Nandi School Project: Yearly Report 2025-26

Welcome and Introduction:
I would like to extend a warm welcome to all stakeholders—including donors, sponsors, volunteers, staff, and the wider community involved with the Nandi School Project—as you review this yearly report.

Our Mission:
The charity was founded on 1st June 2018 by Duncan McDonald, Petra McDonald, and Caroline Holding (our first substantial donor). Its purpose is to advance education by providing funds to build a school and sponsor or support orphans and seriously disadvantaged children in Kipsamoite, Nandi County, Kenya. This support includes school fees, uniforms, and a feeding program.

Over time, our vision has evolved to focus on creating a self-sustaining school that fosters an entrepreneurial environment, promoting self-help ideas and teachings.

Yearly Overview (April 2025 – March 2026)

This year has been a significant and productive period for the project, with the infrastructure project very nearly at a close.

1. Construction of an IT facility and Library

This year 2026 began with converting a covered walkway between two classrooms. We could see there was enough space to do something useful with it, so we drew up a full building plan to turn that covered way into an IT suite, a library and a small stationery shop.

The first job was to create the building itself. We had to work within the space between the classrooms and lay it out so that ten computers, a library and a shop could all function under one roof. During our stay from January to March, my main focus was getting that plan built and the new space fitted out. By the time we left, we'd very nearly finished. It was satisfying to stand where the old covered way had been and see how much we'd managed to make of that space.

For the children in Kipsamoite, the new facility means they'll have somewhere to take IT lessons. The library will give them a place to sit and read, and books they can use for schoolwork or pick up simply because something catches their eye. People from the surrounding villages will also be able to use the computer facilities and buy stationery locally.

This is another piece of the jigsaw as we work towards making the Nandi School Project more self-sufficient. The aim is for the computer services and stationery shop to bring in an income, with any profits going back into the running of the project. A space that once served as a way to

get from one classroom to another will now give the children somewhere to learn, offer a useful service to the village and help cover the project's running costs.

2. Construction of toilet and changing facilities

Another important achievement this year has been the construction of new toilets and changing facilities for both boys and girls. These buildings have been carefully designed to connect to our biodigester system, demonstrating how thoughtful planning and innovative ideas can provide essential facilities while also creating valuable educational opportunities.

By linking the toilets to the biodigester, we aim to show pupils how everyday waste can be converted into useful energy to help power the school, bringing practical science and environmental awareness into their daily lives.

The main construction work is now complete, with the internal fitting out and finishing touches planned for the coming year. Once operational, these facilities will mark another important milestone in the school's development.

3. Major Groundwork to construct 3 level sports pitches on the playing fields.

One of the most ambitious and challenging projects undertaken this year has been the complete transformation of the school's playing fields into separate levels of sports pitches.

The scale of the groundworks was enormous, and for a while the entire area resembled something of a bomb site! However, the transformation has been exceptional, turning what was previously difficult and uneven ground into fantastic new sporting facilities for the children.

In November 2025, Ben Lamb kindly joined our fundraising efforts and organised a quiz night at Sydenham Village Hall. The event was extremely well attended and raised a wonderful amount of money, the majority of which was directed towards the construction of these new pitches.

It is difficult to overstate just how important sport is to children in rural Kenya. For many, it provides one of their few opportunities for recreation, enjoyment and a break from the challenges of everyday life.

As with many major construction projects, the budget was stretched to its limits, and the final cost ended up being substantially higher than originally anticipated. Nevertheless, the results have made every challenge worthwhile.

Seeing the excitement and happiness on the children's faces as they enjoyed their new playing fields was a wonderful reward and a reminder of exactly why we undertake these projects. These facilities will benefit hundreds of children for many years to come and represent another significant improvement to life at the school.

4. Appointment of IT manager, cleaner and gardener.

Dennis Kipchirchir has been appointed as manager of our new IT facility. Dennis is the son of the neighbouring village's Chief and brings with him a wealth of technical knowledge and practical skills. He has been instrumental in setting up the computers and equipment within the IT suite, helping to turn the facility into a valuable resource for both the schoolchildren and the wider community. We are particularly grateful to Linda Coupe, whose generous donation of £1,000 has helped make this possible.

We have also appointed Joseph as our full-time gardener, responsible for maintaining the school grounds, gardens and outdoor areas, ensuring they remain attractive, tidy and well cared for as well as assisting Moses.

Our third appointment is Fatuma, our new cleaner, who plays an equally important role in keeping the classrooms, buildings and communal facilities clean, hygienic and welcoming for everyone.

Together with Moses, who continues to look after the maintenance of the school, these new appointments form a strong and dependable team under the management of our project coordinator, Sabina.

As our facilities expand, it is increasingly important that we not only invest in new buildings and infrastructure but also protect that investment through proper care and maintenance. Having a reliable local team in place gives us greater confidence that the school will continue to operate efficiently and that the facilities will be enjoyed by children and the community for many years to come.

Just as importantly, these appointments provide valuable local employment, ensuring that the project continues to contribute to the wider community beyond the classroom.

5. Other significant activities at the project.

Fundraising Quizzes:

Sharon Gunn ran two quizzes during the year, raising £1,100 for the project — a fantastic effort Great work Sharon!

Ben Lamb organised a village quiz at the Sydenham Village hall which raised approx £4500 which included three substantial individual donations. Thanks for an amazing effort Ben.

Project Visit:

Ben Lamb, a new trustee now in charge of the sponsorship management, visited the project for the whole of February and made a significant contribution to the project by taking on board purchasing of items for the new IT suite Library and stationary store.

Ben stayed with the village chief and got a real insight into the needs of the community during his daily work and spending time with villagers. It was good to have another perspective to what we are doing and our late night discussions will not be forgotten.

Family Assisted

Over the years, we've got to know a single mum and her three boys. When she became seriously ill and had to go into hospital, the boys were left to look after themselves. Our sponsors rallied round, and I'd like to give a special thank you to Helen Kilner, who has kept helping the family in so many ways.

Last year, while cooking a meal for her boys, their mum spilled boiling water over herself and suffered serious burns. The injuries needed a great deal of care and made it difficult for her to earn a living. When we visited, we brought food so the boys could have a meal and bought the family beds, mattresses and blankets. It was the first time any of them had slept in a proper bed.

Their mum was so overwhelmed that she could hardly find the words to thank us. A bed is something most of us take for granted, and seeing what it meant to this family has stayed with me. Thank you to Helen and to everyone who helped them through such a difficult time.

Sanitary Products for Girls: A full year's supply of sanitary products, kindly donated by Darren Orr, was distributed to the girls as a practical and vital contribution to their well-being and continued education. Thanks for another year of support.

Washing facilities

With the water tower in place and our rainwater harvesting system fully operational, we've brought in plumbers to lay pipes and install wash stations across the school. The kitchen now has running water and is looking amazing. This will put the rainwater we collect to everyday use and make it easier for pupils to wash their hands during the school day.

Landscaping Work

Once the two new classrooms were finished, we set about turning what had been a building site into grounds the children could be proud of. We laid grass in the central courtyard, planted flowers and hedges, and tidied up the paths. We also built low retaining walls and installed drainage to help prevent flooding during heavy rains. It's lovely to see how much pride the children are taking in their school as it all comes together.

New Signage

We have employed a sign writer and he has created new signage throughout the school.

Decoration

Decoration and refit for the offices including Mr Chumba's office giving him a more professional space to entertain visitors and hold meetings.

Tree Planting

A continued project we have supported again this year is tree planting throughout the school where the village, children and even the Village Chief and Church pastors come together and plant trees around the border of the school.

Gates and new security post

During the year, we installed new school gates and built a security post at the entrance. Visitors now check in with the guard before entering the grounds, adding an extra layer of security for pupils and staff.

Teachers motivational trip

We arranged a staff development day for our teachers at Tiret Resorts, led by a visiting educator. It gave the team a chance to spend time together away from the classroom and learn from a fresh perspective. The staff thoroughly enjoyed the day and felt they got a great deal out of it.

Kitchen Fully Working

The new school kitchen and dining room are now fully in use—providing a clean, functional space for food preparation and a comfortable place for students to sit and eat out of the hot midday sun. While we still need to purchase tables and chairs, we're well on our way!

This is a truly special project—one that stands out in both style and quality, and something no other local school has. We're incredibly proud of what's been achieved.

Sponsor child success

Back in 2010, Theo Mwei was the first child I sponsored. This year, he started university to study medicine and take his first steps towards becoming a doctor. I'm incredibly proud of how far he's come. Seeing Theo reach this milestone makes all the hard work over the years feel worthwhile. All the best with your studies, Theo. The next few years will ask a lot of you, but we believe in you and we've got your back.

Current Financial Status:

Nandi School Project

Accounts for the year to 31 March 2026

	2026	2025
	£	£
Donations received	30,729	29,330
Gift aid received	5,870	4,478
Income	**36,600**	**33,808**
Payments:		
Food - Maize & Beans	0	0
School fees, children's gifts & administrators costs	34,100	18,614
Transport	2,372	0
Quiz Night	747	0
IT & admin costs	924	2,737
Bank & Just giving fees	15	205
Building work	0	12,602
Expenditure	**38,159**	**34,158**
Excess of Expenditure over Income	**-1,559**	**-350**
Opening bank balance @ 31/03/25	1,116	1,466
Loan received	581	0
Closing bank balance @ 31/03/26	138	1,116

In my opinion the above accounts give a true and fair view of the financial posion of the charity.

C WETHERELL FCCA
20.10.26

Challenges and Future Plans

As I look back on 2025–26, I’m proud of what we’ve built at Kipsamoite. The new classrooms, sports grounds and rainwater harvesting system have already changed the school. Turning the covered walkway between two classrooms into an IT suite, library and stationery shop has also shown how much we can do with the space we already have.

It has been a demanding year, too. The sports grounds took more work and cost more than we first expected, and heavy rains made it clear how important good drainage is. We also had some difficult conversations about how the project and the school work together. In the year ahead, I want us to be clearer about who is responsible for what and how we keep track of spending, so we can give sponsors a clear account of how their money is used and keep support reaching the children who need it.

Our immediate priority is to make full use of what we’ve built. That means finishing the fit-out of the toilets and changing rooms, equipping the sports grounds so the children can use them properly, and getting the most out of the IT suite and library. We want pupils to build their computer skills and local residents to use the facilities too, with income from services such as printing and stationery helping to cover running costs.

In the longer term, we'll keep pursuing additional land so the school has room to grow and, in time, offer practical training that helps young people into work.

A final word to our sponsors

Back in 2010, Theo Mwei was the first child I sponsored. Seeing him go on to university to study medicine is one of the proudest moments of my time doing this work. Theo has earned that opportunity through his own hard work, and it's been a privilege to stand behind him. I felt that same sense of pride watching the children enjoy their new sports grounds. You could see straight away what having a proper place to play meant to them.

To everyone who sponsors a child, gives to a school project or lends a hand in Kipsamoite, thank you. Your support has helped children stay in school, helped families through difficult times and given pupils opportunities they can build on for years to come. On behalf of Petra, myself and everyone at Nandi School Project, thank you for sticking with us and for being part of what comes next.

Submitted



Chairman and Founder

Nandi School Project

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