



*Thank you for all the support you have given to our students and teachers during the pandemic and helping them get back to school.*

## News from Unity School

Schools in Mombasa are now open again. The number of cases of Corona Virus is small compared to the UK and although not all pupils have returned, classes are up and running. A number of new students have enrolled— the work that the teachers gave out for home-learning impressed many parents in the community and they have moved their children to Unity School. As of this week, there are 440 children enrolled, of whom 214 are supported by FOMC and pay no fees or half fees. Thank you for enabling these children to attend a good school.

## Classroom 3

School inspectors visited Unity as part of the process of checking that schools were “Covid ready” for pupils to return. They expressed their concern that classroom 3 was in a bad state of repair. When the builders began repair work, it all fell down, so rebuilding started from scratch. Some of the other older classrooms have been smartened up with a lick of paint.



Newly rebuilt Classroom 3. Note the obligatory buckets of water for handwashing. It is also nearing the end of the dry season—the grass is awaiting a good shower of rain to regenerate. You may also notice two doors—this room was once divided into 2 halves, each of which was divided by another partition. Thanks to the new building, all children now have a comfortable space in which to learn.



*Right: standard 4 in one quarter of the classroom in 2010 (A maths lesson with students from St Andrew's High School)*

So much more space since the new classroom block was built.





## Coming up in 2021

Due to the pandemic and the uncertain future of fund-raising events there are no dates to share with you. We hope that in the late spring we may be able to hold **The Great Sale of Everything**—we have plenty of attractive goods to sell but this event has probably been postponed more often than the release of the latest James Bond Film!

Maddy and Chris re-booked their accommodation for their **Sponsored walk up Mount Snowdon** and this could now happen in May—if we are allowed to drive to Wales by then. Carol and Steph are thinking of extending their **Cycle Ride** this summer. And, who knows, perhaps we'll all be able to celebrate with another **Curry Night**. Watch this space.

In our **next Newsletter**, an annual report from our Chairperson plus a pie chart showing income and expenditure from our financial year 1/2/2020 to 21/1/2021

## Repairs to the school gate

### Much needed repairs to the school gates getting underway.



A generous donation enabled work to commence without delay. Security is a major concern with several violent incidents reported in the locality. You may have noticed the security guard walking past the new classroom 3 on page 1.

### Pupils in Standard 4

Under the new classification of age groups by the Government of Kenya they will become Class 5 at the end of March.

Behind them is one of the smart repainted classrooms. The door frames have been repaired too.



*You can donate to Friends of the Mombasa Children via  
<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/mombasachildren>*

*Or by on-line banking: our Treasurer Khatija Volk or Carol Groves can give you more advice.*

*K.volk@mombasachildren.org.uk, c.groves@mombasachildren.org.uk*

## In-Service Training for Teachers

### Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP)

In January 2017 Joanna Harper one of our Associates who is an Accredited NLP Trainer and Coach, travelled to Unity school with other Trustees and trained the teachers and educators in foundation NLP skills. In 2018, Joanna returned having prepared and written an NLP manual and training course specifically designed as in service training for the teaching staff at Unity School. On successful completion of their training the participants received an NLP Diploma for Teachers and Educators from Joanna's UK based training school.



As a result of a generous donation last year we were able to purchase a data projector and additional laptop which has made it possible to deliver virtual Training and Coaching directly to the Teachers, share online training resources and tailor the NLP Coaching sessions to meet the current needs of the pupils and staff. However, the Wi-fi connection at Unity School only reaches the school office, but with recent funds raised specifically for improving this from Joanna's weekly Mindful Monday sessions, a new router, cabling, speaker and microphone were installed. She is grateful for the support and enthusiasm from the Mindfulness group for this project.

Now the virtual NLP training has been piloted, and the connection continues to be improved. Joanna hopes to introduce other training and support programs and more Trainers to Unity School. More details about how this plan unfolds will be revealed in future newsletters. Joanna's plan for twice monthly sessions will support the professional development and NLP Coaching in lessons in a sustainable way .



Our **Standard 8 students** will be leaving Unity at the end of March. Usually they leave in November after taking the Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education but, due to the pandemic, the end of school had to be postponed. We wish them all well in what ever they do next. Hopefully some will continue in education and we will be able to report on their progress.

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

**There is more information about Unity School, Mombasa and all our activities on our website:**  
**[www.mombasachildren.org.uk](http://www.mombasachildren.org.uk)**

**Keep up to date by looking at our face-book page: [www.facebook.com/mombasachildren](https://www.facebook.com/mombasachildren)**



## UPDATE ON OUR £5 A MONTH CHALLENGE

Three years ago we appealed for support to enable us to secure an additional 100 people donating £5 a month, and we are pleased to report that we almost reached our target towards this. This is fantastic news, and a big thank you to those that have committed to our £5 challenge.

In March last year we found ourselves in the midst of a pandemic with two lockdowns and all our fundraising events postponed. We are very aware of the financial struggles in the UK and are most grateful for all the generous donations that enabled us to support Unity School throughout 2020. Times are still very uncertain with no guarantee that we will be able to resume our usual fundraising. If you are able to commit to £5 a month, (even if it is only for 1 year), your support would be greatly appreciated. We are hopeful that sometime in 2021 we may be able to resume our fundraising activities again.

*When lockdown ends*



If you buy a coffee and a cake these days there is little change from £5. However, your £5 towards supporting the pupils at Unity School will help to secure their education, medical care and a meal each day. Please do spread the word and share this letter with your family, friends and work colleagues. We will keep you updated with our newsletters.



Anyone belonging to an organisation and would like one of the Trustees to speak about the work of Friends of the Mombasa Children, please do let us know. Statistics show that the majority of charities that support African causes do not last much more than 3 years. We have been a registered charity since January 2003 and CIO (Charity Incorporated Organisation) since 2014.

We work closely with the management team at Unity School; Norbert Were, Joash Obento and Mary Obara who have asked us to add their thanks to all who are supporting us. We are committed to supporting them through this difficult period of Covid-19, and their full reopening of the school in January 2021.

We are committed to seeing a community where children have access to education, equipping them with the life skills and qualifications necessary to gain meaningful employment and to realise their dreams.

You can download a Standing Order form from our Website, and if you are a UK tax payer a 'Gift Aid' form can also be downloaded. Please click on 'Support us' on and 'donate to help'

[www.mombasachildren.org.uk](http://www.mombasachildren.org.uk)

Or email our Chairperson - Carol Groves

[c.groves@mombasachildren.org.uk](mailto:c.groves@mombasachildren.org.uk)