

Lungumadzi - Goudhurst and Kilndown

On the 22nd of November, we visited Lungumadzi Primary School. It has been a while since I had visited the school and the changes I could see were impressive. The new Headteacher, Mavuto Mtenje, arrived in January 2017. In 2016, Standard 8 achieved a 33% pass rate, this year 55% passed. Mavuto said he expects that figure to rise again next year. One of the reasons education at Lungumadzi has improved, is that they now have 12 teachers instead of the 9 they had before. Mavuto also attributes it to the improved attendance of girls since Holly distributed the reusable sanitary packs in July.



Standard 2 children

This year, Lungumadzi has 900 pupils. Some of the classes are still learning outside however, the classroom built by the community is nearly complete which will help when the rains come. We have had one or two rainfalls in the last few weeks. The real rainy season will begin next month when there will be heavy rain most days. This is the time when everyone is busy in their fields planting crops. By the time the rainy season has finished in April everyone will begin harvesting.



Above, is the foundations being built for a library and girls' changing room. This is being built by the government who will also supply iPads that Standards 1 and 2 can use to help improve their understanding of English. This is part of a national initiative called "The National Reading Programme".

Lungumadzi has had some success on the sporting front lately. Last year, they were second in the zone playing volleyball. They recently played Namachete School where the girls netball team were narrowly beaten 14-11 and the boys' football team won 2-0. Last Saturday, they played another local school, Kasupe. The girls lost their netball game 12-10 but won their football match 1-0 whilst the boys football team drew 2-2. Elias Mwenechanya, the deputy, is keen to set up an inter-school quiz competition too as he hopes this will help their learning.



On the left, is the new teacher's house the community built. The local education office will supply the materials for the roof, doors and windows. Hopefully this will be complete by the end of December.

Just behind the school is a small market selling local produce.





On this stall they are selling tomatoes and dried fish



Here, they are selling mangoes

Everyone at Lungumadzi sends their greetings to Goudhurst and Kilndown and looks forward to hearing from you soon.



On the left is Elias Mwenechanya. The new Head, Mavuto Mtenje is on the right

Margaret Lewis & Emmanuel Chiumia

Contact numbers

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Both of the above have Whatsapp and are on Facebook.