

## Tales from Uganda 2015

I can hardly believe I am back from Uganda already. This visit was certainly a much more focussed and busy 10 days.

We arrived on the Friday lunchtime after 24 hours travelling feeling rather jaded! However, the minute we drove up to the school and saw all the hard that had been done since our last visit, we perked right up!!

We unpacked and then spent a few hours having a good look round and catching up with the staff and children.

Brother John must have been working incessantly since our last visit and we were amazed at the improvements at the school.

### **The New Hall**



The new hall has enabled them to have whole school assemblies, mass, dance practise and even watch a DVD on a Sunday afternoon – it was Charlie Chaplin when we were there!

### **New Classrooms**

Four new classrooms has meant that Years 4-7 have now been split into two. Gone are the days of 120+ in a class now these classes averaged around 50-60. We discovered first hand that this is much more manageable when it comes to teaching! The pupils had far more space; with plenty of room between desks allowing pupils to move around and come to the board to take part in more interactive lessons.



### **Reception Classes**

One of the most noticeable transformations was the Nursery and Reception classes. No more sitting on the concrete floor in all weathers or slatted walls where the rain could pour in! The classroom has been pulled down and the children moved to proper classrooms filled with bright furniture and colourful resources. The pupils have been divided into two smaller groups with the 2 ½ - 4 year olds in one whilst the pupils aged 5/6 have their own space.

The difference this has made to the learning environment for the youngest children is marked.



Reception – Baby & Middle



Reception – High

### Kitchen & Lunches

At one end of the hall a new inside kitchen has been built. This means that cooking has become far more pleasant for the cooks. However although it is much dryer if it rains it is terribly smoky as the vast pots are boiled over open wood fires!

Helping to dish up supper at the weekend was like a cross between church lunch and guide camp!! I really felt at home, until my sandals started to melt!

### Serving Sunday Supper

### Lunch Simmering



### Brother John Helps Out With Lunch Dormitories

We were also delighted to see how much the conditions in the dormitories had improved since our last visit. They were cleaner and tidier; no mattresses on the floor and all the children with beds and blankets.



The pupils do their own washing every day and are looked after in their dormitory by matrons who also look after any babies and toddlers that belong to the staff!!

