

Dear Friends

March 2017



We wanted to share Tukongote's biggest day (so far) with you in this special newflash. On Tuesday we opened the brand new Tukongote Community Preschool.



One year ago it was just a dream, six months ago it was a plan on a piece of paper, and today it's a reality. The young children of Waterberry's neighbouring villages now have the chance of a free, fun, stimulating and creative early years' education in what is probably the brightest school in Zambia!

Thanks to generous donations the children were all given school bags and polo shirts for uniforms on the last day at the old Tukongote. They looked so smart when the entire village turned up for the opening ceremony, which began with singing the national anthem whilst holding hands. We had a few short speeches, and lovely demonstrations from each class all rounded off by the whole school singing their own anthem "Tukongote, Happy School". It was a very moving morning. Rob and Tessa, the two sponsors of the building, then officially opened the school with ribbon cutting after which everyone was given the chance to tour the school.



Each classroom is full of colourful educational displays, books and toys, with a learning area, playing area and reading corner/quiet area. Even the canteen and the toilet blocks are brightly decorated! For the vast majority of Zambians their only experience of school is in bare, overcrowded and run down rooms. Here they have been overwhelmed by the colours and decorations. There were huge smiles all round, lots of joy and dancing!!



As a community, as teachers, as pupils and, as Waterberry staff, we are all proud to be part of the Tukongote Community Projects, and we all thank everyone who has helped us over the years to reach this amazing place. As Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world." For the children of Tukongote the first step on that ladder of education just got a whole lot brighter.

Rainbow wishes from our rainbow school, Kelly and Lynette

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