



Newsletter

February 2023

News from Mombasa and
events in the UK

A Happy New Year to all our Friends and Supporters.

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2023

Although this Newsletter is being prepared only a few weeks into the new year, there is much to report already. Not least is another success story in academic achievement. At the end of term in 2022, our older students to the KCPE examination and received very good results.

One of our aims has been to demonstrate that children born in poverty can still achieve as much as their better off peers—and this we have done again! Well done to all our successful students and their hard working teachers.

From Nobert Were (School Manager):

Once again our STD 8 made us proud. Thanks so much for all your help. Without you we couldn't have achieved these standards. We were placed in the 13th position (out of over 100 schools) this time round. Still we have trounced big schools that have existed for so many years and very experienced. The officials who came recognized our hard work and this too earned us lots of points during their inspection. Grade 6 results are out with some anomalies. But very impressive results. Most of them had distinctions in most subjects.

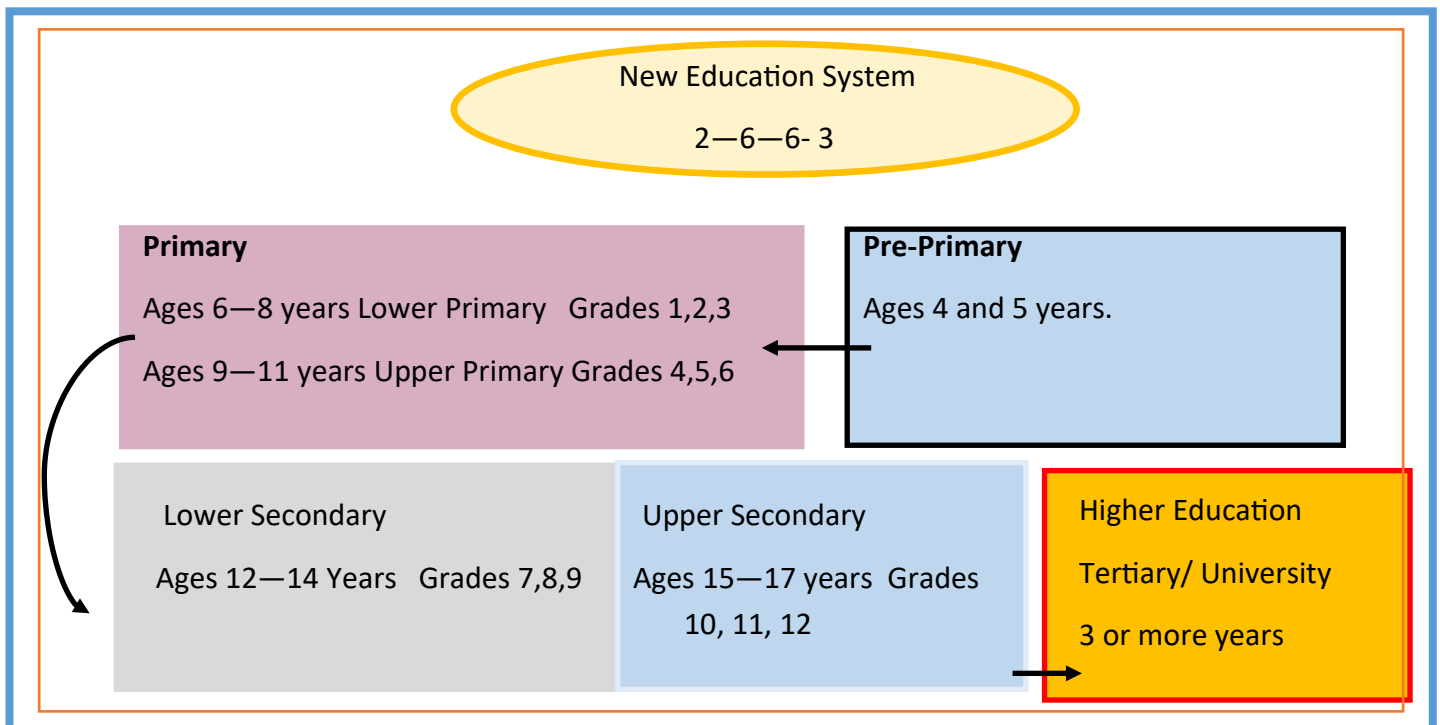
Pictures of **Christmas lunch**, once again provided by a generous donation, for children in the orphanage.





Changes at Unity School and across Kenya

January 2023 saw the implementation of the new system of education in Kenya. It is called the 2-6-6-3 system although the words used are not always consistent and both the “6’s” are subdivided. Since 1985 Primary schools have taken pupils from the age of 5 until 14. The new system is a little more like the one we are used to in the UK., with a change at the age of 11 years. The system is illustrated below:



Our own school (Previously Unity Freretown Nursery and Primary) now becomes **Unity Freretown Junior and Primary** , And also **Unity Freretown Lower Secondary School**. The two schools have their own Headteacher and Uniform. Not all was plain sailing:

In December the Kenyan Government announced that all Junior Schools would be required to take the ‘lower secondary’ classes. This caused several problems for us and Unity School. A building adjacent to Unity School became available for renting, and after some last minute and very much appreciated financial support from some of our supporters, we were able to help the Unity School Management to secure these rooms. Desks, school uniforms and other equipment for the lower secondary was secured during the Christmas break in readiness for January 2023. After a very thorough inspection the Kenyan Ministry of Education have given Unity School the go ahead to host the lower secondary pupils. Further meetings have been arranged for all school directors and headteachers so this will not be the final story!

Unfortunately, the original Government directive that the lower secondary must be completely separate from the Junior part of Unity School, has now been changed by the Education Department, who have confirmed that the pupils must be in the same buildings as the Junior pupils. Unity School has one free room, so they can host the lower secondary pupils for the time being.

What next for Unity?

With the changes made by the Government of Kenya we urgently need to complete the classrooms in the Parry Building. The three additional rooms adjacent to Unity School will be used as a library, a home science room, and a computer lab. This is a tall order for Unity School's Management team to get into place. It will come into effect gradually, and when finances allow, but as long as there is a gradual inclusion in this new curriculum, then the education department will allow a year for implementation.



Above: New style uniform for the Lower Secondary Students—modelled here by Mesdames Dorcas and Mercy.



Left: New desks, chairs and lockers purchased.

The most urgent task is to get the upper floor of the Parry Building fitted out as classrooms. Our aim is to get two classrooms operating this school year and three more ready for next year. In the Spring, our newly formed Media Team will be launching a campaign to fund this project .

In November we welcomed School Manager, Mr Norbert Were to the UK. He visited schools, churches and met a number of people who had visited Unity School. They were all keen to help the school through the Charity and so a zoom meeting was set up to discuss what could be done. The very positive response is the formation of a **Social Media Team**. We hope that this group will be able to improve our communications with our existing supporters and encourage many others. One task will be to launch a fund raising campaign for the new classrooms on the upper floor of the Parry building.

Visiting Bishop Luffa School (Centre) Broadwater (Right) and Arundel (Below) Primary schools.





Coming up in our 20th Year

March: **A Concert by Jacob Keet**, Probably at Christ's Hospital School. Details to be announced

15th April **Sale of Everything**. Rustington Methodist Church Hall Donations of saleable items always needed. For example: Household objects, books, jewellery, cosmetics, toys. (No electrical items, clothes or furniture) Contact Karyn 01903 236921

17th June **Art Exhibition** at Littlehampton United Church. The theme is African Inspired Art. Contact Chris 077797888686

30th September **A Service of Thanksgiving** for 20 years working as a charity. Littlehampton United Church 2.00pm (Time to be confirmed) followed by afternoon tea in the garden, if fine.

21st October **A Concert by Lancing Brass**. Details to follow

24th/25th November **Christmas Sale with the Crib and Tree Festival** at Littlehampton United Church.

Good news for some of our needy but very able students.

In the last Newsletter we announced that "Global Encounter" - an organisation we know through the Aga Khan Academy in Mombasa—have donated sufficient funds for four students to attend Senior School (Previously known as Secondary School) for three years.

We expect details of their schools to arrive soon and any pictures will be on our Facebook Page.



More ways to donate

Scanning the QR code takes you to our Just Giving Donate page

Or follow the link on the donate page on our website.

Friends of the Mombasa Children C.I.O. is a registered Charity number 1155625

www.mombasachildren.org.uk

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