On Friday 10th June The British School Kathmandu (TBS) returned to Dhading where we officially opened new school buildings: Shree Khanigaun, Shree Gayatri Devi and Shree Rudrakanya primary schools. After working in close partnership with the school communities, education ministries and contractors we are pleased to bring to you the news that children are enjoying learning in all 3 of the new school buildings. With the completion of these buildings the students now can enjoy their lessons in a safe and secure environment free from the concerns about unsafe earthquake damaged buildings.

(Right - The official opening ceremony at Gayatri Devi Primary school including Staff of TBS, Dhading education ministry officials, Teachers of Gayatri Devi Primary school and parents)

(Below left - the opening of the school building at Gayatri Devi with Dr. John Moore (Principal of TBS) Mrs. Gita Lamsal (Principal of Gayatri Devi) and Mr. Ishwor Shrestha (Dhading educational resource officer). Below right - TBS Staff inspecting one of the new classrooms at Shree Khanigaun primary school)

There is still some work to do inside the classrooms to make them more comfortable and our Sixth Form students will work with the children and staff at the schools when they visit later this week to plan the final furnishings and implement their ideas in October during their expedition week.
At Gayatri Devi Primary school we were treated to a show and singalong at official opening ceremony, with education ministers, the local community and students all present. The local community have been very grateful for the work that you have all contributed towards, and the support that we all have shown throughout the rebuilding process. Without this support, the students would have been looking at least another monsoon or two before they would be back in permanent and safe classrooms. (Click the link to see a video of the performance performed by students of Gayatri Devi Primary school at the opening ceremony)

Along with the completion of the new buildings, we have also been able to install a solar power generation and storage system in all of the new school buildings. This solar power system means that the schools are now able to be disconnected from the mains supply and become entirely self sufficient. With 600 watts of electrical capacity, this provides the schools with more than enough power for their day to day needs. (Left - Gayatri Devi Primary school with the new school building in the middle. On top of the new school building you can see the solar panels)

(Above - The batteries for the solar power generation system. Left - The opening of Shree Rudrakanya)
The beautiful site at Shree Rudrakanya has seen the most changes over the past year. With the purchasing of new land locally that suits the school needs far greater, we are now able to look to ways that we can further assist this marginalised community. With all the students being from the Dalit caste, (the Dalit caste are considered untouchable and impure, and as such are subjected to an disproportionate level of discrimination), our work within this community has the greatest potential to change the futures of these children and for many more generations to come. As you can see from the photo (Right), the new school is in a stunning location with great views (and energetic children who climb and descend this hill everyday)!

Now that we have finished the building at these schools, we are looking at the ways we can now further contribute to the education of these children in Dhading. This week our new Year 12 students will visit Dhading to get ideas for work that they can do for their expedition week next year. The physical classrooms may be there, but as state education in Nepal is acutely underfunded, there is still plenty of work that our students can do.

(Left - the greeting party at Shree Rudrakanya primary school)

With the opening of these three school buildings and the support from our international community, we have been able to move past the tragic events of last April & May, and ensure the rights of these children to a safe and secure education. The impact of our work in these communities will be felt for many generations to come and it would have not been possible without your support. Thank you!

(Left- Dr John Moore receives a blessing on arrival at Shree Shree Rudrakanya)

Finally click the link to find a message from the students of Shree Khanigaun primary school thanking all our supporters around the world.

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