

# Under The Mango Tree Newsletter December 2018



**The trustees of  
Under The Mango Tree  
wish you every blessing this  
Christmas time and  
for the coming year.**



**Thank you to everyone for your support through  
prayers, kind thoughts and financial donations.  
It is your support that makes the difference.**

Schools in Kenya close at the beginning of November and remain closed for the long holidays until early January and so there is not much new news.

We have been told that Madam Agnes Tewa, who was the acting Headteacher in 2017 but was then allocated to a different school is expected to return as Headteacher at Timboni in January. This will be very welcome news. Agnes is highly respected and will bring back to the school her local knowledge and her determination to see that the children under her care receive the very best possible education, given the school's limited resources.

In Kenya Headteachers can be directed by the local Government to work in any school, neither the school or the teacher has choice!

One request we have received is to assist the orphans associated with the school and community with a small Christmas gift and trustees have agreed to help with this.

The Christmas gift is not a new toy but some simple basic food stuffs including rice, maize flour and oil.

It may seem small but we are assured that it makes an important contribution towards a better Christmas for these young people.

The trustees met in November and agreed to a number of proposals for 2019. Under The Mango Tree will continue to provide funds for three nursery teachers, plus two further primary teachers. The charity will also continue to send funds towards the feeding programme and two modest away days for one primary class and one pre-primary class.

This all amounts to approximately £7,500 for the year. Whilst this seems a low cost in UK terms it is still a large amount for Under The Mango Tree to raise.

Trustees also agreed to purchase more mosquito nets so that the new intake in January of children into pre-primary 1 can also be issued with a safe net. As you know these cost around £3 each, or about the same as a cup of coffee in one of our coffee shops.

Other funds will be set aside towards two major infrastructure projects that we would like to see completed during 2019. These are the completion of two first floor classrooms. Once these two rooms are built no further classroom building will be needed in the foreseeable future.

The other key project is the need for much better toilet and sanitation facilities for the women and girls at the school. The facilities currently available are primitive, even by local African school standards.

In total these infrastructure projects will cost in the region of £30,000. This will be a significant challenge but one we hope to successfully rise to.

Karen Owens, a long standing active supporter of the charity, was appointed as a new trustee.

Currently no trustees expect to be able to visit the school during 2019 but we will continue to keep in close contact. Although many aspects of this rural community are lacking, the use of modern technology increases month by month. This means that we are able to text or WhatsApp staff and community leaders on a regular basis.

**RIVIERA TRAVEL** Please consider the 'funds for nothing' opportunity with Riviera Travel if you have the chance.

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At absolutely no cost to the holiday maker Riviera will send funds to the charity, ----- it seems so simple, and it is!!

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**\*\*\* Please take a look at our latest web site pages**

**[www.underthemangotree.org.uk](http://www.underthemangotree.org.uk)**

**and finally; please remember that 100% of donations go to the school projects. All administration and any other running costs are covered by trustees or other generous volunteers.**