

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

OUR AIMS & VISION STATEMENT

We *'Start children off on the way they should go ...'* through inspiring everyone to:

LOVE Jesus and each other

APPRECIATE themselves and the gifts they have been given

ACHIEVE their full potential...

'So even when they are older they will not turn from it' - Proverbs 22:6

Hello everyone in the UK team,

I trust you are all keeping well and everything is going well especially with everything that is currently happening in our world. I am always encouraged to know that God is our provider and everything is possible if we continue to trust in Him.

I am pleased to share with you what has happened at our school this year from Jan to July. I apologise it has taken a while to send my HT report; there were some changes in our school year calendar. We usually have a our half term holidays during June, but this year it is in August, therefore I thought it will be more appropriate to just wait until I have more exciting news to share with you all. As the head of our school I am always encouraged to see how everyone is making a positive contribution towards achieving our Bethany school vision, it is not always easy but we continue to do it all through our Lord Jesus who gives us strength and courage to tackle all our daily challenges and struggles.

As a school community we have continued to work hard and tirelessly in our drive to be better each and every day. As a result we are really starting to see some of our pupils demonstrate the consistency in the behaviour and attitude towards learning. This is no more evident than with our STD 4 & 7 pupils as they plan and prepare for their National examinations taking the whole process extremely serious.

Number on roll

	Pre-school	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Total
BOYS	70	11	10	10	14	7	9	9	140
GIRLS	101	17	20	18	21	15	23	13	228
TOTAL	171	28	30	28	35	22	32	22	368

Preschool: We have four classes (4 stages) in our preschool, Tembos, Twigas, Simbas and Reception, hence that number. The stages are arranged according to the age and ability. Our preschool children ages between 2 yrs old to 9/10yrs old. Currently we have **111** Bethany children, **39** boys and **72** girls. Children from the village are **257**, boys **101** and **156** girls.

Staffing

I am so grateful to have such hardworking and committed people in our teaching staff. It is not always easy to keep everyone motivated but I do appreciate how we have managed to find a way to work together to serve our school vision. We have a saying “**All in it together**” I truthfully believe this has played a major role in helping to keep our team strong and focused. Currently we have 23 members on our staff, 18 teachers (12 teachers and 6 TAs), one school secretary, school cleaner and maintenance person. Sadly one of our teaching staff was employed by the government at the beginning of July, he was our only science teacher, and hence I am now on the lookout for a new science teacher. I have interviewed few people but none of them are appropriate for the position. Adding on that, I have two volunteer teachers, Miss Elizabeth Zabron, a college graduate and Mr Ngassa a form six leaver. Both are working hard and seem to be adapting to the Bethany school way. Furthermore, through in service teacher training course, 5 of our teaching staff who were not qualified have managed to acquire a certificate in Early childhood, this was all possible as they received a loan from Bethany, each teacher received 1,500,000/= and every month David Borland deducts 50,000/= from their monthly allowance. One of the teachers (Mr Malaya, who was the first to do the training) has finished paying it back and the rest are yet to finish.

Quality of Learning and Teaching

I am delighted to inform you that both teachers and pupils are working very hard to keep up with our school targets. All our pupils have shown outstanding progress in their learning journey; this is evident in their examination results (see attached documents) and work produced in the class. One of our school targets in our KS1 this year is to help children to master their reading and writing skills effectively, and for this to happen phonics has to be taught efficiently. During one of my class observations I noticed our STD 1 and preschool children were not taught phonics correctly, particularly sounding out diagraphs (two letters making one sound) e.g., ie, oa, oo,ue etc. Therefore I introduced a class for our KS1 staff to learn phonics, this has been helpful and I can see some improvements but we still have a long way to go. I have spoken to Karen Ross and David, together are looking for different ways to assist us achieve this successfully. English speaking is still a challenge especially with our teachers; we therefore introduced **Swahili speaking box** in the staff room, whoever is caught speaking Kiswahili must put 1000/= in the box, the money corrected is put into good use.

Our success

- Outstanding feedback from school inspectors
- Excellent results from mocks examinations, top 15 pupils both in STD4 and STD 7 mock ward examinations came from our school. Our school ranked second in region mock examination in July.
- Our preschool children are becoming exceptional at Bible verse challenge competitions, could this be because of the lollypops? I really do not know
- Children are enjoying coming to school every day, they feel safer whilst at school.
- Teachers and pupils working hard together and putting Jesus at the centre of all we do.
- Our “*weekend with girls*” programme has become a success!

We are working on:

- Raising attainment in phonics and spellings
- Improving pupils' reading and writing skills
- Spending more time reading books
- Team work between parents and teachers
- Setting realistic individual targets for our special needs children.
- Continue to work on our English zone only policy
- Taking good care of our learning and teaching resources
- Speaking truthfully no matter how hard it.

Feedback from the school committee and parents meeting

I held a meeting with our school committee and parents. The main agenda was the current financial situation. It is very clear that everyone is facing financial difficulty, items have gone up in prices and hence we have no choice than to manage our school resources well. During the meeting parents willingly agreed to contribute towards food; this is quite tricky however it was decided for those who could afford. As you are all aware that food is very expensive and Bethany offers 2 meals a day for 5 school days (breakfast and lunch) for 394 people (pupils and teachers). Therefore parents are very happy to bring in food like maize and sweet potatoes. Additionally, the school offers school resources for our 368 pupils. These resources include; **pens, pencils, exercise books, rulers, rubber sharpeners, socks, school jumpers, and school t-shirts**. However there are some parents who can afford buying these items for their children. Prior to the meeting, I had to do a research to determine which families are capable of providing some of the school items for their kids. Out of our **257** children from the village only **54** families live in absolute poverty, these families cannot even afford having 2meals a day, they solely depend on the food offered at school. Hence, I came to the conclusion that our school can only provide the items mentioned above to these 54 children and the other 203 children, their parents will take full responsibility in providing these school resources. When I shared my findings in the meeting everyone was convinced it was the right thing to do considering what Bethany is offering and of courses our current financial situation.

It is such a privilege to be part of the Bethany vision, despite all the ups and downs I am thankful to God that Bethany is still as solid as ever and everything is in good hands. We are grateful to all our supporters for their continuous support; we cannot do all these without the love and support we receive from you. Your commitment to ensuring that the Bethany vision continues is awe-inspiring. Bethany School is transforming lives and it remains an honour to serve as the Bethany school Headteacher.

I pray and hope that we all continue to serve this vision.

Every blessing,

Emmakulatha Robert Bujiku (Bethany school Headmistress)