**NEWSLETTER**

**Issue number 39**

**RUVUMA DEVELOPMENT AID**

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| **May 2020****School Update**The School has been closed now since 17th March on instruction from the Tanzanian Government. This seems to be one of the few measures in place as the country is not in lockdown, Churches remain open and the president has told the people that Jesus will protect them from the Covid 19 virus. The Corona virus has already reached Peramiho and while there is no indication at the moment of how fast it might spread, with crowded dala dala and busy food markets still operating there cannot be much social distancing going on. We have messaged the project manager, Ntimba, and shared all the information we have about the virus itself, how it is transmitted and what measures you can take to limit its spread and protect your family. Having visited the nearest hospital at Peramiho, it is safe to assume there will not be much PPE to protect the medics and nurses. I doubt whether there will be respirators for seriously ill patients and the staff are unlikely to be able to cope with a large outbreak. The next few weeks and months are going to be extremely worrying and uncertain for all our Tanzanian friends.NMSE like other private and community schools depends on the income from fees to cover their expenses and parents are not going to pay fees when their children are not attending school so there are no funds to pay wages. We will post on Facebook and here to try and encourage anyone who is able to set up a standing order for £5 a month for the next few months, so we can ensure that our team of workers and teachers have some funds to purchase food and medicine. Anyone who is a position to help can contact Louise at rudatanzania@hotmail.co.uk or 01382 561282 for bank details.89635346_2799817140054292_6621649215950946304_o.jpg |  |



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| **Valerie’s Visit**Valerie performed her usual magic and brought gifts of beautiful donated t-shirts for all the sponsored children. However, she had to cut her March visit short because of the pandemic and the threatened lockdown of Spain. She was able to spend a short time at the school and was pleased to see that the classroom organisation and tidiness of the classrooms was being maintained. She also noted that Anne’s Memorial garden was being well looked after by the Form 2 students and that there are plans to create more pathways, more seating for visitors and new planting.IMG_20200226_132625256.jpg **Clubs**Mama Bahati’s sewing club is still popular and the children have been making hand sewn dolls and animals using remnants of traditional material using patterns crested by ValerieValerie introduced some new games to the children like Twister which the children really enjoyed while learning their left from their right.IMG_20200227_105339706.jpg | **IMG_20200227_142406597.jpg**While the children demonstrated how to play a traditional game called Boa. The children have scooped hollows in the ground and, using seeds, play the fast-moving game of strategy aimed at capturing your opponent's seeds. Versions of this game are played in many African countriesValerie was delighted to see how well the two disabled students, Moses and Jasmini are getting on at school. While Jasmini need a little support at mealtimes, there seems to be little that Moses can’t do on his own. Valerie was able to source new crutches for them both in Dar es Salaam, which should last until we can visit again. IMG_20200227_163348248.jpg newsletter/IMG_20200227_161034874.jpg**The Glasgow Kiltwalk**The actual walk in April was of course cancelled but we still encouraged supporters to contribute and thanks to their generosity we raise over £2,200. The lovely Tom Hunter then doubled it to nearly £4,500 so we will be able to pay the next two instalments on the house we purchased next to the school to use as a hostel. |