



## **ROKO 20 JANUARY 2019 UPDATE**

2018 was, without a doubt, a year of highs and lows. Fortunately the highs more than outweighed the lows and I'm happy to report that we ended the year on a positive high.

A call for financial support earlier on in the year resulted in an overwhelming response. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and supporters we received enough funds to continue operating for a few months. We can't thank you enough.

An important lesson was learnt as a result of that situation and now we have taken significant steps to ensure that it will not happen again. Records of accounting and forecasting budgets have been perfected upon. Successfully audited accounts show that our charity's financial records have been officially examined from 2014 to the end of December 2017.

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### **Florence and Ben**

Of significant note for 2018 was the collaboration of two very special people, Benoit and Florence. A recent life changing decision brought them from France to Kenya to volunteer at Roko 20.

During their time with us both were struck by our commitment and passion for the project, were in full support of Roko 20's Mission and Vision and were swept away by the resolve of our children. Notwithstanding this they recognised an urgent need for organisational advancement relating to management, communication and systems of administration.

Ben and Flo's decision to fully commit to Roko 20 came at the right time and we could not have been more delighted. This was the start of a collaboration which has already resulted in us having a clearer and more efficient organisation.



Florence and Ben

### **Five Step Plan**

Their five-step plan of improvements starts with Item 1 simply called 'Organisation'. This item establishes how we operate, obtain our goals for future growth, defines our hierarchy with the school, identifies each job, its function and where it reports to within the organisation and sets out school and disciplinary rules. Working closely with Job, Roko 20's Manager, the preparation of Item 1 has taken many months and involved intensive management communication training, staff consultations, workshops and extensive research.



Staff Workshop on Item 1

New disciplinary rules both positive (rewards), and negative (punishment) – but excluding corporal punishment) were devised, discussed and amended with teachers during two workshops which took place before the start of the 2019 school year.

Implementation of Item 1 began at the start of the new school year on 3rd January. So far it has been a huge success.

Preparation of next item 2 will concentrate on pedagogical rules and teaching program, extra-curricular lessons, teaching and examination methods. Items 3 and 4 will deal with Management of Teachers and Staff, define global HR policies and profiles, the assessment process and administrative processes. The final item 5 will deal with the role and interaction of volunteers.

### **Job**

The return of our Manager, Job Thuo Macharia, in May last year, was one of the major highpoints for us.

Job relocated to another region in Kenya during 2017 and for almost a year we struggled to replace him. In fact, he was irreplaceable! His decision to return to Murang'a and to Roko 20 last April ensured stability and lifted the moral of staff, who hold him in high regard.

Job's integrity, hardworking ethic, honesty and dedication to the success of Roko 20 is second to none.



## Class 5 and Office Construction

Anticipated funding did not allow for us to build a new classroom for our new Class 5. Instead we made some adjustments to compensate for the new intake of PP1 pupils. We combined our large computer and library classroom into two smaller classes. We also removed an adjoining wall in our Daycare Centre to make one larger class which will now become our library. Unfortunately, due to the lack of demand for daycare we did not reopen the Centre this term.

In addition to the class refurbishment works we built two offices for the Manager and Director. This allowed for our Head Teacher, Admin Assistant and volunteer to have a larger office to work from.



## Volunteers

We had 11 volunteers last year who helped improve the standard of education particularly with computer lessons, art, PE, literacy and in Day Care.

A big thanks go to Emilia, Meral, Benny, Vincent, Camille, Maura, Kristina, Maria and Jonny who all did great work at Roko 20. Not forgetting Aila and Jude our current volunteers.



Our pupils are sports mad, particularly for football. Who better to develop their talents than Jonny. Hailing from a small town in Wales, he arrived in Kenya and hit the ground running. He had just completed a grueling 56K sponsored walk prior to his arrival, raising over 700 pounds for Roko 20. Through his contacts working in the

RAF he arranged to have flown over by RAF plane two goal posts, sports equipment, football kit and a large amount of school resources.

Two main highlights of the term included a football match Jonny arranged with a local primary school and a very competitive end of term Sports Day.

So, a big thanks to all present and previous volunteers who are an important asset to Roko 20.



*Kristina presenting Achievement Certificates for "Introduction to Computers"*

## Goat Project

Martha Muthoni is without a doubt our major success story of 2018.

Our very first year of opening back in 2014 we received a visitor called Mike Crowley. We took him on a visit to Martha's



home. He was struck by the tenacity of this elderly grandmother who, in her late 80s, was left to raise 5 small children alone, the youngest of whom was just 2 years old. He offered to buy her a goat.



Five years on Martha has 9 goats, a flock of hens, and a new home, which she funded herself. Martha makes kiondos, the traditional Kenyan handwoven baskets, which we sell in the UK to give her an income.

What Martha has achieved alone and at her age is an inspiration for us all.

One of the conditions of participating in the Goat Project is that the first born female kid is given to Roko 20 so that we may pass it on to another family in need thereby keeping the project going.

Nancy's mother is seen here giving back a female kid.



## Nancy Nyambura



The Ministry for Education publishes league tables every year to reflect the exam results of children in local primary schools and compare performance with other schools in the district.

Roko 20 Academy recently joined this ranking system. We place importance on individual pupil achievements and improving performance.

Results of the first term opener exams placed Roko 20 up two positions in the league tables from last term.

Nancy Nyambura was again recognised for becoming first in her year out of all the District schools. We are very proud of her.

## Link Schools

We are delighted to have established links with three UK schools. Two in Wales (Narberth Community Primary and Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary) and Harvey Road Primary, in England.

The obvious benefit of these links is the improvement in students' knowledge and understanding of each other's cultures.

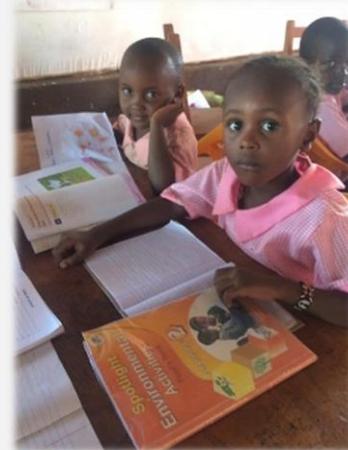
Highlights of the link with Narberth Community Primary school include the exchange of Roko's handmade toys and traditional dress. Using natural resources in this way prompted our link School to begin a project to replace common everyday plastic items with items made from natural resources.

One of our volunteers made a wonderful video of two of our pupils, brother and sister, James and Evalyne. This "A day in the life of ..." video depicted a typical day for children sponsored at Roko 20.

Learning about Welsh Saints was an interesting lesson for our Class 4 pupils and they were thrilled to receive book-marks and key rings made by pupils at Narberth Community Primary School.

Exchanging information on traditional foods has just begun and our pupils were given a cookery lesson on how to make Welsh Cakes. Let's see if we can get pupils in the UK eating Ugali, one of Kenyan's traditional food...!

Big thanks to the teachers and pupils at Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School who held various Cake Bake sales and raised a magnificent £250. This money went towards purchasing school text books.



## Bingo Fundraising

Did you know that the number of people playing bingo has overtaken the number of people playing **TENNIS** in the UK. Interesting fact - the name 'bingo' is believed to come from the British Customs office, a proclamation of a successful search.

Where am I going with this? You may well ask. Bingo is without a doubt one of our biggest fundraising events and last December Jonny Sutton organised an afternoon of Bingo at his local Athletic Club.

Everyone loves a game of Bingo and that day we had a full-house. People were very generous and donated all sorts of luxury prizes for the event. We raised over £1,000 in funds.

In order to raise much needed funds our Bingo events will be a regular occurrence in the UK. Watch out for the next Bingo event held in Wales this coming Easter.



A beautifully made Roko 20 cake kindly donated by Donna Banner.

What a fabulous prize!

## Staff at Roko 20

Without doubt our biggest asset is our teachers and staff who share our enthusiasm for success and are working hard as a team to ensure that Roko 20 becomes one of the better performing schools in the district.



## Finally ...

Roko 20 started its journey of improvement implementing Item 1 at the beginning of January this year. We are confident that things will continue to get better from this point on.

However, we are still in need of your support. One of our priorities is to become more financially secure. In this respect we encourage you to spread the word about what we do to friends and family. We need their support to help us reach our target of having all our pupils sponsored in full-time education.

Please contact Tracey at [roko20academy@gmail.com](mailto:roko20academy@gmail.com) or visit <http://roko20academy.weebly.com/how-you-can-help.html> for further information.

**Thank you so much for your continued support of Roko 20.**



**Without your help we would certainly not be where we are today.**



**ASANTE SANA!**