

## **VIET ANH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Principal: Sr. Bui Thi Kim Ngoc**

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Vietnam

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**For the attention of:**

**Father Paul Dương Công Hồ, Viet Anh school's Founder.**

**Godfathers and Godmothers,**

**Sponsors and friends,**

**Former students of Congregation Notre Dame**

**Sisters of Congregation Notre Dame.**

Dear Srs and Madams,

There are only a few days left until Christmas and New Year 2021. This letter which has been sent to you is a bit late, but I hope that it can bring you a little joy in these last days of the year.

Thanks to your prayers, thanks to your help and concern, Viet Anh Primary School in Da Teh has had a good and peaceful school year, despite of some considerable changes due to the unexpected appearance of the corona virus.

After the Lunar New Year, since January 2020, all schools in Vietnam had been temporarily closed for 3 months. During that time, in order for students to continue learning, online teaching and learning had to be used in many schools. However, the majority of Viet Anh students are ethnic minorities, living in the mountains, in some places where there are not electricity and telephone or internet networks. Therefore, online learning is impossible.

In such circumstances, in order to help students continue their studies, parents had to come directly to school once a week to meet teachers and to be instructed on how to help students with homework and bring lessons home. We also took advantage of that time to visit each student's home. By doing so, we understood more about the children's efforts to cross the kilometers of forest roads and passes to go to school.

The epidemic has affected the economic lives of students' families, who live mainly on cashew and coffee harvesting. Two years ago, they had encountered many difficulties because of the crop failure. This year, they had a good harvest but they had to face difficulties in pricing issue. Due to the export restriction, the price of cashew and coffee dropped by more than half, causing many families to face the inability to repay their bank debts.



When we visited the student's family, we saw that the main foods in the family meals were wild vegetables and wild bamboo shoots. Meat and fish were luxury



dishes that many families had no longer eaten for months.

In early May, schools were allowed to reopen. The students expressed their joy when they returned to school, met their friends and teachers. We had to take the anti-epidemic measures (masks, hand washing, temperature measurements) for a long time. The entire interrupted curriculum was completed within 2 months.

On June 1, it was the first time the students celebrated International Children's Day at school as the school year usually ends at the end of May. Thus, a donor gave each student a jacket. The students were delighted to receive the new jacket with the Viet Anh school logo on it.



The last school year ended at the end of June. Due to the epidemic, we couldn't hold summer camps for the children like we had done in previous years. The closing ceremony was also held simply. Thirteen students of fifth grade graduated and were accepted into 6th grade public schools. More than 60 students received certificates of merit and rewards for their learning efforts during the covid period. During the ceremony, the 5th graders expressed their gratitude for all they had received from Viet Anh school. The



students had about more than 1 month of summer vacation before returning to school for the 2020-2021 school year.



In the 2020-2021 school year, the number of students attending Viet Anh school has increased significantly. Most of them are ethnic minority students and boarding students. During one summer month, we rushed to renovate and rearrange some of the school buildings so that



we could create two separate boarding houses for boys and girls. In addition, with the help of benefactors, we also installed a security camera system, rebuilt sturdily the school fence to ensure the safety for the students; and remodeled the kitchen area to ensure food hygiene.

In October 2020, the Mid-Autumn Festival took place which brought students so much joy and laughter. Lanterns, small moon cakes wrapped benefactors' love to the children. On November 20, Vietnam Teachers' Day, one representative of all Viet Anh students said thank you to the sisters, teachers, staff and all the benefactors: "Here, we have delicious meals, can play with the toys we love. We are watched by the sisters to sleep, are



loved, are cared for when we are sick, and are carefully instructed by the teachers.”

So far, we are nearing the end of the first semester of the 2020-2021



school year. Teachers and students are focusing on preparing for the exam which will take place in 2 weeks. Looking back over the past year, we thank God for keeping you, as well as all the students, teachers and staff of Viet Anh school safe.



We sincerely thank you for

Accompanying us with prayers, words of encouragement and visits

Supporting us financially,

Helping us through specific material gifts

Always being ready to share when we need help.

Representing all the teachers and students at Viet Anh Primary School, I would love to express my sincere gratitude to all sponsors.

As the Christmas and a New Year are coming, I kindly wish you all a Season full of happiness and the grace of God, and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Principal of Viet Anh Primary School,

***Bui Thi Kim Ngoc – CND***



***MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR***









