



# BRIGHT FUTURE ACADEMY PAKWACH

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Motto: "Good Foundation for a Brighter Future"



## A REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF THE SCHOOL DURING THE LOCKDOWN

### INTRODUCTION

The year 2020 started well and the Academic Year for that year began on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February that same year. However, there was an outbreak of the Corona Virus Pandemic which shook the whole world .Uganda being no exception, all learning institutions were closed as prevention and control method for the spread of the Virus on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 just one month and a week after schools had opened.

The situation remained the same until March 2021 when the government considered a phase reopening of learning institutions beginning with institutions of higher learning then later lower levels. This also did not go well as the second wave of the Pandemic began and majority of the cases were in schools. The government was forced again to reclose all schools barely a month after the phased reopening as they were waiting for vaccines promising that after vaccinations all institutions would reopen.

When the vaccines arrived, people had a negative attitude on the vaccines basing on the myth and rumors that the vaccines aren't safe for humans and those vaccinated would die. This led to delay in the reopening of schools until the Government decided to make it mandatory for teachers and support staff of all learning institutions to get vaccinated or else schools remain closed.

In the last address of the President of the Republic of Uganda on the issues about Corona he promised that he would open the economy in January 2022 and all schools will reopen for all learners.

### ENROLLMENT

When schools opened in February 2020, the school had registered an increase in the number of learners in all classes.

### NURSERY

CLASS	NUMBER OF CHILDREN INCREASE
Baby Class	100
Middle Class	80
Top Class	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>240</b>

## **PRIMARY**

<b>CLASS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN INCREASE</b>
Primary One	67
Primary Two	35
Primary Three	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>127</b>

In total by the time the school was closing, we had 367 children altogether.

## **STAFFING**

We had 12(twelve) teachers including the Head Teacher, two for each class. Five support staff, the bursar, two cooks and two security officers. We would like to report that during this pandemic, we lost one of the security officers, he died of stroke (Mr. Musa Jamundu) (RIP) but the rest of the staff members are available.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

As you know, we are renting the premises we are using as classes, it was a big challenge for us to pay the rent since March last year when the schools were closed yet we had to continue paying rent. The money we would use to pay the rent for the school would be got from the contribution from parents but since there was no schooling there was no money to continue paying rent. This prompted the landlord to severally threaten to send us away from the house. Basing on the location of the place (not busy road and quiet environment), we never wanted to lose it as we plan to relocate to our own premises with time. We had to ask Marta for help and they came to our rescue. As I report now, the arrears for rent for last year and this year have been cleared by Marta for us.

## **FINANCE**

Like earlier on mentioned, there is lack of funds in the school. This is because we had barely collected all the contributions from the parents when the schools were closed. Most of the parents had not paid their contributions and the money we got from the few parents we managed to pay rent for the first two months of 2020 and we also paid the staff from January to April until we ran out of funds.

## **WELFARE**

Since schools were closed abruptly last year, most of the staff members were caught unprepared to finish two years without earning their salary. As the tradition here is, most teachers don't take on other Income Generating Activities to back up their salary coupled with poor saving culture, most of money got is from hand to mouth which made many of the teachers live miserably during the lockdown when they were not earning.

## **CHALLENGES**

As we prepare to reopen the school next year, there are some challenges that we are likely to face.

1. The temporary fence around the school has been destroyed by termites since it wasn't well taken care of during the lockdown.
2. The kitchen also fell off.....
3. Teacher-children ratio is too low (1:50) as per the case in Baby Class.
4. No sanitizers.
5. We also need to stock foodstuff for the staff and children who eat at school.
6. No hand washing facility.
  
7. Desks have become few as the number is increasing.

As stated above, we need to work on all these before January because Inspection by Government Officials will be done to check whether the school is ready to reopen according to the Standard Operating Procedures set. We also need to recruit more teachers.

## **CONCLUSION**

We would like to thank God for keeping all of you safe at a time when everyone was at a risk and pray that He should continue blessing you. Secondly we would like to thank you for your generosity and good hearts for making sure that you are always there with us in our difficult times for the future of the children, may God reward you abundantly.

As we prepare to open the school in January 2022, we request that you help us in renovating areas which need renovation so that the inspection gets us ready. We shall continue praying for your good health of both body and mind as you also pray that all of us (staff and children) return to school safely.

***“We wish you all a fruitful festive season”.***

*Okethwengu Francis*