



**COGS**  
UNITED IN CARE & LEARNING

# SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2022

It's hard to believe we are halfway through the year.... where does the time go? At the time of writing this newsletter, the sun is shining, and the birds are singing, long may it last.

**COMMONWEALTH DAY CELEBRATION** - Over the last few months, it's been very busy both at COGS HQ UK and COGS Nursery School, The Gambia. Commonwealth Day is widely celebrated in Gambia and COGS Nursery School were delighted to be part of this. The children dressed in their traditional clothes, the girls have sweets in their hair and the boys have biscuits attached to strings on their body. This is one day the cooks have a day off from their normal cooking duties, as the children take their own traditional tribal food to eat for their lunch. The community are actively involved in the celebration as the children skip and dance around the community singing. It's such a colourful event to be part of and watch. One happy community.



**WELCOME TO ODETT – NURSERY 1 TEACHER** – Odett has joined our teaching team and has settled well into the COGS family. She is teaching Nursery 1 and is also living in the accommodation at Jabang with Simon and his family. Odet has been teaching for several years but has never



had the opportunity to attend the college and study the Early Childhood Development qualification which is required to teach in nursery schools. I'm delighted to say that is all about to change. Odet is applying to the Gambia College to begin her studying to become a nursery teacher. Through the amazing support from all our sponsors and supporters we can fund Odet's training. In return Odet will commit to 4 years employment at COGS. It will take her 2 years to obtain her qualification. We wish Odet every success with her application and interview. An update will follow in the next newsletter... watch this space. ☹️

## HOW CAN YOU HELP WITH FUNDRAISING - WITHOUT LEAVING THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME

Although face to face fundraising has been limited over the last two years, I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive **THANK YOU** to everyone who has signed up to **Easy**

**Fundraising** and **AmazonSmile** nominating COGS as their chosen charity. As you can see over **£300** has been raised through **Easy Fundraising** and more than **£150** through Amazon Smile.



If you have not registered with either of these fundraising platforms, I would really recommend you do. For every single purchase you make, COGS will benefit. It's so simple and does not cost you a single penny.

All you need to do, is to register with **EasyFundraising** and select COGS as your chosen charity. Each time you make a purchase from a retailer, and there are over 3,600 to choose from, they will donate a % of

your purchase to COGS. There is **NO** additional cost to you for using this facility, however, the benefits to COGS are significant. Retailers include John Lewis, Boots, Argos, eBay, and Gap to name just a few.

You can also sign up to AmazonSmile, select Children of Gambia Services Tuti Nursery Medical Centre. Each time you shop using **Amazon Smile** a % of every purchase is given to COGS.

**INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL EQUIPMENT FOR EVERY CHILD** It is great that each child continues to use their own cup when at school which is towards cross infection. Furthermore, the children's personal items are replenished each term. Each child has their own toothpaste, flannel, and sanitizer. Again, this is supporting COGS continued aim of not only Covid, but also everyday childhood illnesses including vomiting, coughs, colds, and sneezes which are increased during the rainy season. The rainy season has started early this year with many areas having very heavy rains and thunderstorms already.



to confirm that each clearly helping hygiene bags are toothbrush, soap, of reducing the spread upset tummy,

From March 2022 each child now has their **own Education Pack** which comprises of a pencil case, pencils, rubber, pencil sharpener-coloured pencils and a flexible non-breakable ruler. The children absolutely love these, especially the rulers. They were amazed no matter how hard they tried to break them it was impossible.



**Every term, the teaching team ensures the children have all they require to maintain their personal hygiene and their education.**



Maybe you can help by items that we take for day. **Have a look at**



donating the granted every



**COGS Wish List on AmazonSmile**



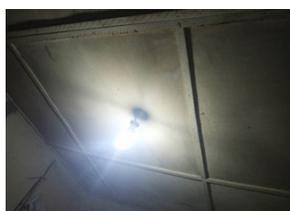
**BEING CREATIVE** - The children enjoy being creative using their art and craft resources. Being creative is extremely important for them, it allows every child to express themselves in different ways. With creativity, there is no right or wrong way. **No matter what the ability of the child, they are able participate.** Art and Craft are part of the weekly curriculum at COGS Nursery School.



**COMMUNITY MEDICAL FACILITY/BIRTHING CENTRE** - I am so excited to share the next update. If I could shout it from the roof tops I would. I am delighted to report that the **Community Medical Facility/Birthing Centre** which **COGS** agreed to fund and equip with medical resource was handed over to Jabang



Community in March. The community are extremely grateful for this amazing facility. **COGS** would like to thank everyone who has supported them with this project and a special thanks goes to **COGS Australia** (which no longer operates as a charity) for all the fundraising they did. The community have agreed to take on the running of the facility and everyone at **COGS** wishes them all the best with its continued development and all the medical support they will be giving in Jabang and neighbouring communities.



### **LET THERE BE LIGHT – THERE IS AT COGS NURSERY SCHOOL**

Having waited for over 18 months for NAWEC to install the electric meters at the nursery school and in the teacher accommodation, finally this has been completed. There has been a big shortage of metres throughout the country. After the long wait, and with the flick of a switch, the power supply is now up and running. Thank you to everyone who contributed towards this and a special thank you must go to Tina Bennet who specifically asked for her donation to go towards the installation of the electric.



Included in **COGS** School Improvement Plan which is written with aims and objectives over the next 3 years, is for each class to have at least two computers so the children can begin to develop their IT skills. As we know being able to use this technology is the way forward. **COGS** aims for this improvement to be achieved within the next 2 years. To help **COGS** make this happen, we are appealing for any unused laptops to be donated to us. Raymond who teachers Nursery 2 has completed his Diploma in IT and Software Development and will be able to support the installation and upkeep of these as well as teaching the children how to use them.

There are many ways in which you can support **COGS** and here are a few suggestions:

**\*Sponsor a child, teacher or make a regular or one-off donation. \* [Purchase items from COGS wish list on Smile Amazon.](#) \* Hold a fundraising event raising funds for COGS\* [Participate in a SkyDrive, walk on hot coals, run a marathon, or do a sponsored event.](#)**

**Remember, 100% of money raised is used for the continued development and sustainment of COGS.**

**Thank you for taking the time to read our Summer Newsletter. To each and everyone of you, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the support you give or have given.**



**Best wishes for a relaxing Summer from the Board of Trustees, COGS Staff, Children, and the Jabang Community.**



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