

Helping children build a future with hope

Kimbilio

Issue 1: December 2021
www.congochildrentrust.org



WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER!

- * Greetings! Ian Harvey, Kimbilio's founder says hello.
- * Our school, which you helped build, is now open!
- * Getting to know your Kimbilio friends.
- * How children in DR Congo celebrate Christmas.
- * Introducing you to our Kimbilio team.



Greetings! Ian Harvey, Kimbilio's founder, says hello.

Dear Friends

A HUGE thank you for your interest in our new Kimbilio School in D.R. Congo. It's a dream come true! I first went to DRC as a teenager to visit my Auntie Mary, who still runs a hospital there. Later, working in DRC it was easy to see the need for quality education for poor children who missed out on school. I founded the charity Congo Children Trust in 2009 and established the children's sanctuary, Kimbilio, a Swahili word meaning "safe place". Kimbilio has supported thousands of street children since then.

The school has taken years of planning and thanks go to dedicated volunteers in the UK, supporters around the world, and our building team in Lubumbashi who worked long and hard. Our school opened on 11 October, 2021, to welcome children otherwise deprived of an education. Your interest and friendship will help Kimbilio children to widen their horizons through this partnership, and we hope children in the UK will develop an understanding of the challenges faced by children living in DRC. I look forward to all that is to come!

Ian Harvey
Founding Director, Congo Children Trust.

Our school, which you helped to build, is now open!



Kimbilio

From bricks to building: the Mapendo Kimbilio School

The Mapendo Kimbilio school is built in Lubumbashi, the third-largest city in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). It's in a deprived area called Luwawashi, where many families cannot afford to send their children to school. The Kimbilio school offers education at an affordable rate, welcoming children from 3 years of age.

From Monday to Friday, school starts at 07:20 a.m. and finishes at 12:30 p.m. There are 7 lessons a day, each lasting around 40 minutes, with a 20 minute break in the middle and a varied curriculum. The children wear a school uniform of blue skirt or shorts with a white shirt. For many children this is their first experience of going to school.



It's a heptagon!



This is how the school was imagined. We showed this model to people to inspire them to help us. It's a heptagon shape, with 7 sides and a garden in the middle. This provides a safe and private space for the children to play and learn.

INTERESTING FACTS

- Mapendo Kimbilio are Swahili words. Mapendo means *great love*. Kimbilio means *refuge* or *safe place*.
- The school has taken 2 years to build.
- People have donated over £130,000 to build the school.
- Every £7 raised bought 500 bricks; every £35 bought a corrugated iron roofing sheet, and every £212 bought one window.
- The school has 7 teachers, a Head Teacher and a secretary.
- The school has 164 pupils with room for 16 more.

Did you know?

Education in DR Congo is not free. This means that many children don't go to school. Children may have to work from an early age to help support their families. Children can find themselves living alone on the street, fending for themselves.

Getting to know your **Kimbilio** friends

CS. MAPENDO - KIMBILIO		HORAIRE DES COURS				DEGRE MOYEN
3 ^{ème} & 4 ^{ème} année		LUNDI	MARDI	MERCREDI	JEUDI	VENREDI
1 ^{ère} 7h20' à 8h05'	MATH Numération	FRANCAIS Lecture	Religion	MATH Formes	E.P.S	
2 ^{ème} 8h05' à 8h50'	Ed. Civique	SCIENCE Zoologie	FRANCAIS Conjugaison	FRANCAIS Orthographe	INFORMATIQUE	
3 ^{ème} 8h50' à 9h30'	Science Botanique	MATH Numération	Histoire	L. Congolaise	FRANCAIS Expression-Oral	
4 ^{ème} 9h30' à 10h10'	Technologie	FRANCAIS Vocabulaire	Ed. Civique	MATH Grandeur	MATH Problèmes	
RECREATION						
5 ^{ème} 10h10' à 10h30'	FRANCAIS Lecture	FRANCAIS Grammaire	MATH Opération	MATH Problèmes	FRANCAIS Expression Ecrite	
6 ^{ème} 11h10' à 11h50'	Ed. Pour la Santé	MATH Opération	L. Congolaise	ED. ARTIST	Géographie	
7 ^{ème} 11h50' à 12h30'	L. Congolaise	L. Congolaise	SCIENCE Botanique	T.M	L. Congolaise	

Le français est la langue nationale officielle de la DR Congo.

INTERESTING FACTS

French is the official national language of DR Congo. There are about 242 languages spoken in the country. Four of these languages are counted as national languages, including Swahili.

Horaire des cours / Class timetable
Civique et morale / Civic and moral education
L. Congolaise / Language: Congolese (Swahili)
Grammaire française / French grammar

Technologie / Technology
Informatique / Computer science
EPS (L'éducation pour la santé) / PE (Physical Education)

Lundi / Monday
Mardi / Tuesday
Mercredi / Wednesday
Jeudi / Thursday
Vendredi / Friday

Some questions for you. Please ask us questions too.



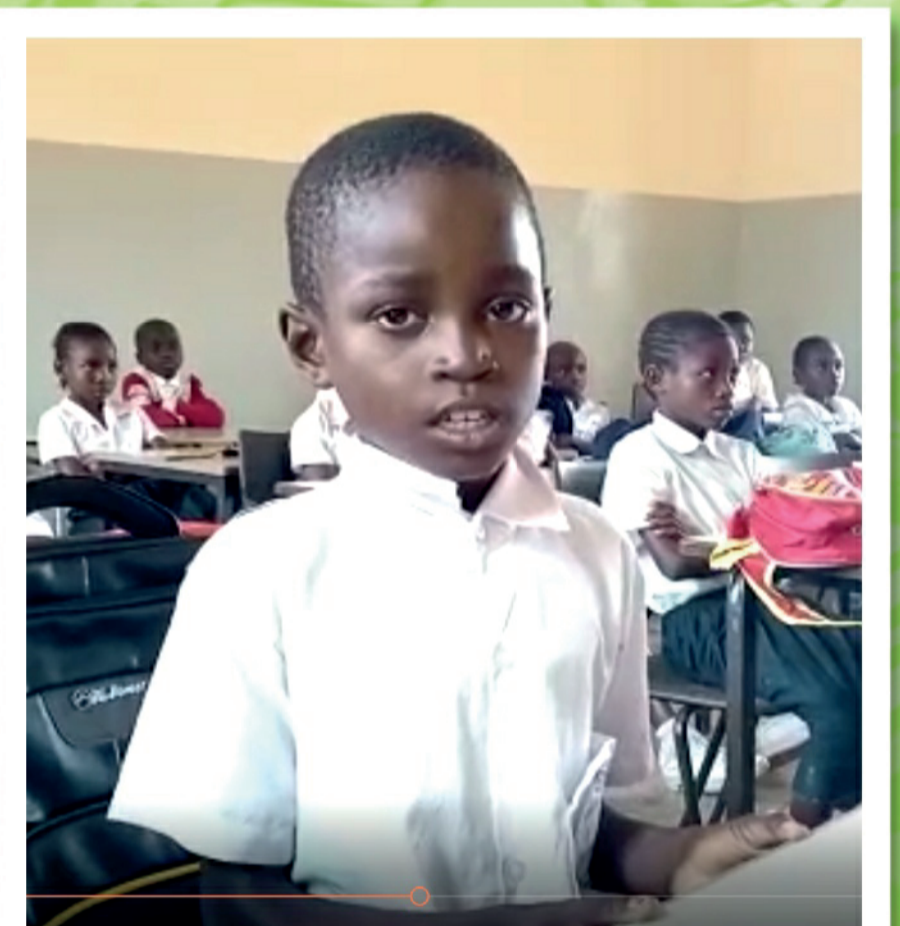
Je m'appelle Dorcin. Y a-t-il des problèmes en Angleterre quand il pleut, car ici certaines routes ne sont pas praticables et c'est un problème pour que les élèves viennent à l'école. Merci.

My name is Dorcin. Are there problems in England when it rains? Here some roads are not passable and it is a problem for the pupils to come to school. Thank you.



Je m'appelle Richard. Je voudrais savoir ce que les enfants anglais aimeraient faire pour un travail quand ils seront grands. Merci.

My name is Richard. I would like to know what English children would like to do for a job when they grow up. Thank you.



Je m'appelle Kabwe Jean et je suis en 3^{ème} année. Je veux savoir quelles leçons vous étudiez en Angleterre. Merci.

My name is Kabwe Jean and I am in Year 3 in Mr Prince's class. I want to know what lessons you study in England. Thank you.

Our Kimbilio children would love to hear from you. Can you answer a question? You can also ask a question. Your teacher can email us: linkschool@congochildrentrust.org

How Congolese children celebrate Christmas



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Many families in Congo are poor which means that presents are not a necessity. A traditional Christmas day in Congo would be to go to church to celebrate with songs and prayer, then to have a special family meal. Families with a bit more money will buy new clothes or new shoes for the children. Street children, with no support, have only each other.

This simple approach to Christmas is similar to how poor people celebrated in the UK in Victorian times and in the early 20th century. Children would be pleased to receive a stocking filled with fruit and nuts.

At Christmas we make sure every **Kimbilio** child gets a present. For children who have been living on the streets begging, a present means a lot. Every donation, however small, is appreciated and makes a difference. If you are able to give, thank you so much, but in any case, thank you for your interest in Kimbilio.

www.globalgiving.org/projects/make-christmas-special-for-drc-street-children/



Forget snow! The average temperature in Lubumbashi in December is a warm 21 degrees Celsius. In England - well, it's usually pretty chilly!

Wishing you all a peaceful, healthy and very happy Christmas

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Meet **Joel Kidindwe**, a talented artist and teacher. Joel runs art and craft workshops for the children and is also a vital link between the UK and Congo, keeping everyone up-to-date with Kimbilio news, films and photos.

The children have great fun in his lessons and he's always someone to turn to with a kind and listening ear.

Joel is married to Nina and they have four beautiful children, and he is a loved and valued member of the Kimbilio team.

Thank you for all you do, Joel.



We're looking forward to introducing you to more of our Kimbilio team.