

Who else has held the oceans in his hand? Who has measured off the heavens with his fingers? Who else knows the weight of the earth or has weighed the mountains and hills on a scale? Isaiah 40 v 12.



PUTMAN NEWS

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What's life like for wazungu (foreign white people) in Kenya? The photo edition...

Shopping: A mixture of walking to local dukas and driving an hour for a supermarket. Shopping at the dukas involves making friends with the sellers. You can even whatsapp them to deliver a handful of items within an hour for no extra charge, but instead you offer them a conversation about how their family is doing.



This is Mary, she sells fruits and vegetables here in Kijabe. We are getting to know her. **Pray for Mary, she works long hours, often getting up at 5am to visit the market, selling all day and cooking for her family in the evening.**

Transport: We are blessed to be currently borrowing a little car whilst the owner is in Brazil on a home assignment. It means we can travel under our own steam without having to organise taxis. We normally go to either Naivasha (north) or Nairobi (south). The main roads to both are pretty good. Typically we go into town during breaks to visit malls for groceries, leisure activities and a change of scenery. There are many interesting sights along the way!



Thank God for freedom and safety.

Community: We try to engage as much as we can in the local community by spending time with our inside and outside workers, Cecilia and John. We sit down to take chai with them and talk on Wednesday afternoons which helps us listen to how they live and what is important to them. John brings us milk from his cow each Friday. John is so smiley and positive, and often quotes Philippians 4 about rejoicing in the Lord. He is a shiny example of joy which is so inspiring. Cecilia's daughter Josephine recently lost her job cleaning in a hospital and now plans to set up her own business raising chickens. We are so grateful to God that we can employ and get to know these precious people. Here is a picture of Zoe in the Hallelujah Chorus Community Choir standing next to a new friend, another Mary! Cecilia, Josephine and Anna (Josephine's daughter) came to watch Zoe in the choir.



Please pray God will bless John and Cecilia and their families with food and money to provide for their needs.

Weather: Although we are very close to the equator, we are also high above sea level (approx. 7,200 ft). This means it's windier and cooler than other places on the same latitude. Typically it will be between 18-26°C most days of the year, with rain during the summer months. We can go out in t-shirts and flip-flops most days but will need hoodies and joggers by evening. Kenyans wear woolly hats and jackets in 25 degrees and wrap their babies in fleece blankets!

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What's life like for staff families at Rift Valley Academy? The photo edition...



After school, John coaches sports until 17:30 every day.

Teaching: Zoe teaches 8am-12pm daily and John's school day is 07:45-15:30 where he teaches three 'sections' (lessons) a day. Kindergarten has a small room tucked on the end of the Primary School 'Titchie Swot' and there are currently five students; two boys and three girls aged between 5-7. John's classes total 46 16 to 17 year-olds.

Weekends: Here is a photo from a recent class night, playing musical bumps into buckets of water in the dark with year 8 (Amber's class). We forgot the speaker so John and Zoe sang and clapped very loudly to provide the music! Sadie's class (10th grade/year 11) put on a restaurant event in February where she served as a drinks pourer. **Thank God that we are able to facilitate fun and happy memories for mission kids.**



Sadie and Amber: The girls have integrated well and are involved in many activities. Amber joined the hockey team last term, and Sadie played football. Amber was in the Junior High Drama, The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe. Sadie went on tour with the choir. **Praise God that he is providing opportunities for friendships, growth and fun.**



Money: How does it work? Giving from supporters goes into the AIM account for us. We then receive a monthly living allowance which is to cover rent, utility bills, phone bills, groceries, transport and hosting. We are adequately provided for and we are so grateful to God for gathering enough funds for us to live and work here and to be effective. We are able to feed plenty of hungry teenage mouths on a regular basis and be generous to those around us who have far less than us. Having said we are provided for, we are still currently technically under budget according to the AIM guidelines. We hope to provide a clear breakdown in a subsequent update. We pray we're able to keep you well informed and translate our passion for what we are doing here through these newsletters, though there is so much we can't fit on these pages! Please do ask us any questions you have – we'll be happy to answer them!

Please be assured that God is at work through the ministry of RVA, enabling parents to faithfully serve in places that are so in need of hearing the word of God preached and explained. Boarding children here are living lives that straddle westernised comfort and African poverty, rich discipleship and lonely pilgrimage. We are able to love and care for them, give them fun and happy times, educate and encourage them. **Keep praying!**