

News from Paraguay

February 2019



Dear friends,

We have now arrived back in England. We left Paraguay at 40 C and are now getting used to colder weather. It has rained everyday since we arrived. February flew by as it was filled with a lot of farewells. It was good to be able to say Goodbye to friends we have known for many years. It was also quite sad as we don't know when we'll see them again. The British ambassador also gave us a farewell. He offered us a reception for 40 people or a meal for 10. We opted for the smaller of the two options and invited the headship team from school and the bishop and his wife Sally. We had a lovely time in the ambassador's residence. We took our last service at church and then had a great farewell lunch. It has been good to see some new families arriving because a few of us seem to be leaving this year.



The English Church



Estrella and family. All now grown up



Having been friends for over 30 years.

Iguazu Falls

We'd promised ourselves we'd have one last visit to the waterfalls at Iguazu in Brazil before we left and so went on the day school was to restart. It was strange to think of the school year starting without us! We travelled on the over night bus and had a good sleep on the way. We enjoyed seeing the Falls again as they never lose their charm. We visited the bird park and walked the length and breadth of the town.



Back to School



While we were away in Foz at the Falls, school started back. They started well and we went in to see everybody to take photos and say Goodbye to everyone.

The girls' football team did very well in the fist competition of the year but the boys recovered last week.

The first 3rd Generation pupil started school.



We were thrilled to hear that Sebas, the sailor has won 3rd place in the U18 South American Laser championships in Peru. He is going to Poland for the World's in July.



We are very pleased that Piero loves school



Annexe School has started



Packing up!!

After that we had to try and sort out the house and the things we wanted to bring back. Gwen spent a lot of time emptying cupboards whilst Mags was busy scanning photos to save us having to bring them. The maths book for the infant class was also finished. Thirty plus years of accumulation proved too much for us. We gave a lot of things away and the house was still full! We had a practice pack one weekend as the packers were coming 3 days later. We sent household things, special pictures and clothes by freight although they are holding them for up to 2 months until we know where to send them. Packing our cases once more we found even more to bring and spent some time trying to get the weight right.



The journey home



The dogs

Then came the difficult part... sending the dogs and cats to their new homes! We know the dogs are settling well and are very well looked after. It will take longer for the cats to settle. The next day it was off to the airport where we were met by friends and some staff from school. It was all quite emotional. It's still very difficult to think we won't be going back to Paraguay next month as we usually do and hard to believe we are here to settle. Life seems very strange.



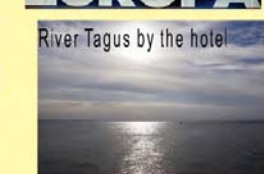
Lisbon



Lots of steps up to the cat's earned an acronym made into a frown



The end of Europe



River Tagus by the hotel



Arriving in cloudy London

House Hunting

We hope we have found a house. Mags' sister in law has been helping us. She went to visit and walked us through them via phone! She's had an offer accepted. We hope to go and see it for ourselves this week. Meanwhile we are both living with siblings.



We hope to visit all the churches we are linked to from April onwards and will be in touch to arrange that. Thankyou for all your support over the years.

God Bless and love from
Gwen and Mags