

Don McMath Foundation

Newsletter

www.donmcmath.org

info@donmcmath.org

The Don McMath Foundation Newsletter – 30th May 2005

Hello All



Well we have actually done it. The school is built, and it does look stunning. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us in various ways and have made this project possible.

We have 6 classrooms, 8 toilets, a head teacher's office, a store, a multi-purpose room, and two very large cess-pits. The building is constructed from hand made blocks, which have been plastered, and corrugated sheets. The classrooms have been

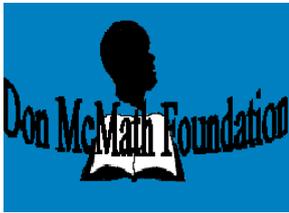
has an iron framed roof covered in painted in lemon (which might not be that practical, with little fingers) and the floors are tiled with sandy coloured tiles. The toilets have all been tiled in white, and have a very rough surface floor tile (non slip) in grey & white.



Outside the building has been decorated in DMF's colours. We have white walls & blue metal doors & windows. Also the balcony floor & pillars have been tiled in blue.

There are some small things needed to finish off. The playground is pretty basic and at present consists of ground blocks, covered in sand. Due to the heat it is very difficult to know what to put down, most schools have sand and the ground blocks are needed for drainage when the rains come. We are hoping to plant some trees to provide shade and also to make some pathways. We also need to heighten the boundary wall a bit, as at present people can climb over and all the boundary walls need plastering and painting. We are hoping in the





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future to have artwork on the walls and it would be nice if the children can be involved in this e.g. a collage that they have all contributed to. Thanks to Harvey Cole for the photos of the new school.

Further good news is that Luke McMath (Mick & Judy's eldest son) and two of his friends Paul Nayton and Natalie Sole have been successful in getting a place on the Plymouth Banjul Rally, they will be driving under the name of TEAM DMF and will be raising money for the Don McMath Foundation and other Gambian charities. They will be leaving Plymouth on 26th December 2005. To quote from the rally's web site "The Challenge is to simply drive the route from [Plymouth to Dakar](#) (on a limited budget) with the principle aim of helping some Charitable causes in Senegal and The Gambia."

To enable them to complete the Rally they will need a lot of help from sponsors and friends with the costs. **They also need to get hold of a left hand drive car capable of making the 3,700-mile journey!!!** If anyone reading this newsletter knows of such a car that is available for under £100 then please contact us as soon as possible (the rules state that no more than £100 can be spent on the car and no more than £15 on preparing it for the rally but they also state that "Rules are made to be broken"). If anyone would like to either sponsor Luke, Paul and Natalie directly (i.e. help them with their costs) then please contact them direct via their website: www.teamdmf.org.uk If anyone would like to make a donation direct to the Don McMath Foundation to be spent on the school we will be able to provide them with worldwide publicity by putting their company logo or name on the car, the rally gets lots of media coverage. For more information about the rally see the web site: <http://www.plymouth-dakar.co.uk/> team DMF are in Group 2.

We would like to thank Hanna Woods for her donation following her jewellery sale last Sunday, the event also resulted in us getting sponsors for six more children.

We have our annual garden parties coming up in July, Mick and Judy's is on Sunday 10th July in Verwood and Anne's has been rearranged to Sunday 31st July in Bexhill-on-Sea, we will be sending out invitations to you all over the next few weeks and look forward to seeing you.

Anne is running a stall at Hastings Old Town Carnival on Saturday 20th August, and needs bric-a-brac, baby clothes, videos & CDs If you can help contact her on 01424 712555 during working hours or 01424 215818 evenings & weekends. Mick and Judy will be running a stall at the Verwood Rustic Fair on Monday 29th August and would welcome anything for their bric-a-brac stall. They can be contacted on 01202 823317.

The official opening of the new school is scheduled for Monday 28th November, we have had a terrific response from all of you and have about 20 people travelling to The Gambia for the ceremony.

We would like to once again thank you all for your support, without your help the school would not exist today.

Anne and Mick McMath

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