



# Sponsor & supporter update Year End 2023

## Bombolulu Secondary School – A very successful first year

The first year operating as a Lower Secondary School has flown by. Our first intake of Year 7 children has exceeded all expectations with their exam results. Our head teacher, Thomas, has led the school brilliantly and all the staff have supported the children and the school 100%.



Nancy, our School Manager, has been fundamental in the success of the operation from an admin and financial perspective. We would not be where we are without her exceptional dedication to the school.

All staff have worked well over and above their contracted hours to support these extremely poor and vulnerable children through their first year of secondary education. The children asked if they could come to school on a Saturday as they wanted to achieve the best exam results that they could. They also come in by 7am and don't leave until they are told to go home! We do not want these children, particularly the girls, walking long distances home in the dark. It is simply not safe.

Below are the exam results as a comparison from when the children first arrived, to their amazing results at the year end. These are Government exams, not internal.

- Maths from 33 Points to 47 points
- English from 41 Points to 64 points
- Kiswahili from 60 Points to 66 points
- Science from 62 Points to 82 points
- Agriculture from 62 Points to 68 points
- Life skills from 40 Points to 57 points
- Pre-Career and Pre- technical Education from 47 Points to 66 points
- Performing arts from 49 Points to 58 points
- Computer from 56 Points to 72 points
- Health science education from 61 points to 74 points
- Social studies from 42 points to 60 points
- Business studies from 70 points to 81 points
- Religious education from 65 points to 72 points

## Our children live in abject poverty – recent flooding in Mombasa has washed away some of the primitive housing

Ruth watched as her bed of rags floated away in the November floods. Her home all but a wreck. Thanks to a generous donation from Sheila and Alan Brighton, plus financial support from staff, the house is to be rebuilt. It is being made habitable again thanks to the efforts of Nancy and Bonnie (a member of the board of governors) with the help of the Rotary Club of Mombasa North Coast who are undertaking the rebuilding work as a community project.



Bombolulu in flood. The worst flooding in recent memory due to persistent rainfall over a sustained period



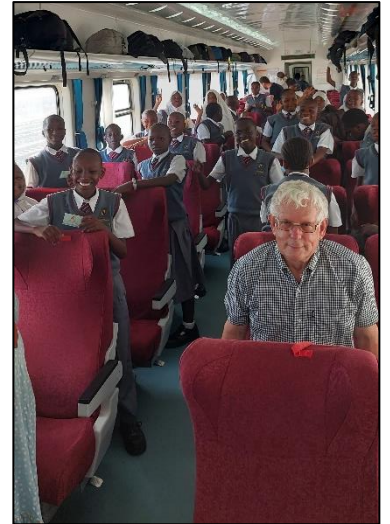
The roof of the school – like a swimming pool



- Ruth in her home before it was destroyed
- Just the door remaining after the flood
- Ruth delighted at her home being rebuilt



## Year-end outing



The children and staff had worked so hard during the year that Sally, our Chair of Trustees, went on a sponsored weight loss and raised almost £1,000. Also, Jan and Keith Hichisson, who sponsor 4 of the children, forfeited their Golden Anniversary gifts to benefit the children instead. In the process raising over £500. Both of these fundraisers were in order to give the children and staff an outing at the end of the school year. Part of this outing included a trip on a train – a first for all of the children and several of the staff. A highlight being their first experience of an escalator! Much uncertainty 😊. But the children were brave and mastered this new contraption.

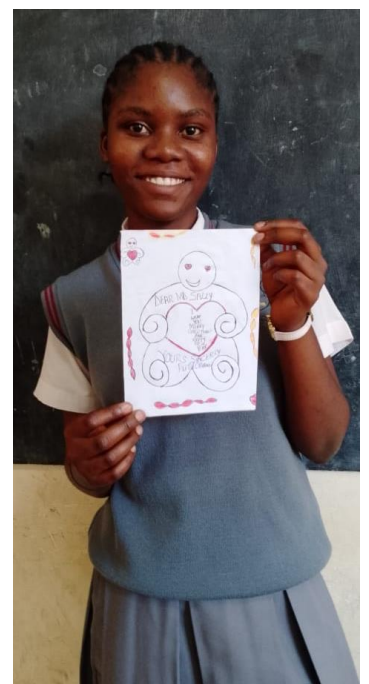


## Christmas cards from your sponsored child/children and exam results

We hope you enjoyed receiving celebration cards from your sponsored children and their exam results.

All sponsors that currently do not have a child allocated will have the opportunity to choose who they would like to support when the 35 new children start in early January. Several will be coming in from one of our feeder schools, Little Faces.

It will be great to see some of the original children progressing to secondary school. We will let you know if you already support one of these lucky children.



## Environmental project – planting trees

The children and staff have been planting trees as part of an environment project. It will also provide shade to the playground. Environmental issues are an important part of the curriculum



Sally Searle and Keith Hichisson also planted trees while they were at the school in September.

A brilliant project!



## Working with other schools in our zone

As a developing institution, we understand that it's very important to create good relationships with already existing institutions and the Ministry as well. After having interacted with many school heads and directors during KPSA training sessions and meetings, we found there is an urge to collaborate and work together on several initiatives - we are the lower secondary school pioneers in this zone.

We chose to work with both public and private schools, and they include Mary Joy Academy, Miche Bora School, SOS Village Academy, Frere Town and Ziwa la Ng'ombe Junior Secondary School. This will go a long way to ensure ideas are shared across all schools, also to encourage competition both in academics and also in co-curricular activities. Our head teacher Thomas is working closely with the head teachers at these schools in preparation for next year's activities.

## Visit to school – Sally and Keith

In September, Sally, our Chair Trustee, and Keith, a sponsor of the children for many years, visited the school. Sally visits at least every year but this was the first time that Keith had visited the school.

This was a truly eye-opening experience for Keith. The children loved having him at their school and it brought home to Keith just what conditions the children and their families live in. The poverty of our pupils has to be seen to be fully understood. Seeing it in photos does not have the life-long impact that standing in a dilapidated mud hut with a smartly uniformed child alongside their parents in rags has. But their parents are proud people and care for their children as best they can. They do their best in incredibly challenging circumstances. Feeding families is a daily task that is often beyond the reach of these amazing people.

Please do consider visiting the children and their school. You would be more than welcome.



Meeting your sponsored children is unforgettable – they are so grateful



Keith 'enjoying' a school dinner



Saying goodbye was hard



Keith observing a science lesson – very advanced!



It's not all hard work when you visit though 😊



View of the gardens and from the bedroom balcony  
– quite spectacular

### Physical exercise



Physical exercise is not only part of the curriculum, but is essential for a fit and healthy lifestyle, both mentally and physically. Now that the playground is covered in grass, it makes sports and exercise much more appealing than when it was just mud and stones.



I promise they really weren't trying to escape!!  
Their ball had gone over the fence!



## The safehouse



Proximity to school

The tiny kitchen



The flat has a tiny kitchen, minute toilet, small living area and small bedroom. But it's safe and secure



The safehouse has been taken on because of the dreadful abuse a few of our most vulnerable girls are facing at home. Fortunately the vast majority of our children come from caring parents and guardians, even though they all live in extreme poverty. I don't need to explain further. But this flat will be a safe haven for these girls. There will initially be four girls in this sanctuary along with Sylvia, our IT teacher as their housemother.

The flat is within sight of the school and we can thus keep an eye on them. Plus they can very easily get to school and back in safety.

There are many items we need to purchase for the flat as it is completely empty. This includes bunk beds, mattresses and bedding. They also need a two burner cooker, utensils, cutlery, crockery and, of course, food. A table and chairs would be great too.

If you feel you would like to help the charity with these costs, please do go onto the link below to donate. Any help would be appreciated as this is not within our normal budget.

<https://empoweringkidsinkenya.enthuse.com/cp/52edc/fundraiser#!>



## Visiting the home of some of our children

Nancy took Keith and Sally to visit the homes of some of our children during their stay in September.

It is hard to imagine the poverty, yet the families are happy.

On the right is the house of the twins that Sally and her family sponsor. It is a mud hut with no facilities including water.



On the left is the home of Ruth. A ramshackle mud hut with chickens running around inside. Ruth sleeps on a bed of rags. Her father is an exceptional man in that he sought out the village manager when he heard that places in a new school were being offered to the poorest in the community.

He secured a place for his daughter. He is illiterate, same as most of this community, but he was determined that Ruth would receive a secondary school education. She is the only child of school age actually attending school within this whole community.



This photo does not show the full horror of the ravine with dangerously steep sides that the children climb down to get their water.

This is Esha fetching water for her family.

You can see why the children do not want to leave school at the end of each day. At school, they have fresh water to drink. We had a borehole drilled during the construction of the school.





## Visitors from Scotland



Sally and Keith met Claire and Gregor at the hotel and spoke about the school and the amazing children. So Claire and Gregor decided to visit. The children loved seeing the photos they had taken while on their honeymoon safari. Incredible photos! Enlightening for these children. Following their experience at the school, they have now taken up sponsorship.



They will now be kept in contact with the school through updates and also with their own child. They can join a zoom meeting with their own children and the ones they sponsor. How brilliant for the children both in the UK and in Kenya. It's a two-way experience.



## Thanks to Rotary International

### The District 7 Inner Wheel

Thanks to a district wide fundraising effort, spearheaded by Suzanne Robinson, the district raised £650 to fund the purchase of period pants for the girls. What a wonderful cause for Inner Wheel to support. Thank you all.

### The Rotary Club of Harpenden Village – and District 1260

The Rotary Club of Harpenden Village raised £1,000 and District 1260 matched this with a further £1,000. Those funds are being spent on the compulsory books for Years 7 and 8 and also for uniforms for the new intake plus replacements for the current students. The remaining funds will be spent very shortly.

### The Rotary Clubs of St Neots, Ramsey, Peterborough Ortons, Huntingdon, Melton Mowbray, all 3 Ashby de la Zouch clubs, Northampton, Lutterworth, Peterborough – and District 1070

This is a multi-club district grant and covers some major items of expenditure. Almost all of the £16,000 from this fundraising and District 1070 matching has now been spent. The remaining small amount will cover a laptop for the new teacher and uniforms. The final report will be filed by the end of January.

## **Thank you for your continued support through child sponsorship**

**Thank you** – our sincere thanks go out to each and every one of you who sponsors or supports the children in order that they stand a real chance of reaching their goals and full potential. Every sponsorship we receive makes a significant difference to our children and helps the local community to develop and grow. Without your support, the majority of these children would drop out of education altogether – aged just 11/12 years old.

Of the 35 children joining the school in just a couple of weeks' time, only 9 currently have sponsors. PLEASE do consider supporting the remaining 24 children. Without your generous sponsorship, none of them would be attending secondary school at all. The girls would end up in subservient, menial roles or married off and the boys would struggle to support themselves and thus potentially turn to crime, simply to gain enough money to feed themselves. Their options are very limited in this poverty-stricken area.

## **Child sponsorship – sadly the costs are escalating – can you help please?**

The cost of food has escalated massively in the past couple of years. Teachers' salaries have also increased in line with government salary scales, especially as they are now well qualified secondary school teachers. Both result in the cost of feeding and educating a child increasing considerably.

Please do not feel under any pressure to increase your sponsorship unless you are happy to do so. Even an extra £5 a month will provide many meals for a child, a cost that would not be covered otherwise. Perhaps you could consider sponsoring a child between more than one person? And don't forget, a year's child sponsorship makes a fabulous Christmas or birthday present 😊. Regardless of the overall cost of supporting a child, we are only asking £20 per month or £240 per year from sponsors.

**If you would like to sponsor a child, the rate per year is £240 or £20 per month - but any amount per month or as a one-off donation would be amazing, please use this link to pay by debit/credit card:**

<https://empoweringkidsinkenya.enthuse.com/cp/52edc/fundraiser#!/>

Or you could pay by BACS to Empowering Kids in Kenya – Santander – sort code 09-01-28 – account number 49379650. Or a cheque made payable to Empowering Kids in Kenya and sent to 117 Willington Road, Cople, Bedford MK44 3TN.

## **And now we need to complete the new school – please can you help?**

### **Without the next floor of this exceptional school, we cannot continue beyond 2024**

With the changes in the senior school structures introduced by the government, it is now vital that we raise £52,000 to complete the build of the next floor of the school. It is a condition of the school licence that we have to provide schooling for years 7, 8 and 9 and there simply isn't enough room without the additional space. It's also vital so we can provide adult education for the local community, a vital step in our aim to help stimulate the local economy.

The next floor will enable us to have an IT room, a permanent health centre, and two rooms for work experience. This work experience will be for both the children and the community. It will involve skills training in trades such as sewing machining, hairdressing and beauty, wood working, plumbing and

building, to name but a few. This will empower many youngsters and adults to gain employment or start up their own small businesses. With unemployment levels at an all-time high, it is imperative that we help the community to help themselves.

***Please*** – if you can contribute in any way towards this goal, either donate with a debit or credit card using the link below or make a transfer into our bank: Santander – Empowering Kids in Kenya – sort code 09-01-28 – account number 49379650. Or for cheques, please make them payable to Empowering Kids in Kenya and send to 117 Willington Road, Cople, Bedford MK44 3TN

***Link to donate towards building the next floor of the secondary school – Brick by Brick!***

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/BrickBuyBrick>

***THANK YOU*** – your support is very much appreciated, no matter how big or small.

### **In summary**

The first year of this life-changing school has proved that our teachers have exceeded all expectations with the exam results. Our Head Teacher, Thomas, has excelled as lead for the teaching side and Nancy, our School Manager has worked incredibly long hours to make sure that the school runs efficiently and smoothly. She is exceptional.

Our Board of Trustees have supported the school throughout the year with their expertise and knowledge. The Board of Governors have guided the school through the first year amazingly, under the leadership of Enos.

But our children have proved themselves to be hard working, community minded and supportive of each other and the school. They are the reason so many people give so much time and financial support to the school. They have earned our respect as amazing individuals. Hopefully the new intake will follow in their footsteps.

***Thank you so much for all your support***

**Wishing everyone a very prosperous and happy 2024**