Friday September 13th 2019, North coast Beach Hotel,

Re Neema School visit.

Dear Geoff and Margaret, Margaret and Victor,

I often find it easier to pass on thoughts in writing than in speech so I have produced a letter and a pictorial record of my visit. I will, of course be saying thank you to everyone at the school this afternoon. I was immediately attracted to the prospect of investing in the development and maintenance of the Neema School when I met Geoff and Margaret in Glossop, in 2012. My visit has shown me what a wise choice I made to invest in the school.

If I have one regret it is that the wonderful welcome that I received from the teachers and staff and the penalty shootout in the nail-biting football match on the last Friday was not experienced by you, Geoff and Margaret. I hope to share highlights of the visit and welcome with you on Sunday, September 29th,when I have returned to England.

I have had a wonderful visit to Kikambala and to the Neema School. The arrangements at the North coast hotel have been very comfortable and convenient for the visits to the school. Victor, your relaxed management of my timetable and shared visits to Mtwapa have been great. My greeting at the school on my first day was overwhelming, and more than that, a proof of the successful structure, spirit and design of the school. My brief involvement in, and observation of, the shopping, gardening, water processing, cooking, storage, teaching, administration and teacher pupil relationships has allowed me to see how well Neema School works.

Whilst in Kikambala, I have tried not to interfere with the workings of the school but to have adequate opportunities to examine the structure, processes and outcomes of the school. I had some instructions before I left England! Victor and Paul have allowed me to visit and examine everywhere in the school grounds and within the school buildings. I have attached my observations, all of which are already known to you but they are to show that I have taken the time to assess the results of the investments in the school.

I have spoken to many people whilst at the hotel, including beach boys, security guards, waiting staff, reception staff. I was grateful to be shown around the local village by three young male teenagers and to meet their extended family. They freely allowed me to inspect their kitchen and homes. I have had heard stories of unaffordable school fees, absent school meals and children apparently not being allowed to go into schools because the fees have not been paid. These are issues that rarely if ever occur in England and make it more remarkable to see what has been achieved at Neema.

I am not an educational professional and will not try to assess the standards of the teaching in a professional way but can say that I was very impressed wherever I was with teachers and pupils – in the school grounds, waiting for lunch, at playtime, playing football or on the way to the toilet.

I have made a pictorial (one or two photos are on their side, I don’t seem to be able to fix that) and written record of my visit to the school. I have already shared this with my family and with two friends of my daughter. I will share the report with other friends and family.

Thank you again for letting me be involved in the funding of the Neema School. I am looking forward to this afternoon’s visit and football match.

With best wishes,

Richard