



Sponsor and supporter update

March & April 2024



We are so very nearly there!

We needed to raise £52,000 to add two additional classrooms to our school in order to retain our school licence

We are now within just £12,000 of that target

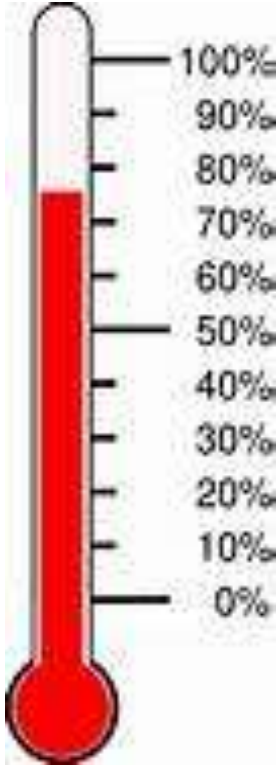
Please can you help get us over the line?

Any donation would help enormously – THANK YOU

For debit/credit card payment: (Ctrl + click – this takes a while to load)
<https://empoweringkidsinkenya.enthuse.com/cp/52edc/fundraiser#!/>

Or to purchase some bricks: (Ctrl + click – this takes a while to load)
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/BrickBuyBrick>

Bank payment: Santander – Empowering Kids in Kenya – sort code 09-01-28 – account number 49379650



Please scan our new QR code – it will take you straight through to our website



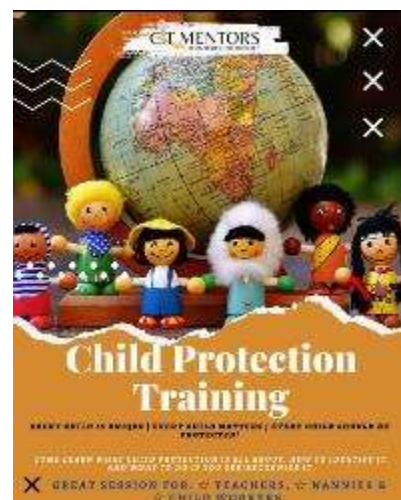
Please do visit the website to see our latest news and updates

Our safehouse

The five girls in the safehouse continue to thrive. Our two housemothers, Sylvia and Zulekha, have recently completed their training on Child Protection.



The safehouse now has its own section on our website under 'About Us'. It's well worth reading as it is very informative, not just about the safehouse for pupils from our school, but about the situation in Mombasa and Kenya too.



We are trying to raise the funds to expand our facilities to enable a total of 10 girls to have a safe and happy home to live in away from the abuse that they have been facing at home. More news to come in the next update.

Now there is no excuse for not doing homework!!



Thanks to a donation from The St Peter's Aid for the Needy, every child now has a solar lantern. This will make such a huge difference as it



means that they will now be able to do their homework in the evenings. It also means that the parents can cook more safely when dark.



Mwatela nails it 😊

All children took part in an inter-schools sports event recently. They did



exceptionally well and came 2nd overall. Mwatela won his disciplines of running, discus and javelin. Before the event, he had never even held a



discus nor javelin. After a very short training session he excelled against all the odds. He went through to the regional event, accompanied by teacher Bonface. Unfortunately he did not go through to the Nationals, but to get as far as he did with no previous experience was amazing. Congratulations Mwatela. Mwatela is

also a budding footballer and we would love him to have a mentor. Any ideas?

A heart-warming story –

Blessing (our albino pupil) having her eyes tested



Albinos are known to have poor eyesight – it is a consequence of the condition. Thanks to a firm of opticians in Cambridge, D W Murphy and their customers, Blessing recently had an eye test. It was discovered that she did indeed need glasses. The cost of these was donated by Tim Tucker, her sponsor. He is an optician with the practice. Thank you Tim and Tina.



Our Year 8 pupils are gaining in confidence every day

This is our Year 8 pupils giving a science demonstration and talk to the parents. It is brilliant to see their confidence and knowledge growing day by day. They have embraced science and it is one of their favourite lessons.



Tesco Extra at Bar Hill, Cambridge – amazing donation of school uniform and shoes



A huge thank you to the team at Tesco at Bar Hill superstore. They have kindly donated over 500 items of school uniform for the children. Simply astonishing! Can't wait to see what comes next 😊. The children will be delighted. Thank you Christina.

A new pupil – welcome 😊

Ibrahim was over the moon at being offered a place at Bombolulu as he was out of school and on the streets as his mum could not afford to pay the fees that government schools demand.

So many that interviewed for a 2024 place are now out of school at just 12 years of age. It has been very difficult for our staff in Kenya to choose which children to offer a place to and which to leave out. As word about our school grows, we are bound to get even more applications for a very few spaces.



Continued professional development



We encourage and release all our staff for the purpose of improving their knowledge. This is Nancy, our super school manager, attending a Kenyan Private Schools conference. Most schools in this Association charge fees, we don't. Quite exceptional.

Child sponsorship – you can make a child very happy!

This is two of our boys reading letters from their sponsors, John and Janet. The delight in their faces tells such a happy story.

Please do think about sponsoring one of our remaining 14 children who currently do not have the fun of corresponding with their sponsor.



DHL and Jaguar Land Rover – making a difference

At a recent ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) conference, Sally spoke about the Bombolulu Project to all the JLR ESG teams. They were a super audience who listened closely and were very engaged. Thank you DHL for inviting us to speak to so many charity-minded teams of people. Hopefully a few children will find sponsors from this super audience. Thank you Steve Sprason for organising this super day. Ken, a former colleague of Sally's at DHL and Sally loved the awards we were given.



JLR



Ryan – a force to be reckoned with

At the age of just 11, Ryan was a speaker at the DHL conference. What confidence! No notes, just talked about the amazing charity he had started himself. We Can In Solihull. Collecting aluminium cans, crushing them, selling them and using the money to support food banks locally in Solihull. Please do look up his charity on Facebook and support where you can (pun intended). [wecaninsolihull](#)



Since the conference, Ryan has been purchasing items for the children at Bombolulu and, hopefully, will be travelling there next Easter to meet the children in person. He is an inspiration. These are some photos of the items he has so far managed to gather. Big hugs to you Ryan. Thank you. You are simply amazing!



Schools have to remain closed after the holidays due to severe weather affecting much of Kenya

The government announced that schools should remain closed until further notice because of severe rainfall in much of Kenya. Our pupils came into the school in their own clothes and took part in fun and games and informal catching up. And, of course, they were given food – the driving force for many to attend school. The schools later opened on 13th May when the flooding situation got better in the affected parts of the country. Luckily, Mombasa was not affected.



New sports kit for Year 7 children



The new children now have their sports kit thanks to a donation from a Charitable Trust.

They can now play games and take part in sports activities without having to wear their full school uniform.



Additional Training on CBC and CBA at the SOS Children's Home in Mombasa

(Competency Based Curriculum and Competency Based Assessment)



Sylvia and Zulekha attended a formal training session on the curriculum to update and improve their understanding and approach to all subjects.

This is government training and is part of our determination to increase the knowledge and skills of our staff.

Year 7 children have settled in

Our 2024 intake have settled in very well indeed and are now gaining in confidence and are determined to make the most of this opportunity. It is so lovely to see them grow and thrive in their new environment.



CEMASTEA Training for our Teachers

(Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa)

As a school we encourage our teachers to participate in Teachers Professional Development (TPD) programmes organised by the Ministry of Education (MoE) and we are also keen to see that they implement what they have learned.

On 23rd April, our head teacher Thomas and teacher Bonface attended a regional training organised by the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology in Africa (CEMASTEA) under the MoE.



This was a four-day training aimed at equipping teachers with skills to be able handle the 21st century learners in a way that makes learning exciting for them and also embrace Mathematics, Science and Tech related careers as they prepare for the rapidly changing world.

Teachers were also equipped on how to use ICT in Junior Secondary School (JSS) curriculum designs as a requirement in the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) system and on how to develop learner-centered approaches to be able to understand and guide them into the right career paths. This is very important for grade 8 teachers as learners are expected to choose subjects based on their career path when they join grade 9 next year.

Therefore, when these students join Senior Secondary Schools, they will have common subjects and then specialised ones. We are waiting for a full report from the Ministry of

Education on the learning areas for Senior Secondary Schools under CBC starting in January 2026.

Welcome to our new member of the Board of Governors

This is Elizabeth thanking the other Year 7 parents for electing her as their representative on the Board of Governors. She is disabled and lives in the community at the Bombolulu Workshop and thus will help us with our commitment to being inclusive.



Exams



The children regularly sit both internal exams and external government exams.

The internal ones are so that the Head and teachers can assess the children's understanding of their lessons. If a child is clearly not on top of a subject, we hold remedial classes separately to enable the

child to have one on one or very small group tuition. This is sometimes done on Saturdays so that they get the attention they need.

The government exams mean that we can compare our results with all other secondary schools. As we only take children from deprived backgrounds, we know that they will need additional support to be on a level playing field with other children of the same age. English can be the area that lets our new children down. As classes are in English, it is essential that we give these children all the help they need to be able to get the full benefit from all their lessons.

Remedial Classes

The April holiday started on 8th April 2024. But our teachers and students had a different plan. Before school closed for the holiday, many students had presented their requests to the headteacher to allow them come to school during holidays, kids prefer staying in school for obvious reasons, the conducive environment for learning and playing and the meals they get means a lot to them.





Our teachers are committed to ensure all our kids thrive, so they organised a two-week remedial programme to help students in their weak areas. Also, this was a great opportunity for students to read as many story books as possible and present their stories, discuss vocabularies in their respective

groups and before the whole class. This helps boost their reading, writing and presentation skills. Many thanks to all our teachers for committing much of their own time to support our students.



Thank you to Elizabeth and David from the Cauda Trust

Thank you both for your amazing closing down donation to our Bombolulu school. It will help us enormously towards securing the future for these needy children.

Save the date

East Anglia and Essex conference

Whittlebury, Northampton

Saturday 12 October 2024

Come and meet the staff and Rotarians supporting the project in Kenya

Sally will be joined on stage by several members of our Kenyan team. If you would like to attend this Rotary conference, please let Sally know as you will need to be booked into the event.

At this live Rotary conference, we have a slot booked to present the success of the school to a wide assembled audience. Sally will be joined on stage by members of our Kenyan school team who are travelling to England to say thank you directly to the many Rotary organisations who have made the school possible.



If you would like to attend, watch the presentation, and have the opportunity to meet members of the school team, we'd love to see you there.

You don't need to come for the whole day, and we'll make sure the team can spend some time with you. Just let Sally know as you will need to be booked into the event.

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 that joined the school in January, only 14 are currently without a sponsor. PLEASE do consider supporting the remaining 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.

In summary

We now have 70 healthy and happy children attending the school. It is lovely to see them all getting along together with the older children helping the new children.

I am happy to say that the girls in our safehouse are loving the security of going home to a home that is peaceful and supportive. What a great solution to the problems these girls have faced in their short lives.

Exams are going well and all the children are responding well to their school environment. They are coming up with some great ideas themselves and are maturing into well rounded and confident children. We are very proud of every one of them.

Once we have added the next two classrooms onto the school, we know we will be well set for the future. It is great that the school is thriving with committed children and staff.

Thank you for all your support – we would not be where we are today if it were not for our sponsors and supporters.