



Donor Update

August 2026



REHEMA TRUST

**IS CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF INVOLVEMENT IN BRINGING
GOOD QUALITY EDUCATION TO RURAL WESTERN KENYA**



Rehema Trust gave Hope To The Hopeless During Covid-19 Pandemic – June 2020 – supplying resources to access learning at home



EDWARD WATA (DIRECTOR)

**IS GRATEFUL FOR THE FUNDING OF PROJECTS WHICH HAVE SECURED THE DEVELOPMENT OF
BARBARA LEIGHTON ACADEMY
TO BECOME**

**BARBARA LEIGHTON COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL (BLCS)
(NURSERY – PRIMARY – JUNIOR SECONDARY)**



New Classrooms



*Head Teacher Lencer Achieng
Textbook: Pupil Ratio 1:2*



Computer Lab



Secure Water Supply



New Latrines



Science Lab



New Kitchen



Rainwater Capture

"May God bless all Rehema Trust donors." Edward Wata

Financial Stewardship – Our Priorities

- **Rehema Trust was officially registered in 2017**
- Our stated aim on the Charity Commission website is: -
“The Trust works closely with its chosen mission partner in Kenya, **Yala Widows and Orphans Support Project, registered as a Community Based Organisation in 2008**, to improve the lives of the local community by supporting community development projects, specifically **Barbara Leighton Academy**, through the local provision of high-quality nursery and primary education.”
- **Barbara Leighton Academy began on 7th January 2013 as a small nursery school** with funds from the **World Mission Team** budget, an outreach programme of the **Parish of Ashted**. and has grown year on year to include primary education and, most recently, Junior Secondary classes
- This has prompted the change of name to **Barbara Leighton Comprehensive School**
- This growth has involved careful planning to ensure that the challenges of funding the construction of additional classrooms and other facilities, and funding increased operating costs, most significantly the employment of additional teachers, can always be met
- 125 pupils are now registered and we have plans to grow cautiously, subject to maintaining a prudent financial approach, including our firm commitment to: -
 - **Always pay our staff on time every month** – not always the case in other private schools and something highly valued by staff members – we currently employ 14 teachers plus ancillary staff (Catering, Security, Administration etc)
 - **Provide a universal Feeding Programme for all pupils** as a top priority - a proven method of improving their academic performance and general health
- Future growth will also never jeopardise the quality of education through recruiting only **fully qualified teachers** and maintaining the advantage of **small class sizes** – these average 10 pupils per class, whereas government schools can frequently have 90 or more pupils per class!
- Apart from bank transfer fees, for sending the money to Kenya, the charity has no administration costs and all trips to Kenya have been self-funded, so that **every penny of your donations is used in the best possible way**
- The Trustees agree an **Annual Budget** with Edward Wata to cover the **school's operating income and expenditure** and Edward provides monthly reports of actual income & expenditure for comparison against budget
- The Trustees liaise closely, when **additional project expenditure** is proposed in consultation with Edward Wata. Each project is assessed on its merits and according to agreed priorities, including reference to our **agreed Reserves Policy**
- The transfer of funds to meet both operating and project expenditure is always approved by at least two Trustees

Good News Stories!

- **Parental Support**
 - Although School Fees at **BLCS** are very modest - ranging up to £120 per annum, according to the stage of education – we continue, as a matter of policy, to subsidise the majority of pupils, who would otherwise be unable to access this opportunity for good quality education
 - Those parents, who are able to pay fees, have also expressed their support for the school by:
 - Helping to fund extracurricular activities or trips
 - Most significantly, taking responsibility for the funding of a **School Bus**, which means that new pupils have been recruited from a wider catchment area
 - See photos below

- **Sports Activities**

- In spite of very limited resources, the school's **Handball Team** has become very successful in competitions, both at a local and regional level
- We were delighted recently to agree funding for new team kit, replacing what has been borrowed until now



- **New Kitchen**

- We were blessed with a grant from the **World Mission Team** to replace the school kitchen
- The new kitchen has a much larger chimney and also has larger windows which provide light and ventilation making it a much nicer working environment
- It is larger, enabling them to cope with the increased numbers in the **feeding programme**



Before



After



- **School Playing Field**

- School expansion over recent years has used up most spare capacity on the site, leaving the school without an adequate playing field – considered a key priority for the Ministry of Education
- Thanks in part to a special donation, we have been able to support the purchase of an adjacent plot of land, which will be ideal. Edward is currently handling the legal process

What Does the Future Hold?

- **We still very much need your help - both financially and in your prayers**
- We have recently approved some new projects from existing resources: -
 - **Additional books and furniture** for the **Early Childhood Development (ECD)/Nursery classes** in response to successful recruitment
 - **Repairs to the access road to the school** – damage occurs regularly due to seasonal rainfall
- **Much more significantly, we have had to consider options to deal with irreparable termite damage to some of our older classrooms, which were constructed in 2013**
 - **After careful consideration, we have approved the construction of three replacement classrooms at a cost of almost £6000**
- We have informed Edward Wata that this decision will significantly restrict our ability to consider new project proposals – classified as desirable, but not essential - in the foreseeable future. For this reason, we are presenting to you the following **New Project Opportunity**
 - **ECD/Nursery Playground Equipment**



The previous metal play equipment is very old and no longer fit for purpose. The cost of individual items ranges from £25 to £300. If you feel able to support this project to any extent whatever, we would be very grateful.

THANK YOU SO MUCH

We hope you are encouraged by the very positive difference you have made to the children, their parents, the teachers and local community through your generous donations and prayers. Thank you again from the Trustees for continuing to make a very real difference to so many young lives in Kenya.

In recognition of our long-term commitment to changing young lives at **BLCS**, you might also like to consider leaving a **Legacy** in your Will to Rehema Trust (Registered Charity No: 1175562).

Please contact Malcolm Leighton - 01372 815082 - malcolm.leighton@ntlworld.com

Do check out our website, which has been recently significantly updated - www.rehematrust.com

Malcolm Leighton, Andrew Smith and Jackie Iles