

# ZOA Summer Trip 2012

## A reflection by Abigail Sumption Y13

On an early July morning, an unlikely bunch of 17 students and teachers embarked on an **African Adventure** which would later become part of their lives forever. Yubing, Alice, Abi, Chris, Katie, Dario, Giulio and Ryan, as well as Lauren, Ms McClaren, Mr Talbot, Mr Rogers, Ms Barber, Ms Williams, Ms Barton, Ms Adams and Ms Hayes...all set out on their 24 hour journey to **Serenje Children's Orphans Home**.

Summer 2012 was definitely unforgettable... the 17 travellers swam in below-freezing waterfall plunge pools, bungee-jumped off Victoria Falls bridge, rode elephants and cuddled cheetahs but amongst all those crazy memories, our week at the orphanage changed not only the children's lives, but our lives as well.

The morning walk along the dusty Serenje roads to the orphanage, we were treated like VIPs, greeted by smiling faces and a welcoming "**Muli Shani!**" or "Ow are you? Fine an' you?"

Each child wanted nothing more than a hug, or someone to play with on the seesaw, or practise English with... and the best gift we gave them was our time. We had a productive and fulfilling week taking part in the **Reading Programme** with a small group of children, helping with their homework and teaching English through word games, role plays or reading. By helping to **paint the sick bay** walls in a bright and colourful mural, we created an uplifting space where sick children could rest and recover. We also built an amazing **climbing wall** which the children loved and had mastered within seconds!

By the end of the week we were not **saying goodbye** to 44 Zambian orphans, but 44 friends. After learning bits of the native language, *Bemba*, wearing traditional *chitenge* skirts every day and getting to know the Chipolopolo football nation, leaving the culture we had just begun to understand and love was incredibly difficult. I lost my heart in Africa and I cannot wait to go back! 😊

# The Reading Programme



# Painting the Sick Bay



# The Climbing Wall

