

**Turning Leaves Uganda**

**Newsletter 23, April 2023**

Dear friends and family,

Greetings from Mbale! I trust you are all well. It was lovely to see some of you when I visited the UK over Christmas. After some complications, I eventually got my work permit, which I am extremely relieved and grateful about. It lasts for three years. While in the UK, I managed to update most of the programmes for use in bigger schools, as well as to work on some assessment tools and resources. Since I got back, I have been very busy going into schools and doing administrative tasks. Maggie has decided to move to be closer to family in the north of the country, so, for now, I am trying to tackle much of the work in schools on my own. Nonetheless, progress is being made (albeit a little slowly). Our outreach programme in Namabasa village continues to go well, and we are very pleased with the progress the girls are making. Plans for the model school are currently on hold as we sort out a few things, but we will keep you updated! Many thanks for all your contributions to Turning Leaves over Christmas. We were able to buy resources for Musoto Christian School, Nabuyonga Primary School, Overcomers Special Needs School, and the outreach in Namabasa.

**Musoto Christian School, Musoto**

Musoto Christian School is doing well in terms of implementing the programmes. The reading ability of the children is particularly good and we are also seeing improvements in their ability to write. This term, I have been focussing on Middle and Top Classes. Due to the large class sizes, organisation and management of the classes can be a challenge, but I am sure we will get there in the end! The teachers are very appreciative of the Turning Leaves Programmes and particularly how they help children to read using phonics. I hope to see continued improvement through the course of the year, especially in the area of Personal, Social and Spiritual Education, which has been a little neglected as much emphasis has been put on teaching language and mathematics skills. I look forward to seeing how the year unfolds with this school.

**Nabuyonga Primary School, Mbale City**

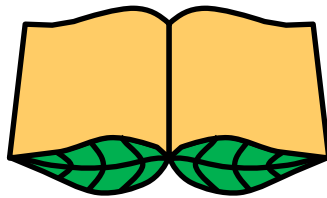
The Nursery department of Nabuyonga Primary School has made a good start in beginning to implement the Turning Leaves Programmes. Baby Class (the youngest class) is doing particularly well. After some initial misunderstandings, teachers responsible for the other two classes are also showing willingness to begin implementing the programmes. I think for the last 3-4 weeks of term, I will focus my attention on Middle Class, and then spend some time with the Top Class teacher during the school holidays, as she did not attend the workshop last year. This school has a lot of potential because it is very well organised, with a very good headmistress, and all the teachers are hardworking and committed. I look forward to getting to know the teachers better, and to working together to provide positive and meaningful learning experiences for the children.

**Overcomers Special Needs School, Kamonkoli**

Without going into details, this school had some managerial issues at the start of the year, and so opened late. However, they are now open, and a good number of children are enrolled in the school. The Nursery teacher is very good, but is currently also responsible for Primary 1. She is keen to use the Turning Leaves Programme written specifically for her composite nursery class, but has to juggle this with covering the work for Primary 1 children. Basically, she is doing her best but it is a challenging situation! On the one morning I visit this school in the week I am therefore just trying to support her to deliver as much of the material as possible to the nursery class, so that she can attend to Primary 1. Nonetheless, I am confident these children will do well.

**Loved Children's Centre, Namatala**

Because of time, I am not visiting Loved during the term, as I am too busy with other schools. However, I hope to find some time during the holidays to catch up with the teachers and see how the children are getting on.



Turning Leaves Uganda

### **Education Outreach, Namabasa**

The Education Outreach is going well. We have divided the children into three groups roughly corresponding to the three classes of Nursery. I have a young lady (intern) who assists me. The first group, we take together (they are a bit lively!), and then Dinah (our intern) takes the second group and I take the third. All the children are making very good progress, and we are excited to see what they can achieve by the end of the year! We provide all children with porridge, and the second and third group also get lunch (posho and beans). Thank you so much for making this possible.

### **Shammah Junior School, Soroti**

Because of time, distance and money, we have had to step back from visiting this school for now. We may be able to provide some support to them in the future, however.

### **Model School, Namabasa**

As I wrote above, this is currently on hold as we sort out the registration of the land, as well as some other administrative challenges. However, we continue to hope and believe that we will be able to open up a model school in Namabasa. As well as benefitting the local community, it would be great to have a base, and 'live model' of how to use the programmes successfully. Having somewhere teachers could come and see the programmes in action would, without doubt, be the most powerful way of convincing teachers that they work, as well as modelling the skills needed to make them work. In other words, it would be a great teacher training opportunity.

### **Conclusion**

Generally, the work in schools is going well, and the year has started in a very busy and productive way! Despite challenges, progress is being made. Thank you so much for all your support. It is much appreciated.

With love and best wishes,

Emma



*Education Outreach, Namabasa*