



## Gambian Educational and Medical Services

Registered charity number 1107994

Hello again friends and supporters of Jenny and Lynda's Nursery School, Sinchu Balia, Gambia. We are hoping that this newsletter finds you well.

Our Head teacher Mrs. Fatou Barrow has had a difficult term with the illness of one of her children. We have sent her our very best wishes for a speedy recovery. She reports: "We closed the school on Friday 10th July 2015 & will be opening Monday 14th September 2015. This year 32 children are graduating to the Primary school: 15 are boys & 17 are girls & 3 children will still repeat in nursery 3 as their performance was not satisfactory to us. The total number of students were 106 out of this number only 2 boys were not paying fees (orphans) & 3 children transferred to other schools due to their parents movement in the term & 101 pupil paid the whole year fees." We at Gems are delighted to be attending this years graduation ceremony when we visit in November – photos to follow!



**Teacher Training:** Recent joint training occurred between our school and some other local Nursery schools, who worked jointly to deliver training. Gambian Projects Overseas assisted with funding for this project for which we are very grateful. Our Head reports: "We have successfully ended our two days

training workshop on the 1& 2 May 2015. We invited 6 people - 2 from Scott's Rainbow, 2 from Bojang nursery & 2 from Kunkujang to attend because whenever they organize such training they also invite our school to attend. It was very educational and we learned a lot & built the relationship among ourselves. Breakfast, lunch & refreshments were provided for all participants & the best part of it was teachers debating during their group presentation. We really appreciate all your efforts



& thank you so much for everything."

**Hornsey School for Girls:** The girls at Hornsey School for Girls have continued to benefit from their involvement with the school in Gambia. They continue to sponsor girl's education by paying for their fees, their uniforms, their books and their materials. These girls include: Joukou Ceesay, Jariatou Sowe Alima Saidykan and Cecilia Mendy. Through the British Council's 'Connecting Classrooms' project, we will visit the girls this November. This trip centres around collaborative curriculum projects which facilitate students taking positive action on shared global issues, in particular gender inequality and girls access to education.



Gabby and Lucy wrote to us:

*"We are so excited at our forthcoming visit to Gambia. We have spent much time planning fundraising events to contribute to the visit of Mrs Fatou Barrou Jammeh in January 2016, and we are tremendously pleased that she will be visiting our school. We are proud to be her hosts, and we have so many things that we want to show her."*

*In the meantime we continue with our fundraising. We have already collected old mobile phones and printer cartridges which raised some money. The year sevens and eights held a summer fair at the end of the year which was very successful and everyone participated well. We washed the cars of the teachers to raise more money and the teachers were very pleased to have their cars sparkling clean! We also sold vintage clothes and toy monsters last Saturday at the Autumn Fair. We were so pleased to raise £180. We have been planning and presenting more ideas to the rest of the school, and we hope that we will have lots of photos and stories to tell you when we see you."*

**Thanks again to Tree of Life charity (326506) for helping to kick start this project. Keep it up Hornsey: great work!**

## **Fundraising:**

We continue to work hard to raise money to pay our teacher's salaries and generally keep the school going. **£420.70** was raised recently by Springfield First School in Worthing via their sponsored 'Screen Break'. The children turned off all screens for sponsorship – what an amazing achievement! They received Bronze, Silver or Gold awards for the number of sponsors gained. St. Michael's small school in East Sussex also helped by raising a marvellous £70. This continued support from schools is immensely important. It enables our teachers to achieve many of their objectives – to receive training in the use of technology and build capacity as well as just 'buying things'. For the children in it is a great opportunity to reflect on the 'bigger picture' and find out about another culture. Fantastic work Springfield!



***Well done Springfield!***

## Worthing does it again: Thank you Fethneys!



Fethneys is a home in Worthing providing a range of services to support physically disabled adults to live independently. They have taken Gems



under their wing and continue to fundraise to support our little school. You can see above their handmade dresses (made from pillow cases) which we will be taking out to the school in November. They recently held a coffee morning (*that should read: cake*

*morning!*) where they sold books, cakes and more delicious cakes, DVDs and had a tombola. They raised an amazing £200. Thanks in particular to Sharon Tilley and her team for all their hard work, and Mr. Squishy's confectionary for sponsoring the event.

**Gambian Projects Overseas (GPO):** GPO continues to carry out amazing work at our school. You can find out more, and see photos of their work here: <http://isdaddyраста.wix.com/gambian-projects-os>. They are helping us to arrange our visit for November and will enable us also to visit other educational projects whilst we are out there – a very exciting prospect. **A huge thanks GPO and their team!**

**Would you like to help support the school with on-going resources or a one-off donation? We can carry some of these in our suitcases when we go in November. Here's a wish list:** *Phonic reading books, coloured and writing pencils, pencil sharpeners, rubbers, glue, child sized scissors, tissue paper, chalk, counters, large dice, foam alphabet and numbers, dominoes, balloons, large stencils, paint brushes, marker pens, laminating pouches (A4) duplo, cars (larger than matchbox), footballs (deflated and a pump), other balls, skipping ropes, hoops, small paddling pools, school bags, dress making items - cotton, needles, wool. Any first aid /medical items - plasters, paracetamol, bandages, plastic gloves, soap, toothbrushes/toothpaste*  
**One off requirements:** New blackboards in each classroom, Electricity, Fans (Solar powered) x 4.

Please collect up any old used mobile phones (sim removed) ink/toner cartridges and hand them into our collecting schools (St.Michael's and Springfield) or to any of us involved in GEMS.

**Make Amazon pay!** If you haven't already done this, please use **Easyfundraising.org.uk** for all of your online shopping. Gems have just received a cheque for £55 which literally was 'money for nothing'. Go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/gemsgambianschool](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/gemsgambianschool) and follow links from there to shop. Thanks to Mr. McClave and all at Site-Eye/Red Ocre <http://www.site-eye.co.uk> for their unstoppable purchasing!



**A final word:** Davigdor school in Hove has supported our school for many years by paying for one month's teachers salaries bill per year. Davigdor has merged with Somerhill School in Hove to become 'Brunswick Primary'. We look forward to their continued involvement. Watch this space.

**Thanks everyone, Maxine and Jane.**

# Could you be a Charity Trustee ?



GEMS (Gambian Educational and Medical Services, Reg. No. 1107994) is a small charity, primarily supporting a small school in Sinchu Balia, Gambia. The school (known as Jenny and Lynda's Nursery school) is situated a small village half an hours drive from the coast. The school currently has 106 children on roll, with three teachers and a Head teacher.

The school was originally built and set up by Jenny Saunders in 2000 with the help of friends and family in and around the Crowborough area of Sussex. The school has gone from strength to strength - crucially with the help, support and sponsorship of some schools here in the UK, along with the organisations GPO and COGS.

We are currently three Trustees who meet at most four times per year, usually in the Mayfield area of Sussex. Each of us takes on a task to help the school – fundraising, accounts, and publicity and so on. Primarily we fundraise to pay for the salaries of the teachers and Head teacher. In addition, we raise funds to – where possible – support teaching and learning, possibly by buying books or resources. In terms of time, the demands on our trustees are not over burdensome. We give the time we can. Please come and join a very lovely team!

For an application pack and further information, please contact Maxine at [maxjja@googlemail.com](mailto:maxjja@googlemail.com)

For more information on our little charity go to: <http://gemsgambia.webs.com/>

For more information from the charity commission on Trusteeship:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/298865/cc3text.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/298865/cc3text.pdf)