



REHEMA TRUST
(Registered Charity No: 1175562)

Donor Update
August 2021

As well as thanking you as usual for your continuing support for the work of **Barbara Academy**, I have to report that the situation in Kenya generally has become even more challenging in recent months.

Within rural Western Kenya in particular, the rates of new **Covid-19** cases and deaths have risen sharply in recent weeks, prompting the Kenyan Government to impose further restrictions in the local area. Churches were closed for some time and the night time curfew extended, but schools remain open after the extended closure in 2020. With less than 3% of the population fully vaccinated and limited access to health services, Kenya is typical of many countries in Africa and elsewhere in the world.

There are also increasing signs that **Climate Change** is disturbing the previously predictable pattern of rainy seasons, which are critical to the subsistence farming activity, on which many in the local population rely to feed their families.

I am pleased to report that no **Covid-19** cases have occurred at **Barbara Academy** so far, which is a testament to the strict measures implemented by **Edward Wata** and his team to create a **Covid-19 secure environment**. Sadly, at least one parent of a school pupil has died in recent weeks.

Barbara Academy opened at the end of July to start a new school year and continues to expand with the addition of a further year group, who are occupying our latest new classroom (picture shows construction phase).

Thanks again to the great efforts of **Edward Wata** and his team, **Barbara Academy (full name Barbara Leighton Academy)** was granted Full Registration status in April by the Ministry of Education. However, this will be subject to review in five years and officials have suggested improvements, which they would want to see in due course. These will need to be addressed with implications for our future funding requirements.



Further staff changes at **Barbara Academy**, including the appointment of a very experienced Head Teacher, have ensured the continued strengthening of the **Teaching Staff Team**.

As many of you already know, **YAWOSUP (Yala Widows & Orphans Support Project)** is our Project Partner in Kenya, led by **Edward Wata**. **YAWOSUP** is also a **Mission Partner of Ashtead Parish Church**, which funds other important **YAWOSUP** project work. If you would like to see and hear what **Edward Wata** has to say about the wider community development work and the background to **Barbara Academy**, please follow this link to the full version of my recent conversation with Edward, directed mainly to church members, recorded via Zoom and available on YouTube:-

<https://youtu.be/gkCgP37pmIA>

Please also see our website for the latest **YAWOSUP Reports**:-

[YAWOSUP » REHEMA TRUST - Registered Charity No 1175562](#)

Five years on since Barbara died, you have all contributed so much to build and strengthen her legacy and I remain so grateful for the stability of our current funding, which you continue to provide so faithfully, and which allows us to plan in the short term with greater confidence.

However, you will appreciate that the continued expansion of **Barbara Academy** to achieve full nursery & primary school status, plus the ongoing demands to maintain and improve our school facilities, is already placing pressure on our limited financial resources and will continue to do so in the future.

If you feel able to consider increasing your current support, either by way of a one-off or increased regular donation, it will make a real difference. Please let me know if you would like to know more.

You may also like to know that **Rehema Trust** is now enrolled with **AmazonSmile** – a simple and automatic way for you to support a charity of your choice every time you shop, at no cost to you. See the following link for more details - [About AmazonSmile: Programme details and FAQ](#)

In recognition of our long-term commitment to changing young lives at **Barbara Academy**, you might also like to consider leaving a **Legacy** in your Will to **Rehema Trust (Registered Charity No: 1175562)**. Please contact me if you require further information.

Finally, **Edward Wata** has told me how pleased the teachers have been with how well the pupils have performed in recent months, given the major disruption to their education of the extended school closure last year. This no doubt reflects the value of the extra resources, funded by you, which helped to ensure that the teachers could support the pupils in their homes during this difficult time.

Thank you for continuing to make a real difference to many young lives in Kenya.

Malcolm

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