

BUSENYA SCHOOL TEACHERS' VISIT

We're hoping that the Head Teacher of Busenya RC Primary School, Mr Mathias Kiwanuka and one of his teachers will be visiting St Thomas' in September.

Visits like this are really important to keep our link going.

Unfortunately, funding from the British Council is no longer available to help fund these visits.

Can you help?

We're very grateful to those families at St Thomas' that have donated air miles to our partnership before. If anybody has any air miles that they would be happy to donate to help our link continue, please contact the school office.



Uganda Link Update



MAY 2017

Our Busenya Partnership: A Brief History



St Thomas' partnership with Busenya School started in 2007. Two of our teachers became aware of the existence of the Guildford Mukono Link set up by Councillor Tamsy Baker, which was an organisation committed to the development of partnerships with the Mukono region of Uganda. Mukono is 100km east of Kampala. The partnership is designed to be a two-way learning experience so that children in Guildford can learn about the lives and challenges of children in Mukono and Mukono children can learn about the lives of children in the UK.

There have been a number of reciprocal visits by staff from our two schools. Our children are extremely keen that children in Busenya have the same facilities that they do and we have helped the school to construct the three classrooms that it needed to house the children who previously had their lessons in dilapidated classrooms or indeed even under a tree.

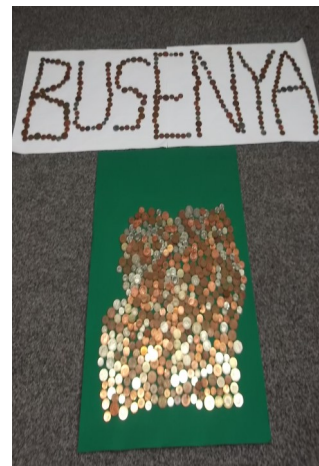
Since then we have funded and helped organise the installation of a much needed water bore-hole, a playground for the children and cooking facilities to ensure that every child has a hot meal each day.



New classrooms at Busenya School

B for BUSENYA

Our current project for 2016-17 is **B for BUSENYA...** to raise the money to ensure that every child at Busenya Primary School can take a full part in their learning with the provision of exercise books, paper, pens and pencils – all the consumables that otherwise the children have to fund themselves meaning that many have to drop out of school because they do not have the money.



So far this year:

- We have raised **£930**.
- We spelt out 'Busenya' and made a map of Uganda from coins brought in by the children.
- We made books about what we were learning in school and ones retelling traditional African stories that we sent out to Busenya School.



Children at Busenya School

A few words from Mr Mathias Kiwanuka, the Head of Busenya School:

“Our sincere thanks to the beloved parents of St. Thomas school for all their generous love and support they’ve given to our partnership which has given chance to our Busenya school children. They love school and are proud of their school. This partnership has made great achievements.

We are so happy with the wonderful reciprocal visits and the culture and knowledge exchange that is shared by children and teachers of both partner schools. We pray for the continuity of our partnership.”

B for BUSENYA...

Bookathon!

To start off our sponsored read your child/children spent this afternoon in a different classroom listening to a story of their choice. Every teacher in the school chose their favourite book to read/read an extract from.

The children were given the list of stories which were being read and every child chose the book that they would most like to hear being read.

The afternoon started with a whole school worship after which all of the children went to hear the

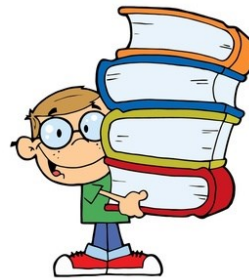
book they had chosen, followed by undertaking some story related activities.

After a short play the children went back to their own classrooms to share their learning with their classmates. It was a great afternoon!



Sponsored Readathon

Your child will have come home today with a sponsor form for our **B** for **BUSENYA** sponsored Readathon. The idea is for them to read as many books between now and the end of term, to enjoy the experience and to raise a little money for Busenya at the same time. We do hope



that you will encourage them to take part and to get reading! All the funds raised will go towards helping the children in Busenya to have access to a free and full education.

Staff Fundraising



The staff at St. Thomas’ have raised £661.61 so far by having **B** for **BUSENYA** lunches, where staff pay to have a lunch provided by a member of our Busenya team. All of the food begins with the letter B, which so far has ranged from bacon baps to beetroot brownies!

THANK YOU

A big thank you to all of the families at St. Thomas’ that donated unwanted books, CDs, phones, tablets and laptops. These were taken out to Uganda by Tamsy Baker and have found a new home in Mukono. The recipients are very grateful.

Water Aid

We have also raised £3,039.34 this year for WaterAid’s work in Uganda and elsewhere around the world by running our very own mile a day Marathon in support of Miss Botham who ran the London Marathon for WaterAid

