



Friday 8th November 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On **Friday 6th December** our school will be hosting a Christingle celebration in support of Feed a Namibian Child.

Rivington Church has had a link with Okathitu and Ruacana for 24 years (1996-2019) with visits to those two parishes taking place every two/three years. Prior to this year's visit the Namibian Government declared a 'State of Emergency' (see attachment). It is the first drought to affect the entire country with total crop failure and cattle dying. The government have advised farmers to cull their livestock leaving only a few animals for breeding.

Subsistence farmers in the churches two parishes are being hard hit. Whilst the government provided some food relief this was minimal and it is doubtful whether further food support will be given as the Government is in financial difficulty. Prior to the Church visit this June, they were able to fundraise enough money to supplement this for the 2,109 children in the three schools which the church supports (£3,781.34). This would provide each child with one meal a day up to the end of this school term.

The situation continues to deteriorate. Mahangu crops (staple food) will only be planted in November and harvested next May/June - dependent on the rainy season! The good news is that this week we hear that there has been some rainfall although it is too early to say whether the coming growing season will be successful. Only time will tell.

Many subsistence farmers in the parishes have now used all their stored grain from the previous year. It was, therefore decided to hold a fundraising project so that school children in the three schools could have one meal a day. Many of these children walk up to 8 km per day to attend school and the principals are reporting that some children are failing to turn up with others falling asleep at their desks because of empty stomachs. To feed a Namibian child one meal a day for 10 weeks costs £2.50.

Attached are two documents - one for adults and one for the children from Rivington Church which give suggestions of what £2.50 could buy. It is suggested that people consider what they could give up and donate this. Card cut outs of people are provided on which the children can write their name and bring back into school. These in turn are then stuck onto a large white display board which will be a visual reminder of their gift.

To help support this worthwhile cause as well as bringing their usual Christingle orange (see how to make below) we are inviting the children to bring in £2.50 in the small brown envelope provided and return the figure with their name inside it. Many thanks in advance for supporting this worthwhile cause.

Many blessings of the season,

Sarah Annette and the School Council.

Date & time: Friday 6th December 2019, 2:00pm

Venue: Rivington Parish Church

School will be purchasing Glow Candles for use in the children's Christingles – NO CANDLES THIS YEAR. After Christingle, we will be serving afternoon tea in the school hall.

Health and safety

Due to increased numbers in an already small church the children will be given a glow candle to use in their Christingle. These have been purchased through the Children's Society with a percentage of the total sales going to the charity. School will place them into the children's Christingles on the day so there will be no need for candles from home.

Making a Christingle

- Fasten a piece of red sticky tape or ribbon around the middle of the orange.
- Cut a small cross in the top of each orange (place it on a tray to catch the juice) and lay a square of silver foil (75mm/3in square) over the cross.
- Load four cocktail sticks with raisins, sultanas, cherries or soft sweets and insert them into the orange around the base of the candle.



• PLEASE DO NOT INSERT A CANDLE THE CHILDREN WILL BE GIVEN A CHILDREN'S SOCIETY GLOWCANDLE TO USE AND KEEP – SEE BELOW!

In addition to our Christingle celebration, the children will be learning about Christingle during their RE lessons, thinking about ways that they can help to support other children and young people in our school and wider local community. It's a real opportunity for them to develop their understanding outside of the classroom.

We really appreciate your support and hope that you'll enjoy celebrating the start of the Christmas season in our school and help us fundraise for Feed a Nambian Child.