



NEWS FROM PARAGUAY

Feb 2014

SAMS
UK & IRELAND
South American Mission Society

DEAR FRIENDS,

School is now well and truly underway! Our visit to England seems like ages ago! We started back in school the first week of February with just the staff for the first 10 days or so. We started our year with a service in the cathedral where Pastor Ronnie spoke about the fear of God being the beginning of wisdom.

BACK TO SCHOOL



6th form kids and parents on first day



School staff

After that it was all hands on deck to prepare the classrooms ready for the children and also for parents' meetings. Before school started we had meetings for the infant, the new first grade and seventh grade parents. These all went well with the main question being, "How are we all going to get into school once they start to dig up the road?" Fortunately, we had a plan for this which involves going through the land round the chapel and the diocesan office and then taking a back route into school. Fortunately, this has gone well with many parents asking to continue this way once the road is finished. They seem to have finished digging up outside school now and are starting to fill in the holes but the dust in school has been awful. We have had many weeks with little rain making the dust worse. Yesterday we had a very big storm which has helped with the dust issue at least!

Gwen missed the start of the new term as she had a bad migraine the day before school started. She was still being sick by evening and so was taken into hospital and put on a drip. You can't take chances in 40°C as it is very easy to get dehydrated. Anyway, she was in hospital for 2 nights and so missed the first 2 days of school.

Mags had to carry on with the start of the school year. The 6th form came in well in the rain and we had our church service at the end of the first morning with Pastor Ronnie speaking about God's word being a lamp. All the more appropriate as we nearly had to postpone the service because of a power cut. On the Monday we were both back in school and ready for full days. It's always hard after a holiday and the pupils always find it hard to settle after being off for two and a half months. They are starting to settle now.



6th form breakfast for 7th Grade

Gwen is back with the infants and has 30 in the class. They are still very challenging and learning to sit still! One boy went into melt down the other day as he didn't want to write his letters to fit into the space in the book; he wanted to do big letters and there was no calming him. The same boy decided he'd never eat another apple after hearing the story of Adam and Eve! Gwen



3pm the day before school started - a big hole outside the gate.



Staff waiting for younger pupils on the first day.



is also in 5th grade 2 afternoons each week with the challenge of English grammar!!