

## Namibia News

Contributed by Peter Westhorpe  
Last Updated Tuesday, 23 September 2008

Highfield Humanities Duke of Edinburgh Award Visit to NAMIBIA Welcome to the NAMIBIA TRIP NEWS PAGE

Click on the More information button at the bottom of this report for EXTRA news about this visit.

Photographs of the Whole Visit [www.highfieldhc.com/nam1.htm](http://www.highfieldhc.com/nam1.htm)

Turn the clock back 2 full years! <http://highfieldhc.com/dofe06.htm>

Miss Rimmer will give Mr Westhorpe regular updates via satellite phone which will appear here within 30 minutes:  
Namibia time is the same as ours:

Pete Westhorpe's e-mail address is [pwest@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:pwest@blueyonder.co.uk)

Parents -If you get any messages or calls from your son/daughter while in Africa, please forward them to me to put on the website to keep other parents up to date with the visit.

### UPDATES:

Tuesday 15th July Whole team in school today looking good and making final preparations. New transport arrangements to London Gatwick now in place and Miss Rimmer looking more relaxed. A real buzz of excitement building now! The Evening Gazette want photos on Friday at the set off - we may bring whole school out to see them off!

Wednesday 16th July Mr Evans has to pull out following his broken foot. Pupils in school today - Miss Rimmer gives live interview to Radio LANCASHIRE! The 'buzz' increases and the whole school starting to talk of nothing else! Everyone gets behind the visit and wants to help! Two days to go!!!

Thursday 17th July Preparations complete - the team look forward to a restful night before the big adventure! The day is almost here! People can't believe it after 2 years of planning and fundraising!

Friday 18th July Team set off on time with parents and friends waving them off! The adventure begins. The Gazette are trying to get the pics into tonight's edition - may happen but it will be tight.

Update- 15.59 Friday - Virgin train slightly delayed - group now at Clapham ready to get Gatwick train - plenty of time - flight not till 11.00pm ish... Miss Rimmer reports group in high spirits.

24 hour contact with school - 01253 310925 DAY / 01253 315112 EVE

Departure Photos [www.highfieldhc.com/namibia.htm](http://www.highfieldhc.com/namibia.htm)

Saturday 19th July - Text message from Penny Rimmer 19th July 10.24 - They have ARRIVED in Namibia and are travelling to WINDHOEK (Windhoek) - 5419 miles from Blackpool - they crossed the equator overnight while we slept. Miss Rimmer reports the group to be in very high spirits despite their tiredness!

Update- 19th July - Text message from Miss Rimmer 19th July 17.31 - "The group have arrived at their hotel and settled in. They spent 1000 (Miss Rimmer did not specify pounds or dollars) in the builders shop - what an experience - we are just about to have a BBQ then off to bed 9.00pm. Group setting off to the project tomorrow."

Windhoek

Sunday 20th July - Group have left hotel 8.00am on route to project school. The drive is 3 hours long. They have been told they will be met by the school choir. The school is out of signal for mobile contact so we will just have to see how we get on with communications over the next few days.

Monday 21st July - No word from the group in the past 24 hours - they are currently at their project school (Nossop Primary School). Their tasks will include plastering, building a climbing frame and adventure playground and painting educational murals. I have been asked to direct you to the school on Google Earth: The school is in the village of Witvlei.

Link <http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?hl=en&tab=wl>

School Location [www.highfieldhc.com/wn.htm](http://www.highfieldhc.com/wn.htm) Search for Witvlei

You may have to zoom out a little. This is the village where Nossop School lies - it is very small. Nossop is the river's name you can see on the map.

Update &ndash; Monday 21st 9.50 am &ndash; (from Nick at Schools Worldwide Travel)

"Hello Peter thanks for your email. Our agent has sent me an email saying that he met the group safely and they were all in high spirits, despite feeling tired. I also got an email from the owner of their accommodation in Windhoek saying: "The Highfield group was a delight". I will be trying to speak with the Headteacher at Nossop either later today or tomorrow and will provide you with an update as soon as I have one".

Update- Monday 21st 2.00pm (from Nick at Schools Worldwide Travel)

"Hello Peter I have just spoken with Penny and the group are having a great time - working really hard and very motivated to get all their tasks completed. They are going to send you a fax from the school to provide you with a full update as soon as they have a spare moment to put pen to paper, hopefully later today / tomorrow). Best wishes - Nick."

Nick is the Schools Worldwide Travel Contact in the UK and is able to speak to the group via satellite phone.

Tuesday 22nd July 20.34 no news today from Namibia - I expect they are all working too hard. Although school breaks up tomorrow I will still be updating this site until the team return. This site will then link to a photographs page so parents can see exactly what was done during the visit. So, to keep your interest, here are a number of facts and questions about Namibia you may find interesting:

<http://www.funtrivia.com/en/subtopics/9-for-10---Namibia-162975.html>

Wednesday 23rd July Phone call from Penny at 8.30 am

Summary of conversation:

Penny has returned to Windhoek to buy more supplies - she set off before 6.00am this morning.

The children are all well and having a fantastic time, full of new experiences.

The children have found the visit to be very humbling as the local people have been so friendly and grateful for the help they are getting.

The pupils are very highly motivated. They have been working both inside and outside the school.

Miss Davies has been working on the murals.

The nights are VERY cold! The day temperatures are a very pleasant 26C-28C. The sky is always blue and Penny described it as lovely.

The kids in the school speak good English and have been playing football with our pupils. The change in food and environment has brought about an epidemic of constipation! The opposite of what we expected - and Penny tells me there is now a competition as to who can hold out the longest!

Food has included Spag Boll, Rice, Meatballs and tonight it is the famous African dish Spaghetti Carbonara

All are happy and relaxed.

The Namibian people are lovely.

They were met with posters showing logos from both schools.

They had bought £1000 worth of paint and it has just run out!!!!!!!

So WOW WOW WOW !!!!!!!

Thursday 24th July - No update from namibia today.

The Gazette should publish an article about the visit on Friday or Saturday. Keep watching.....

Friday 25th July - 12.19 pm Text message from Penny &ndash; received 12.20 pm Friday 25th July &ldquo;Finished at Project. Amazing kids, worked really hard. On route to Etosha. 8 hour drive.&rdquo; Google Map of Etosha - click on map for information.

Saturday 26th July - Telephone Call from Chloe Henderson to dad Russ who has e-mailed me:Hi Pete, Just to let you know Chloe phoned home yesterday Saturday 26th to tell us how good the experience was, she also told us at the water hole they stayed next to they saw Elephants, Black Rhino, Giraffes and Meercats she said she was missing home but the experience was brilliant and the Namibian people were really nice. Chloe also said she was so glad she went. Chloe said she has got lots and lots of pictures so if you want me to e-mail them to you when she is back I will do it gladly. Regards Russ Henderson. Thanks Russ I will put as many pics onto the web site as I can - so yes please! Peter

Sunday 27th July - 7.30 am The group have now left Etosha and are on route to SWAKOPMUND a seaside area on the Skelton Coast. While in the National Park the group saw Elephants, Rhino, Giraffe and much more.

[Click here for details of SWAKOPMUND.](#)

Reminder - Parents are asked to be at Blackpool North on Wednesday 30th at 11.00am.

Monday 28th July 08.57 No news from the team today as yet - however, I thought I would put this on - its very nice to be appreciated - thanks Carol

Hi Pete

Hannan did ring on Saturday she was fine and looking forward to seeing the sights and doing the activities planned for the rest of the trip,

My main reason for writing is to say a massive THANK YOU for keeping us up to date with everything that has been going on. I have actually enjoyed switching my computer on (not like me at all), excited to see if there was any new info.

I hope you have a restful holiday and if you see Ian pass on my regards and I hope he is feeling alot better.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday

Carol Ramsden Bonjour Mr Westhorpe Mikey Nay - e-mail recieved 12.00 Monday 28th jst fought id say that iv heard from chloe, she sed she is having fun and glad she went! but missing her electical appliences lol.. ben said hello too lol hope she has got some good pictures and some funny stories! mikey Thanks Mikey &ndash; nice to see they are back in communication after so long! Mr W

Hi Thanks for the updates ,it&rsquo;s been great hearing what the kids where doing. Family members around the country have been logging on, and Glyn and I couldn't wait to get home from work to see if there was a message. Can&rsquo;t wait to see the photos. Ben has called several times this weekend.He has a request for a roast beef dinner on Wednesday .He has really enjoyed the experience and hopefully they will all appreciate what they have here at home.Cant wait to see him it&rsquo;s been very quiet without him, as you can image. Enjoy the rest of the holiday and thanks again for keeping us in touch.

Karen Boughey 12.30 Monday e-Mail

Had a text from Alice, having a great time.

She says it has been a great experience and has made her appreciate her home and family. Thanks to you for keeping us up to date with the trip.

Denise Boldy 13.00 Monday e-Mail Homeward Bound Message recieved 15.40 Tuesday 29th We are at the Airport (Windhoek) and we fly at 18.30 (remember same time as UK). We will be back in Blackpool at 11 am (Blackpool North) Its NATHAN's 16th Birthday - he says hiya mum! 14.41 Tuesday 29th JulyHi,

Millie called me at the weekend she is having a great time and really pleased with the work they have done at the school and enjoying being at the safari park, I have been told to book her a hair app for the day she gets home! so obviously missing the straightners!!!! Can't wait to see her and her friends (its been quiet here!) and hear their stories.

Thank you for keeping us posted.

Regards  
Catherine Taylor

Date: Tue, 29 Jul 2008 18:57 nobby's Mum and Nan

hi its nobbys mum and nan

heard from nat today ..its his birthday..happy birthday son .god are we missing you.

phoned from the airport had a great tine up at 5 am traveling since 8 this morning . said it was hard leaving everyone there ..great people .

thanks for keeping us informed as you promised. great to be able to follow their progress . felt more at ease with him not being here . looking forward to seeing him again tomorrow.

Happy Birthday Nathan - always on top!

HOMEWednesday 30th July e-mail from Nick at 'Schoolsworldwide Travel' Dear Peter! have just met the group on arrival at Gatwick Airport.They're all tired from the journey but the initial response has been that they had a great time. Loads of painting at the school and then some great game viewing at Etosha National Park, where they even saw hyena eating a zebra!I have been out of the office so far this week, but am chasing a letter from Nossob Primary School.Best wishes - Nick.

30th July Early - all safely back in the UK!!!!

Running 1 hour late due to baggage being delayed at the airport, new expected arrival time at Blackpool North 12.00 noon.

Penny will give an update at 9.30 am. Thanks for the updates Carol, Debbie and Nat's Nan!

Update 9.50 Spoke with penny - still on track (pardon the pun) for a 12.00 noon arrival.

Hi Peter, it's Katrina Fennelly (Kacee Fennelly's mum) don't know if you still remember us (moved to Lake District at the end of year 8)? Just to say WELL DONE to everyone, what a brilliant job you've all done and what an excellent achievement, you should all be soooooo proud of what you've done. It's been brill reading your updates every day and being able to keep track of everyone, also we've been kept informed by Carol (Hannah's mum). WELL DONE AGAIN EVERYONE Love 'The Fennelly's' xxx

All home safe and sound &ndash; to applause from waiting parents at Blackpool North.

Update - The 'no pooh' story reported earlier was a hoax c/o Ben B.

We also will give anxious parents an update on Ben's Beef Dinner as soon as news comes in.

Well done Penny, Cathy and Carl for giving these young people an experience that will always be with them.

I will post the photos on the web site, as soon as I get them - possibly tomorrow.

The End!

Pupils please send me some of your 'Memories of Namibia' via my e-mail [pwest@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:pwest@blueyonder.co.uk) These would be nice to put onto the pictures pages over the next few days:

Memories of Namibia

Dear Mr W

Just a quick note to say thanks for all info on the net while they were away. One funny little story so far from Sam P.

Their students sang their National Anthem to our kids. Ours were then asked to sing ours, unfortunately they could not even manage the first verse.

Thanks again Julie and Darrell Pickering

HOWEVER:::.....:

Miss Rimmer Says! We did sing the National Anthem well! - so who is right - there's only one way to find out - 'fight'!

Photographs and Videos a little later than I said

but well worth the wait!

[www.highfieldhc.com/nam1.htm](http://www.highfieldhc.com/nam1.htm)

If there is a particular photo you like and would like me to e-mail the

full resolution file to you so you can print it in high definition please make a note of the jpg number and let me know.

ie <http://www.highfieldhc.com/nambi0020.jpg> = nambio0020

Pete Westhorpe

[pwest@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:pwest@blueyonder.co.uk) Namibia visit Video now on

Oh Happy Day a video of SMILES now available on You Tube

Namibia Visit video now on You Tube

16 pupils and 3 staff will travel to Namibia on Friday 17th July. Going to Namibia, Africa for 12 days, to refurbish a Primary school, tasks include building a sports field, painting the inside and outside of the school, fixing windows, re plastering, painting murals, and education displays. Pupils have been fund raising for 18 months; this has included cake sales, bag packing, sponsored events, grant applications, writing to companies for donations. We leave on Friday 18th July and return on the 30th July.

Virgin Trains and Northern Rail have very kindly sponsored our travel to Gatwick Airport. Many thanks to both companies. We also need to thank everybody else who has made donations and contributed to the target of £30,000. Highfield Humanities College are very much looking forward to setting up a global link with Nossop Primary School, we hope this trip is the first of many.

On our return we hope to educate others about our experience in Africa and teach them about other cultures.

Elephants in Namibia