



UPDATE

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Latest News from Congo

The main picture shows the children from the **nursery school** waving to us as they return to school. You can see both parts of the school in the background. We have received a report from Sister Émilie with the details of the enrolment so far (enrolment continues until the end of September as not all of the parents can afford to send their children to school at the beginning of the school year). There are eight teachers and 162 children in the nursery section, fourteen teachers and 601 pupils in the primary section and 321 pupils in the secondary section, although the 26 teachers are still only paid from the parents' contributions, meaning less money goes to the school. It was heartening to read, however, that there are now two admin staff and one librarian. Sadly, one of the primary school teachers was killed in a motorbike accident, leaving six children of his own.

Toilets With the extra £1000 we sent in the spring, the new toilet block was finally completed.



Financing of the Medical Centre: message from Sr Virginie There is no external funding: it operates



with contributions from patient care and the small pharmacy. Monthly income is not always sufficient to pay staff well and they often have to wait for six weeks before being paid. University interns also do their work experience there. The priority is to buy an x-ray machine because the Centre loses 95% of cases as the doctor is obliged to transfer them to other hospitals in Lubumbashi. Many patients are disappointed by the absence of radiography because they greatly appreciate the quality of care at this centre and prefer to be treated on site. Having an x-ray machine in the Medical Centre will increase the number of patients and bring new life to the little hospital. Cost: \$10,000 (approx. £8,250 which is a huge commitment but money from future fundraising events could go towards this. Ed.)

Please do not forget to use easyfundraising.org.uk if you shop online, search for **Congo School for Peace**. **£1,986.71** has been raised over the years.

University students

We hope to receive a detailed report at the end of their academic year (December) but



here is a photo of Pichouna (sponsored from the age of 5) with the laptop purchased with extra money sent by her sponsor.

Events

- ✚ **Visit of Sr Virginie Kadima** Sadly she was not able to get her visa in time to meet us in Brussels but we met with two of her co-sisters who are living in Belgium at the moment. They prepared a Congolese meal for us and we gave them books and toys for Sister Virginie to take back with her when she finally arrives (see photos on reverse).
- ✚ **The Music Garden Party** had to be cancelled because of the weather forecast.
- ✚ **Stalls:** Both of these raised a total of £704 which was encouraging. Thanks to all those who donated goods and helped.
- ✚ **Evening of Poetry and Song** will hopefully take place in the new year.



Photos from our trip to Brussels to meet the sisters living there at the moment.



Sister Odile, who became the second head teacher at the School for Peace, preparing the table with the Congolese dishes she and Sr Judith had prepared for us including Lenga-Lenga, a delicious plant which they grow in their garden in Brussels!

Sister Odile and Sr Judith with our School for Peace mugs.



Mary and Michael enjoying the delicious meal. "A taste of Congo!"



Some of the resources we managed to take to the sisters for the school library.

If you can fundraise, find sponsors or help us in any way please contact Mary Ellwood (Secretary) or Alan Williams (Treasurer):
congoschool4peace@gmail.com

Thank you all for your continued interest and support