

## Launch night held for Cookham Rise Primary's fundraising drive for Ugandan school

A launch night for a fundraising drive by Cookham Rise Primary School to raise money for a new school in Uganda took place on Thursday.



**Ella-Grace Warrington, 10, Richard Rhodes, Lisa Peters and Zak Wardle, 11 organised the presentation.**

The evening was attended by past and present pupils, parish councillors and parents and featured a presentation by the Cookham school's head boy and head girl in the community room of Cookham Library. Cookham Rise began raising money for New Brainstorm School in Kampala last year in order to save it from closure by the Kampala authorities.

More than £6,000 was raised last year, which was enough to buy a plot of land and also attracted support from the Empower a Child charity, which will now join the school in its appeal.

Lisa Peters, high level teaching assistant at Cookham Rise who has been leading the project, said: "I went volunteering in Uganda in 2013 and it changed my life, the things you see stick with you.

"I wanted to connect the two schools, it's important the children have pen pals. We raised enough last year to buy the school a plot of land.

"It wasn't just a piece of land for them, it's ownership, it's something that will be shared by generations there.

"It's about one community helping another; this project is about children, community and coming together."

Richard Rhodes, deputy headteacher said: "We wanted to look at parallels between the schools at the launch night. "Both have children who are passionate and have dreams and aspirations about their future."

Ella-Grace Warrington, 10, head girl at the school in High Road, said:

"We talked at the launch event and told people how we had been raising money. We've had cake sales and a market where we sold old things and made new things."

In her speech at the launch night, Ella said: "We have the power to make a real difference and if enough people care we could change their destiny."

Zak Wardle, 11, head boy said: "We also talked about how we would feel if we didn't have a school to go to and what the children must feel like."

The next stage is to sanitise and prepare the school land for building and to get construction plans together.

The children are hoping to raise money through musicals, cake sales, sponsorship and Leap for Africa day, a charity day on Monday, February 29.

**Tuesday 02 February 2016** Written by Grace Witherden