

NEWS FROM MITSIDI sent by Vivex Kumisuku, Head Teacher

SANITATION

Diseases primarily transmitted through the faecal-oral route cause infectious diarrhoeas, dysentery, typhoid, cholera and infectious hepatitis.

in Malawi, these diseases can lead to low school enrolment, high absenteeism, poor class performance and early and high drop-out rates especially for girls.

Mitsidi in the fight against these diseases has started a project where by learners are taught the practice of washing hands with soap when ever they come out of the toilet.

In promotion of sanitation and hygiene, learners are taught the three technical skills in the following areas:

- *Washing hands with soap*
- *Proper and consistent use of a latrine*
- *Drinking safe water*

At this school we have made some simple hand washing facilities. These are made using local available material as in the picture where the learners are using the facility. Soap is also placed for the learners to use.

Learners are also taught that proper use of the latrine is very important. They should follow the following:

- *Ensure to drop the faeces and urine through the hole.*

- *Cover the hole after use.*

- *Wash hands with soap. Using the hand washing facility*



Learners wash hands after visiting toilet

On the part of safe drinking water learners are asked to drink water from the borehole. If the water from the tap is placed in containers they should use two cups. One for drawing water from the container and pour it into other cup which is used for drinking water. One of the containers used at this school is a clay pot. This has an advantage of making the water cool when it is very hot.

As we are on this project we are facing some challenges: for example, most of the learners don't have shoes to protect them.

Many thanks goes to St Joseph's for approving the construction of more toilets for the school. Our project will be a success because of St Joseph's. A job well done keep it up.

BREAKING NEWS...

We have just been informed that the football boots and strips sent out to Mitsidi in February have arrived safely in the school. Vivex, the Head Teacher, tells us that the sports gear is the best they have ever seen!

You can be sure that the pupils are very grateful to the children of the parish, the children of St Joseph's Primary school and the Boy's clubs in Milngavie who were so generous with their donations. Photos will follow in due course.

St Joseph's ANNIVERSARY PROJECT

June 2010

THIS YEAR'S PRIORITIES

At a meeting held on May 6th, parishioners were invited to join the Mitsidi group to help decide on this year's priorities.

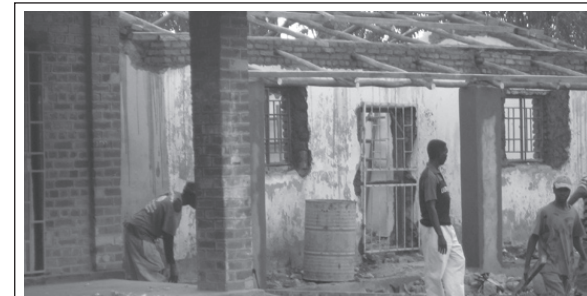
There are currently 1045 pupils in Mitsidi Primary school. As you know, our first priority is to give sufficient funds to Mary's Meals to allow them to **feed each and every Mitsidi child** throughout the whole school year. This year, the cost for this is £6,450. We have already paid Mary's Meals the first instalment of £2,000.

The Head Teacher of the school sent us a list of the priorities the school had identified, and these were discussed.

We have been able to provide the school with modest sums of money over the past year to help them with some of their **basic consumables** and this has been greatly appreciated. This year, we have allocated £2,100 (£700 per term) to ensure the smooth running of the school.

We have also sent £350 for some urgently required teacher and pupil **resources and essential reference books**.

The school has been fortunate



Library renovation work in progress

in being allocated five new teachers. Given the importance of transport and the success of the teachers' bikes scheme, we have decided to purchase **bikes for the new members of staff** in the interest of equality. This will cost approximately £350.

You will be aware that emergency repairs to the library and the construction of new toilets were previously authorised. These are just about complete and we will have photos of the improvements in due course.

However, it had also been proposed that **the library should be extended** (it doubles as a staff room at present) and we have decided to bring this work forward, taking advantage of the fact that the contractor is on site already - so achieving considerable savings in connection with this construction.

The carpenter is currently working to complete the 30 small stools and benches we previously commissioned and we have sent out a further £380 so that **ten lockers can be built** so that teachers can keep both the teaching resources and their possessions secure in the classrooms.

Some of you may know that the school was targeted by thieves recently and a few small items stolen. Thanks to the quick action of the Head Teacher, however, police arrested the thieves and recovered the items.

We will look at other potential areas of expenditure at the Mitsidi meeting on June 17th. All welcome.