

Kapumpe Christian Primary School



*They will soar on wings like eagles.
Isaiah 40:31*

A Very Different Term

Similarly to schools around the globe, we face restrictions in term 2 due to the pandemic. After a longer holiday than normal schools in Zambia were allowed to open for exam classes only. For us at Kapumpe that meant only the Grade 7 class could attend. There were strict measures to follow and we took advantage of the empty classrooms by splitting Grade 7 into 3 smaller groups.

Although it has been wonderful to have some pupils and teachers in school, we are concerned about all our other 108 pupils who have not received any schooling since 20th March.

The government has provided some lessons via TV and the internet for pupils but our pupils living in very poor remote villages do not have access to these. We set homework at the end of term 1 which will most likely be forgotten by now or lost.

We were planning to have a big celebration at the end of term 2 with a number of supporters from around the world coming to join in. Although we have not been able to host this, we as a school have continued to celebrate achievements and give thanks to God for His provision and protection at this time.



We have been busy painting...



...and tidying all the rooms....



...as well as developing our phonics teaching skills.

Time For Change

While most of the pupils have not been at school, it has given us the opportunity to do some much needed practical work. Outside we have been busy painting and the school grounds not only look beautiful but almost look like a different place! We hope this will help the pupils to feel excited when they return to school.

As we only had a few members of staff teaching, we asked others to come in and work on tidying and organising all the rooms and resources in the school. It was a valuable experience for everyone as they not only discovered resources they didn't know we had, they were also working together and able to share ideas for teaching different lessons as various items inspired conversation.

There was a phonics workshop running in Ndola during the term so we sent our non-teaching teachers and followed this up with some in-house training. We are very passionate about developing our teachers professional skills at Kapumpe and believe that it is central to pupils' progress. We have so little opportunity to work on staff development that we were grateful to have this opportunity.



Learning different cooking techniques with Mr Muleya

Practical Activities

Part of the new school based assessment system that is coming into Zambia is teachers observing pupils carrying out practical tasks. For this reason we are ensuring that lessons involve teachers demonstrating practical activities. This term we have seen teachers sewing, arranging flowers, nailing wood and doing many more activities. Well done teachers!



Harvesting the maize at school with Mrs Mwinga

Grade 7

This class have thoroughly enjoyed term 2. It has reminded them of when they began at Kapumpe as they were the only class at school then as well. This term they have been covering the topics 'Pioneers' and 'Cultures of the World'. It has been exciting for them to hear about people and places for the first time and learn about how other people and countries are both similar and different to them. By splitting into three small groups for their lessons they were all able to participate more in class and have more support from the class teacher. Grade 7 have covered nearly all of the primary curriculum now, meaning that most of the work next term will be revision.



Learning a new dance was more fun than lessons!



Pupils worked hard to prepare for their mock test week in August.

End of Primary Exams

In Zambia, the first official school tests are at the end of primary school which is Grade 7. Pupils must pass this exam in order to progress to Grade 8. There is an exam in each subject (8) and every question is multiple choice. All the scores from all the papers are added up to award the pupil's mark. The pass mark varies each year depending on the scores obtained across the country.

Although many children pass these exams without fully understanding the questions, we are teaching our pupils the skill of reading and exam techniques so that they can confidently answer each question, pass their exams and progress to Grade 8.

Looking Ahead to Term 3

It is still unclear when schools will re-open fully here in Zambia, however we will be ready as soon as they do. We plan to spend some time establishing rules and routines again as life at school for our pupils is far from how they live life at home. We have established study groups among our Grade 7's so when they are at home, or out of class, they have friends with which to study, read and discuss the lessons. As a result of this working so well, we will also set this up with some of our other classes upon their return and explain they need to meet with their study groups in the afternoons to help them make good progress at school and to create a support network as they return to academic study.



All Grade 7 pupils are now in study groups to help each other outside of teaching hours.

Prayer Points

1. Praise the Lord for His protection over all the pupils, staff and their families over the past term.
2. For the pupils and staff who are not yet allowed to return to school, please pray they are able to continue some school work at home.
3. Thank God that we have been able to teach Grade 7 and they have begun study groups at home. Pray for them to remain focused and calm as they face exams at the end of December.
4. Pray for the leadership team and Ministry of Education staff as they make decisions that will have a big impact on the future of schools.

School is scheduled to re-open on 14th September for the beginning of Term 3, however only exam classes are currently allowed to return.

Thank you for reading our update on the work at Kapumpe. If you have any questions or would like to further support us in any way, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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