

Kaladima P7 Primary School

Date 23.1.2009

A Letter for Long Ditton St Mary's Junior School

Thank you very much for welcoming me. I have had a nice time with you. I shall miss you when I go back to Uganda. Out of sight does not mean out of mind! I shall always remember you.

The pupils, teachers, stakeholders and parents from Kaladima Primary School greet all of you. On their behalf I would like to express our sincere thanks for the donation you sent for our school. We bought many useful things:

- Musical instruments
- Uniforms for the choir, Scouts and Guides
- Some text books for the children
- Wall clocks
- Hoes and slashers
- Water containers

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Children participated in the Music Festival Competition. They were smart in their uniforms.
2. Children in P7 class performed well in the Primary Leaving Examinations because they were able to read the text books. Kaladima was one of the best schools in the district because they did so well in the Primary Leaving Examinations.
3. Teachers and children are now time conscious because they have wall clocks in school.
4. All the classes have tables and chairs for the teachers.
5. Children use hoes and slashers to clean the school compound. They dig the school gardens as well.

UGANDA

Uganda is known as the Pearl of Africa because of its

- beauty
- natural resources
- good climate

Uganda lies 4° North of the equator and 0° South of the equator. In most parts of Uganda the grass is tall and the forests are dense.

Uganda has two seasons:

April - November = the Wet Season when people do their cultivation.

The crops planted are maize, millet, cassava, groundnuts, simsim, sweet potatoes and many others.

December – March = the Dry Season when people harvest their crops, go hunting, build houses and so on.

The temperature during the wet season is 20° - 30°C.
In the dry season it is 28°- 32°C.
The population is about 27 million people.

MY SCHOOL

Number of pupils in school.

In the year 2008 there were 1,300 pupils (children) aged 6 – 16 years old.
There are 7 classes. In each class there are more than 100 children.

Number of teachers

There are 8 teachers who are officially posted to school – 4 female and 4 male. Due to the large number of children in school our parents agreed to pay 5 more volunteer teachers to help out.

Subjects taught in school

Maths, Science, Social Studies, English, Music Dance Drama, Games/Sports (after school club), Reading, Writing, Singing, Physical Education, Art and Crafts.

Seating Facilities in School

Children in P6 – P7 classes sit at desks.

Children in P1 – P5 classes sit on the floor because of the lack of desks. We only have 40 desks.

Classrooms

4 classrooms are in good condition. The other 4 have no windows or door shutters. The floors and walls have cracks.

Water Sources

1. A bore hole has been drilled in the compound. Due to the involvement in the school partnership Kaladima has managed to benefit from a Water Project organised by the Gulu office of African Revival.
2. Children get water from an improved well which is near the school.

School Feeding Programme

United Nations used to provide food for children in schools through the School Feeding Programme (SFP). Children contributed a little money to buy salt, onions, tomatoes, fire wood and to pay the cooks.

School drop out

Some children drop out of school for these reasons:

- Orphans
- Poverty
- Early pregnancy
- Early marriage
- Negative attitudes towards education by some children and parents.

Problems of some children in school

There are some children who are orphans. Their parents died of HIV/AIDS or were killed in the war. These children find it difficult to continue with their education

because they cannot easily get money for paying for their uniforms and other school requirements. To cite an example; one of the children by the name of Okelo Jacob sat for PLE five years ago. He got first grade and joined the senior secondary school in St Mary's College, Lacor. He completed senior 4. He may not continue with his studies now because he lost his father. His mother is also sick. She is HIV positive.

Children's denominations/religions

The majority of the children are Christians.

Community Involvement in School

These are some of the activities in which the parents are involved:

1. Build huts for the teachers
2. Come to school to counsel children
3. Accompany the children to the Music Festival Competition and Sports Competition.
4. Visit school from time to time to check the performance of their children.
5. Contribute some money to pay the volunteer teachers

Church Leaders involvement in the Community

Occasionally religious leaders of different denominations meet to discuss issues regarding peace and development. Sometimes they pray with the community. In their organisation they sponsor some children in schools.

Words of Appreciation from Lamunu Rufina (me)

1. I am grateful to Almighty God for His wonderful plan for Kaladima and Long Ditton St Mary's Junior School.
2. I thank the British Council for organising this programme which links UK and Uganda.
3. I would like to express my gratitude to St Mary's Church for the donation sent for Kaladima School.
4. My sincere thanks go to the Headteacher Mrs Sue Woods, the link teacher, Jan Davies, all the teachers, pupils and parents of Long Ditton St Mary's Junior School for your contribution, co-operation and all sorts of support being given to our school.

I wish this partnership to continue and made stronger for the benefits of the two linked schools. Special thanks go to Jan Davies for the hospitality given me while in the UK. I end up by saying "JESUS LOVES US." Thanks for His Love.

POEM by Rufina

We Are Friends

Make friends, make friends
Regardless of tribes, races and religions
A friend in need is a friend indeed.

Teachers, pupils, parents of Long Ditton School
Teachers, pupils, parents of Kaladima School
Make friends, make friends
A friend in need is a friend indeed.

We are friends, we are friends
Different colours, one people
People of God we are
A friend in need is a friend indeed.

Thanks.

LAMUNA RUFINA
Headteacher
Kaladima Primary School
GULU - UGANDA