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## **Covid-19 & Sierra Leone**

**Covid 19 today's figures:** 1,917 confirmed cases with 69 recorded deaths and 1,447 recovered.

### **Our washing machine has broken down !**

On Monday our Zanussi (other makes are available!) automatic washing machine developed a fault and the engineer is unable to attend until next Tuesday. Today, I, **(YES, ME)** had to do some hand washing of essential items, which I thought was a bit of an inconvenience. **BUT** then I stopped and thought about all the people I work with in Sierra Leone who don't have electricity, let alone a washing machine OR a running water supply, and in some cases they have to walk long distances to fetch water, often from a water source that is not that clean. The morale of the story Stop moaning, it just puts everything in perspective!!

### **Banbury International Community School**

The local community are hoping to be able to build a Community Hall, not far from the school, but to raise money they are going to sell a number of “town plots” owned by the Community. One of these plots is what is currently being used by the schoolchildren as their playground and we were in danger of losing this valuable school facility. My “man on the ground”, Fayah, negotiated a deal to reduce the original asking price for the plot, in recognition of the development of the school that we have undertaken in the Community. The plot is now secured for the School and we intend to form a compound around the entire site to provide security and make the school self-contained. This will be done in stages as funds become available. During the last month many of the buildings have been re-painted with me funding the materials and the staff undertaking all the work. We are also constructing a small stage area outside the classroom block.

### **Liverpool Community School**

All the buildings in both the Junior and Secondary schools have been re-painted, furniture has been repaired and some of the concrete floors have also been repaired. Once again the funds for the materials were provided by my supporters and the work undertaken by the teachers.

### **Calvary Primary School**

We have upgraded the submersible pump in the well at the School and Church community to provide a more efficient water system for the community.

A couple of days ago the Junior school children sat their National exams so that they can “graduate” to Secondary School. If a child doesn't attain the required grade in all their subjects they have to re-sit the year.



If they all do as well as they look it will be GREAT.

### **Mahera Wharf Oxford United Hostel**

There has been GREAT progress with the new indoor toilet/washroom facilities but there are still a few finishing touches which will take place soon



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We have 2 toilets, a wash hand basin AND a shower ! This may not seem much to you in the UK, but for us, here in Sierra Leone they will make a MASSIVE difference in our day to day lives. Before we had no indoor facilities, so this is life changing for us all. A HUGE thank you to Mr Alan, our Oxford United supporters in the UK & Tasmania, & all Mr Alan's supporters - you've **"Made Our Dream A Reality"**



### What a load of blocks !!

I have had an initial estimate to build the compound "fence" (which in fact will be an eight foot high breeze block wall) at Banbury International Community School. The compound measures 55 x 40 metres, hence the title of this article! The initial cost is **£7,995**. Myself and Fayah, my "man on the ground", have looked at the estimate in detail and to try and reduce costs we have decided to, wherever possible, use existing buildings as part of the compound wall and we have dispensed with the double gates at the entrance and have managed to reduce the estimate to **£6,080**, almost a 25% reduction in the cost.

The total wage bill for the project represents just **10%** of the total cost, so the majority of the cost is materials. As with all previous projects we will make ALL the concrete blocks on site, as it is slightly cheaper than buying blocks, but importantly it creates work for local labourers. These are the current costs of products:

A breeze block costs £1 (currently £1.20 in the UK)

A bag of cement is £6 (currently £4.20 in the UK)

The cost of building a re-enforced pillar is £17.50

A lorry load of sand costs £40 & of ballast £80.

This just shows how expensive building materials are in Sierra Leone compared to the UK. The project will progress as funds become available and we know that this will not be achieved in the short term but the school are aware of the situation and understand it.

### Momoh



Once again this month we have provided Momoh and his carer's family with essential food supplies. Once again I would like to say thank you to **"Auntie Jean"** for her sponsorship of Momoh & his family. Momoh is unable to attend school due to a lack of specialist schools and Pastor Mark has asked if I would buy Momoh a rechargeable DVD player so he can have a little bit of home comfort what do you think?