

Burlton House, The Burltons, Cromhall, Wotton-under-Edge, Glos., GL12 8BH

Dear Friends of CLinC,
Coronavirus in Zambia.

In Zambia, the numbers of Covid-19 cases has continued to be low and, after a small spike in August, are now falling. Since May there have been only 15,301 cases reported and 335 deaths. Like here, numbers may have been higher than recorded. Fr. Jackson believes up to 80% of the township people may have been infected but recovered well! Scientists, who predicted that townships would be badly hit by this pandemic, are still puzzled why much of Africa has coped better than the rest of the world!

Schools in Zambia

On June 1st all examination grades returned to school, that is grades 7, 9 and 12.

The grade 7 classes at our two schools completed their term 2 on August 28th and returned to school on Sept 14th for term 3. As far as I know, they will take their end of year examination in November as normal.

The non-examination classes are therefore a term behind and returned to school on Sept 21st for their term 2. This means term 3, which normally starts in September, will now start in January 2021, meaning this school year will now end in March 2021.



Alice, head teacher at St Mark's Community school sent photos of two of her classes. Classrooms are small, poorly equipped, and the children are wearing masks made by their parents. Social distancing is difficult.

The younger children appear not to need masks.
(I think both classes had just arrived as there is no sign of any work going on!)

We believe that around 50% of the children have returned to school. Many parents may be reluctant to send their children as all are expected to pay a small, parental contribution.



This is essential for the running of the schools as they receive no help from the government. The lives of these families have changed dramatically in recent months as most work places were closed for many weeks and the cost of living has risen. Life is harder than ever for these families.

CLinC has sent money to cover the teachers' pay this year since schools have been closed. We asked about the lives of teachers and this is Kelvin's reply:

The teacher life so far is not bad for we have maintained the monthly allowances (teachers' pay) and it is really helping. And we really thank you for the great job you are giving in helping the young teachers as they are helping the vulnerable and orphaned children. God bless you.

This refers to all of you!

Each school runs two sessions to enable social distancing in class. Many children receive just three hours schooling each day. It is hoped that the land and buildings acquired by St Anne's school will help provide more teaching areas. However, Covid-19 has prevented progress with this, mainly due to lack of money to buy materials and carry out necessary alterations.

Teacher training.

The teacher training continues for six of our teachers.

Martha is in her final term and will graduate in November. She has agreed to remain at the school for at least two years. However, none of the teachers have left after gaining their qualifications in spite of the opportunity to receive a higher monthly pay. They are dedicated to the task of educating the local children from poor families.

Income

Thank you to everyone who has a monthly, quarterly or annual standing order for CLinC as this does enable us to plan ahead. Also thank you to those of you who give annually to enable us to sponsor pupils through grades 8 & 9.

A big thank you also to everyone who gift aids their donations. This makes a tremendous difference to our income. If you pay tax and would be willing to gift aid your donations, please let me know and I will get a form to you.

Fundraising

The sale of non-medical face masks has continued to do well in the village shop. Masks have also been sold at Minchinhampton Golf Club and the total raised to date is £1,377. This is amazing and we thank everyone who either made or bought a face mask.



Thank you all once again for your continued interest and support over the years.

Trustees of CLinC:- Ann Greenhalgh, Doug Collett, Peggy Collett, Fe Gray
Nic Fleming, Colin Nash, Penny Kells

For more information visit - www.cromhall.com/clinc