can now have conversations with them in English. The children take every opportunity to practise their English and one of the girls, Sophia told me she was teaching English to her mother during the holidays. Their teacher Julius took over the grade one class in January; he is enthusiastic, hard working and gets the best out of the children.











This year a volunteer, Valerie Anderson, visited the project and spent much of her time in the classroom and playground where she taught the children skipping rhymes and new games. She also kept them spellbound with her story reading sessions where the children were encouraged to answer questions and interact with the story.

Valerie was an ideal volunteer as she had so many valuable skills, came well prepared and worked hard not only with the children but also teaching conversational English to the sisters, gardener, watchmen and cleaners.

NEW BUSINESSES

When Valerie was not in the classroom she was teaching a small group of women how to make hats and has left the pattern behind so there is the possibility of hat making as an income generating activity. Meanwhile Alice and Louise taught a group of five women how to make soap. All of the equipment and recipes were taken over with us so that the group would have everything they needed to make a range of soaps, including large silicone stirring spoons donated by the 'The CookShop' in Dundee.

While we were still there, the group made four batches of soap and each time they experimented with different colours and perfumes. They have a beautiful stamp to print their labels and bags and ribbon to package the soap so the finished products will look very professional.



'... the heart shaped lavender soap worked very well as did a lemon variation with only white colouring.'

There is still some work to be done on the foot scrub soap but the heart shaped lavender soap worked very well as did a lemon variation with only white colouring. We found three perfumes available in Dar es Salaam and took them to Namanditi. There is lavender, lemon and citronella oil all of which smell fine although the lavender is not as strong as the oil we took with us and they may have to add more to the mix. We also left the gardener, Mr Bashiri, with two packets of lavender seeds and if these can be grown successfully, in future the Heart soap group might use the flowers to make lavender smelling sachets. The group are very keen to make a business out of the soap making and will gradually pay RUDA back for the equipment provided by making a batch of soap each month for the school.