

Minchinhampton Nkokoto Link

The new school year has begun in Tanzania and the Headteacher of Nkokoto Primary School, working together with the village committee and Lucky Mgeni our local representative, have chosen the eight new students from Nkokoto who will receive the sponsorship from the Link while attending Vumilia Secondary School as well as the six students who will be sponsored at the FDC (Urambo Folk Development College.) These 8 Vumilia School students have received school uniforms, stationery and a bicycle. The photograph below shows the ceremony in Nkokoto when the students received their sponsorship items.



The FDC students whose tuition and accommodation fees are paid directly to the college by the Link, also receive uniforms and stationery but also the costs of their personal needs is covered by the Link – mattress, bed covers, mosquito net, buckets and a wash basin, items that students in this country certainly don't expect to have to find when starting at school, college or university! The uniforms for both groups of students have been made by ex-sponsored students from the FDC who have set up their business in Urambo (see the photo above of these four girls,) the stationery is all bought from the local Urambo shops, as are the mattresses and other personal items, so the Link plays its part in supporting the local Urambo economy. We will be attempting to keep track of the students who finished their courses in December and would like to think that we can support them into higher education or setting up their own businesses in Urambo if possible.



When we read that millions of pounds of the governments furlough money given to companies during the covid lockdowns has been claimed fraudulently and probably gone to criminal organisations, it is important to let you know that Alison Kennedy, our treasurer, keeps a very “beady eye” on the finances and spending in Urambo and Nkokoto. She ensures that every Tanzanian shilling is accounted for with receipts and invoices from Lucky and that matching bank statements are received and reconciled with our accounts and our Stroud bank statements..

The Link has received gifts over Christmas that totalled £1587.50. This was from individuals and a company who donated to the Link in lieu of sending Christmas Cards. Also some people who received those “email Christmas cards” spontaneously gave donations. It is particularly touching that one person remembered Anne Brookes talking about the Link, saw the website, found the email and then contacted us to make a very generous donation; that person wishes to remain anonymous.

We are grateful to all those who donated as a part of their Christmas celebrations as we are grateful for the support given to the Link by our loyal sponsors.

We are thrilled to report that Bea Dellow who lives in Hampton Fields and is a Stroud High School student in Y9 has started working with the Link as a part of her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Her work will be focusing on improving our website and on getting the Link message across social media. As Bea has said to us, she aims to create some “essential deliverables” for the Link. Do look at the website when you can : minchinhamptonkokotolink.co.uk

With best wishes to all our supporters and readers,

Rod Harris, Chair,