



2016 OFF TO A BUSY START!!

You know we always say we haven't stopped since we last wrote...that's because, er, we haven't!!!!

It feels like Christmas was several months ago, not just a few weeks...

What's been happening:

- Our residential children all returned to the centre after visits to families and guardians over Christmas, and they immediately started their new school year! Frida has enrolled in primary school and is loving it, having grown by leaps and bounds in self confidence during 2016. David has gone off to start secondary school as a boarder. Hamis and Riziki began their O level exam year. Here we are, right, wearing lovely football kit donated by Garrett Kindle, a Nord Anglia student.
- Mama Elly returned to work after 3 months away on maternity leave after the birth of her 2nd child!
- We facilitated community projects for 2 Nord Anglia expeditions in January, building goat sheds, rocket stoves, and installing solar systems for 15 vulnerable families; and students learnt brick making, plastering, and foundation laying skills on a wall at SWTz, and on teachers' housing at Kitefu Primary School.
- After seeing how successful our transition bedroom is for two of our teenage girls (they love the independence, the peace in their bedroom in which to study, and are cooking some meals for themselves too using the small kitchen we built for them and volunteers) we are building a detached bedroom, in our new plot of land, which our two oldest teenage boys will use plus a storeroom for community project building supplies.
- SWTz Nursery opened to new students in January and is more than full! We are having to turn away students. The need for good affordable nursery education in this area is huge. Our 2015 results were great - of 10 graduates, 2 received scholarships to private schools, 4 passed entrance exams to good private schools and 4 entered local primary schools! In the picture, our students are wearing uniform donated by British School of Washington! Thank you guys!!!



- We have been experiencing very hot and windy weather (large areas of eastern and southern Africa are experiencing severe drought). The heat is very tiring, and the dryness means it is extremely dusty where we are based. Perversely, other areas of Africa (including parts of Tanzania) are experiencing higher than average rainfall and are suffering flooding. The disparities are due to the prolonged El Niño climate phenomenon - an interesting article on the global effect of this can be found here: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/12/el-nino-strengthens-grip-globe-151220093557172.html> *Note...2 days after writing this we have unexpectedly had a lot of rain!!!*

- Remember our December campaign to raise funds for our Education Fund, during which which we raised £6,500...and Wendy and Rebecca shaved their hair off? It was enormous fun, and if you haven't already seen it, there is a video link of the shaving at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhpDDFZQLhA> . One month



later, our hair is starting to look a bit fuller (right)...and more crucially, we have been able to pay necessary school fees!!



- We had a swim morning last weekend - here's Iddy, left, learning how to float, taught by Wendy and volunteer Grace! :)

If you'd like to know exactly where we are located - here are the coordinates for the centre to stick into the google maps search bar: 3°21'25.8"S 36°53'32.0"E In the picture below, the red dot is in the middle of the driveway, with the main garden to the top of it and the vegetable garden immediately below.



Finally, there is an African proverb that says "If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping in a closed room with a mosquito". Often we think that the problems that are in the world, or even in our local community, are too big for any one of us to make a difference. This proverb teaches us that even the smallest of actions can bring about big change. We have seen this again and again here at SWTz...if each of us is doing our part towards bringing positive change, eventually there will be a huge impact.

Thank You so much for helping to make a difference in Tanzania