



Newsletter

May 2023

News from Mombasa and
events in the UK

Welcome to our May Newsletter. Since the last newsletter in February, much has happened.

In that Newsletter we wrote the following:

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.



As these photos show things have moved quickly and the building work on five classrooms has commenced, with an estimated completion this summer. Read the details on page 2



London Marathon

Congratulations to **David Groves** who completed the London Marathon. David raised £1612 for charity funds and completed the race in 3 hours 57 minutes. Thank you David, and all those who supported him.

Flooding in Mombasa

The rains arrived in early April with devastating effect.

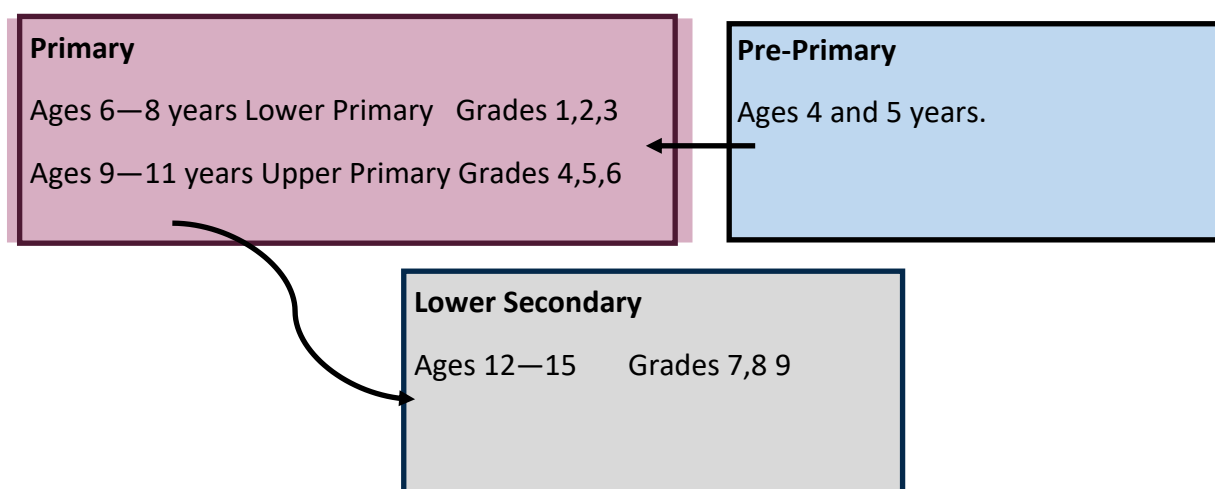
The older students are carrying the younger children to get their lunches. The school closed for a few days until it was safe to return.





Update on changes at Unity School

The February Newsletter we reported on changes to the in education system in Kenya. The managers and staff at Unity School worked hard to comply with the new system. There are now two sections to the school: Unity Freretown Nursery and Primary School and, similarly sounding, Unity Freretown Lower Secondary School.



A late change in the directive from the government allowed the Lower Secondary School to be housed in the same premises as the Primary School. Three Trustees, visiting Unity School in March, discovered that too much work was required on the rooms hired to comply with the original government requirements, to make them fit for purpose. A conversation was initiated with the contractor who built the Parry Building to discuss what could be done to provide more rooms using the top floor of the Parry Building. A few days later he came back to us with an offer to build five rooms (as per the original plans for the building). The charity would pay for three rooms at £8000 each and his colleague would finance the other two. This was an offer too good to refuse—the only problem, we did not have £24,000. After a few phone calls, we had offers of interest free loans and an agreement to stagger the payments, that would enable work to commence. Work began almost immediately, as did the fundraising. A further offer to fund a classroom from *Natural Tours and Safaris* has moved us closer to paying the bill.



The new Grade 7 class.

On the left: with new scientific calculators (see page 3)

On the right, a practical lesson in line with the new curriculum - taking care of the chicken coup.



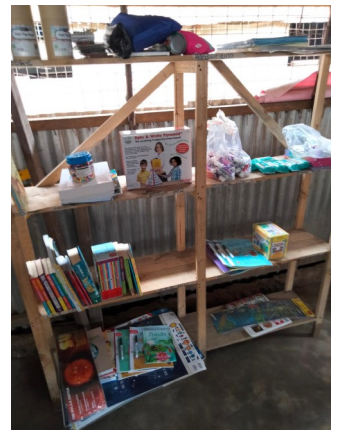
Recent Events

In March: **A Concert by Jacob Keet**, held in the chapel at Christ's Hospital School raised around £400. Music for a Mediterranean Evening was performed by Jacob Keet (Call me Mr Vivaldi) and friends.

Another successful evening took place at **Monsoon Curry Night**. The whole restaurant was booked for this event. Money raised including the meal, raffle and auction was £650



In April the **Sale of Everything**. Was held at Rustington Methodist Church Hall. This was the first time since the lockdown that we were able to hold this event, raising over £600.



More equipment given to Unity School

Calculators, sports equipment, books and medical supplies were among the eight full suitcases that were brought over by Liz and Andrew McDermott.

Sports Balls donated by Jan Watson and friends. I'm pleased to report that the barbed wire was removed the day after this picture was taken. Jan's friends also funded the musical instruments— picture on the next page



Visitors to Unity School

A few months ago, we were contacted by five students from the University of La Rochelle in France. They recently arrived in Mombasa and three of them are volunteering at Unity School and the other two at another school nearby. As French is now a

requirement for the lower secondary pupils their support including sports, art and other areas will be greatly appreciated by the teachers and pupils. They will be there for 11 weeks, with two more students arriving for the month of July. Many thanks to Norbert and Joash for all their support in organising accommodation and for all the discussions via WhatsApp to prepare for this visit.



Grade 7 students with
Madam Dorcas
demonstrating the use
of a microscope.



Coming Soon

Art Exhibition Friday 16th June 3.00pm—6.00pm and 17th June 9.30am—4.00pm at Littlehampton United Church. The theme is African Inspired Art and will feature work by schools and local artists. If you wish to display your work please contact Chris on 077797888686 or c.azzaro@mombasachildren.org.uk

A Service of Thanksgiving 30th September at Littlehampton United Church 2.00pm

To commemorate 20 years of our work in Mombasa and as a charity. To be followed by afternoon tea in the church garden, if fine.

21st October **A Concert by Lancing Brass.** At Broadwater Baptist Church More details to follow.

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



An impromptu performance by the school band—the students were so pleased to start playing the new guitars and drums. A keyboard there too.

If you wish to make a donation to our appeal to fund the five new classrooms, your donation will be increased by 25% thanks to a generous supporter. If we can claim Gift Aid as well, then every £10 donated will be worth £15.00.

Please use the link <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/fivenewclassrooms?invite=true>



If you scan the QR code you will be taken to our Just Giving page.

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

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