



## **ISSUE SIX - Spring 2021**

Welcome to the 6th edition of our online Rafiki magazine. We're sorry that we have not managed to produce a magazine every term but we are sure you will understand the difficulties of working during the periods of lockdown.

In this edition we have the long awaited answers to the last quiz and a look at how children in Kenya are coping with their new school terms.

### **Going to school in the Pandemic**

Most children in the UK know what it is like to have to stay home in order to be safe from Coronavirus.

In Kenya too, schools were closed for long periods to try to keep people safe. Unity School was closed from March to September — at first only the older children were allowed back. This was a very worrying time, especially for those who were due to take exams at the end of the year. In the UK many children were able to study at home with the help of lessons on the internet and schools sending out work to do at home.

This was not the case in Kenya, but the teachers at Unity School decided they could help their pupils by preparing packs of learning materials. Children would arrive on Monday morning and collect their work and return it on Fridays for marking. This worked very well. In fact our 14 year olds managed very good results in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education. So well, in fact, that Unity School has had many enquiries from parents who now wish to make Unity the school for their children.



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## Unity School during the pandemic

It was not just school work that was given out. This family are being given food parcels as they had no way of earning money during the lockdown.

Because so much school time was lost last year, the Government of Kenya has changed the term ( and holiday) times in such a way that children should catch up with the missing school months in about two years time. This year the new school year will start in July, not January.

### A Class room, well spaced.



### Arriving at school , checking for masks and using the hand sanitizer.



## Success Stories from our older students

This term we have been celebrating the success of some of our scholars. As children they were all in the same class at Unity. They then went on to secondary schools and continued to work hard.

After four years they went on to study at University and this year, eight years after leaving Unity, they have earned their degrees. On the right is Silas with Mr Joash. Mr Joash has overseen all the practical arrangements for these students. This included making sure they had somewhere to live while at university and taking all the necessary items with them to secondary school. (As well as pens, pencils, school uniform the list included: a mattress, 4 bars of soap, toilet paper, washing powder)



William, on the left, like Silas, studied criminal science

Below: Cornel who studied chemistry

Celebrating with a party cake





## Quiz

### Can you find the answers?

1. Which is the second largest city in Kenya?
2. The "Kingdom in the sky" is the only place in the world to lie entirely above 1000m above sea level. Which African country is it?
3. Timbuktu is in which country?
4. Which city is found where the Blue Nile and White Nile join together?
5. Which large mammal is the most dangerous in Africa?
6. Which animal looks like it has been made from spare parts of other animals?
7. Which tribe who live in northern Tanzania and South Kenya stretch their earlobes?
8. In which year did Kenya gain independence from Britain?
9. What is the highest mountain in Kenya?
10. Where, in Kenya, can you see "Red" elephants?

You might need to ask an adult to help you search the internet for some of the answers.



### Learn Swahili—answers from the last edition

The Swahili translations of these family words were all muddled up.  
Here are the correct translations

Mr	Bwana	Mrs	Bi
Miss	Bibi	Mother	Mama
Father	Baba	Daughter	Birli
Son	Mwani	Sister	Dada
Brother	Kaka	Aunt	Shangazi
Uncle	Mjomba	Grandmother	Bibi
Grandfather	Babu		

Papa and Mama are also used when addressing an older person. For example "Jambo Papa" is not as formal as Hallo Sir, but it still implies respect.

### How about leaning to count?

0 = sifuri, 1 = moja, 2 = mbili, 3 = tatu, 4 = nne, 5 = tano,  
6 = sits, 7 = saba, 8 = nane, 9 = tisa, 10 = kumi

## **A Story from Africa**

African Myths, like those of other countries, can be very many years old and passed down from generation to generation. Many told to explain how or why things happened. For example, How did the World Begin? Neil Morris has made a collection of such tales and this is based on one of them.

### **IN THE BEGINNING.**

The sky god, Olorun, created the universe at the very beginning of time. With his wife and son, Obalata, he lived in the heavens. He created other gods as well. One was named Olokun and she ruled the vast area that lay below the sky. The Ocean.

The young son, Obalata, became tired of only looking at the ocean and he asked his father if something new could be made. Olorun was given permission, so he went to visit Orunmila, the god of wisdom.

Obalata was asked to fetch 5 items by Orunmila. A golden chain, a snail's shell filled with sand, a chicken, a palm nut and a cat. He then explained what to do with them.

First of all gold was collected from Ogan, the god of metalwork, who forged it into a long chain which was let down towards the water below. Next the shell was found, filled with sand and then turning it over the sand spilled and formed islands in the water. Obatala set the chicken free and fluttering down she started to scratch at the land, forming valleys and hills.

Jumping down from the chain, Obalata planted the palm nut which grew into a great plantation. Happy with this, he decided to live by the palm trees with the cat for company. From there Obalata dug into the sand and found clay to mould into figures. His father, Olorun, breathed life into the first people on earth.

Only the ocean god, Olokun, was not happy as she did not like all this new land. She whipped up enormous waves and flooded the land. Orunmila put a stop to this by casting a spell that made the water flow back into the ocean so life on land could start.

**If you like reading African stories try reading about Akimbo  
in a series written by Alexander McCall Smith  
Published by Egmont**

