



Newsletter

"Planting Seeds
for the Future"

Issue No 12
March 2025

This newsletter has been long overdue, but there's so much to share with you!

Kaylee and I recently traveled to The Gambia to visit the school for the first time since it opened its doors in 2021. The experience was both humbling and emotional. We were greeted by 74 bright and enthusiastic children, all sitting at their desks, focused on the topic of the week. When they saw us, their faces lit up with smiles and waves of excitement. It was such a heartwarming moment to witness.

The staff had no idea we were coming, so the surprise was met with joy. We spent 11 unforgettable days in the community, connecting with the teachers and staff. We also took the opportunity to send photos of the children to their sponsors, and it was incredible to see the smiles on the children's faces when they received photos from their sponsors in return.



The school facilities were well-maintained, and we were impressed with the cleanliness and the positive learning environment. However, life in Ebo Town is not easy, and the surrounding community faces great hardship.



Kaylee and I spent time walking through the area, visiting local compounds, and distributing bedding and clothing to families in need. One particularly moving story we heard was from a man who does welding repairs at the school. We continue to pray for his baby son and his family.

While the world is facing challenging times, it is a privilege to continue our work, making a difference however we can. People who truly want to make an impact in the world do so by focusing on small, meaningful changes. We believe that every life matters, and we're grateful to have your support as we strive to make a difference in Ebo Town.

Thank you for being a part of this journey with us.



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Special points of Interest

Sponsorship
Programme

In the Spotlight

Projects

Staff News

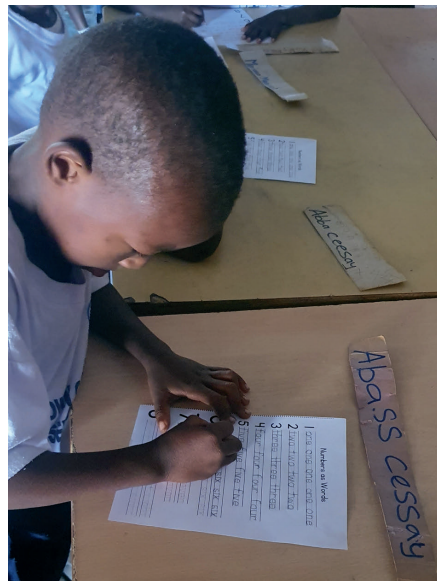
Donations can be made directly via BACS - Acc 37946868. Sort Code 77-91-29

Lessons

At Ebo Town Community Nursery School, we structure our lessons around a different theme each week. This keeps the learning process engaging and dynamic for the children. The lessons include:

- Pre-made worksheets
- Show-and-tell activities
- Written exercises in exercise books
- Coloring

Phonics is taught throughout all the classrooms, ensuring that every child builds a strong foundation in reading and writing. We also focus on mathematics and equal learning to support the development of each child's skills.



Our school was inspected on 11th February 2025 by the Equal Learning Team and received a rating of 7/10, which we are very proud of. This reflects our commitment to providing quality education for all of our students.

Exams

At the end of each term, we administer small tests across all classes to monitor the progress of each child. Every child has a report book that follows them throughout their time at the school. All test results are recorded in these books. We share exam results with sponsors so they can stay up to date on the child's development.

If any child is struggling with the material, we carefully assess the situation and provide extra support or may even consider moving them to a lower class to ensure they feel confident and able to succeed. Our goal is to build each child's confidence through education and help them reach their full potential.

Enrolments

We hold our annual enrollments around late July to early August, after the graduation ceremony for our older children, who will be transitioning to government schools to continue their education.

When selecting children for enrollment, we focus on those from the poorest families in Ebo Town to ensure that children who would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend school are given the chance to learn.

Enrollment day is always a difficult one, as we wish every child could receive an education. Unfortunately, we have a set criteria for selection, and not every child is able to meet it. This can be heartbreaking, as every child deserves the opportunity to learn, but we must follow the guidelines to help as many as possible.

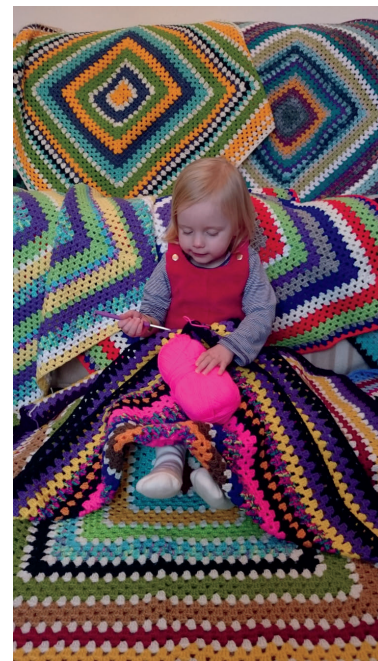


Meet the Sponsors - Jan & John Williams

We became involved with the charity by chance through a dear friend. I enjoyed crotcheting & my friends were knitting blankets for a Nursery School in The Gambia. I then found out that Chris (trustee & Paula's mum) had been my mentor when I first started nursing, it was such a pleasure to rekindle a friendship & we were able to drop donations at her house.

When my father passed away, I decided to crotchet as many blankets as I could, in those days they were sent by container out to the school for the visiting team to distribute within the community of Ebo Town. Here is a picture of my granddaughter, around 2 years old sitting amongst them. I sent them out to The Gambia with an enlarged copy of the photo with a note "Made with love from Wales by Nain, Elsie's Grandmother"

It is a privilege and a great pleasure to continue to support an amazing charity. We show the photographs of the children we sponsor to our grandchildren and the family. We never miss a moment to encourage others to support the school.



Meet our Trustees - Rick & Sue McIntosh

I first heard about Ebo town nursery school from Paula in church and was interested in knowing more about it, then Paula mentioned that she and her mum, Chris were taking a trip out to Gambia in the near future and that anyone interested would be welcome to join them. I was very keen to see this for myself, and booked my place. On my birthday in the April off we went. I sat next to Paula on the plane and she asked me if I was looking forward to seeing Gambia and the school, I naturally replied "yes, very much so" but added, that it would only be a one off trip, and that I just wanted to see it for myself. Little did I know how wrong that statement would turn out to be.

On arrival at the school, the children saw Paula walking towards the school and instantly mobbed her and once no more children could get to her, they turned and headed my way and before I knew it I was also mobbed. I had never experienced anything like it before. During that week we saw many things such as the poverty and hardship of the local people, given out donated clothing and meeting the children's parents who were so grateful for what we were doing. Needless to say, I was so blown away by what I saw, I wanted more and decided to become part of the team to take this project further, and once I had sponsored my first child, Binta Jallow, she stole my heart. I remember on one occasion we had said our goodbyes on our final day before heading for the airport, Binta looked back at me then ran back to me, throwing her arms around my neck she whispered in my ear "I love you" that little girl at 5 year's old knocked me dead, I remember thinking to myself, "why don't you just rip my heart out of my chest and take it home with you girl?" I was floored.

I have helped with many things with the charity over the years, including, maintenance, looking for land to build our new school on, helping the poorer families in the community, health care and much more. On my 6th trip to Ebo town, my wife Sue joined us, she wanted to see for herself what I was so passionate about, on our first day out we went into the community once the school day had finished, she was unexpectedly faced with the poverty and hardship of the local people, this upset her beyond belief, even to the point where she couldn't face going back the following day, and stayed at the hotel whilst Paula and I went to the school to attend to business.



On return to the hotel that evening, Sue had taken her previous days experience and given it a lot of thought during the day, and decided that we were all there with a mission and was back at the school the next day bringing her own brand of help to the charity with extended sponsorship and fundraising through family and friends. As with all things in life, we have seen highs and lows during our journey to achieve what we have, but happy in the knowledge that we did it, and continue to do what we do for the love of our fellow man. We still to this day promote the charity and encourage sponsorship.

Donations can be made to our PayPal Account (friends&family) -
ebotowncommunitynurseryschool@outlook.com

Sponsorship Programme A Child and Family Need Your Help

First and foremost, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our current sponsors. Your support is truly invaluable. Without you, we would not be able to continue providing education to these wonderful children. Thank you for giving them the opportunity to receive a FREE education.

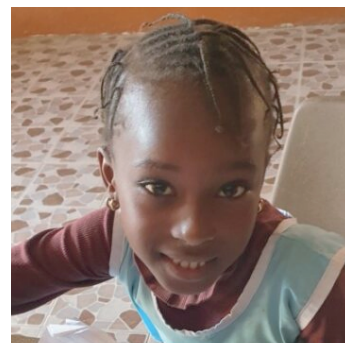
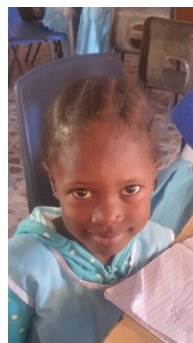
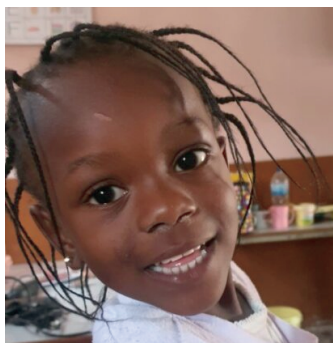


While the costs we face continue to rise, we have made the decision not to increase our sponsorship fees, understanding that times are tough for many. We appreciate every bit of support, and one way you can help is by spreading the word about our school and sharing our story with others. We hope to attract more sponsors so that we can continue making a difference.

As you may know, nursery school education in The Gambia is part of the private sector, which means it is often expensive for parents and guardians. Education is the key to a brighter future, and we believe that an early start is crucial.

At Ebo Town Community Nursery School, we offer ALL of our children FREE education, thanks to the generosity of our sponsorship programme. There are several ways you can help, and your support can make a big difference:

- £2.50 per month or £30 per year: This would allow you to share sponsorship of a child with another sponsor for an entire year. This is the most affordable option and ensures that the child receives everything they need to thrive.
- £5.00 per month or £60 per year: This would enable you to be the sole sponsor of a child for one year. The child will receive uniforms, books, and all the necessary school supplies to aid in their education.



How to Get Involved

If you would like to sponsor a child or have any questions, please get in touch with Kaylee or Paula via email.

Maintenance & Projects

At Ebo Town Community Nursery School, we have an ongoing list of maintenance tasks to ensure our building and grounds remain safe, functional, and comfortable for the children and staff. Recently, we've completed repairs on several key areas, including Metal window shutters, manhole cover & the wall between our school & the neighbouring compound.

However, there are still several important improvements that need attention.

Our teachers have identified a few priority projects, including:

- Installing a low ceiling to soundproof the classrooms and reduce noise interference.
- Re-cementing the playground, as the current cement is cracking and wearing thin.

- Adding more fans to each classroom to keep the children comfortable, especially during warmer months.

The list of maintenance needs is ongoing and ever-growing, but with your support, we can continue to make necessary improvements. Any additional donations we receive will help address these maintenance issues and keep the school in top condition for our students.

Sign up to Easy Fundraising now to raise funds for us as you shop online.
Unique Sign up link - <http://efraising.org/snW7oWSBux>

Staff News

We are proud to have an incredible team working at Ebo Town Community Nursery School. Their dedication and hard work help make our school a special place for the children. Here's a closer look at some of our amazing staff:

Ebrima – Headteacher

Ebrima is a highly qualified primary school teacher who has lived and worked in Ebo Town all his life. He is honest, trustworthy, and deeply committed to supporting both children and families in the community. As the headteacher, Ebrima teaches our Rainbow class, nurturing and educating 30 children. His teaching style is exceptional, and he brings out the best in every student.

Fatou – Cleaner

Fatou lives nearby and keeps our school spotless, cleaning twice a day. She has a warm, kind personality, and nothing ever seems to phase her. Thanks to Fatou's dedication, our classrooms, toilets, and outdoor areas are always in pristine condition, providing the children with a clean and comfortable learning environment.



Abba – Teacher

Abba is a qualified teacher who works in our Caterpillar class with 30 of our youngest children. She travels to school daily and is always punctual. Abba is passionate about her role and believes that children are the future. She is currently studying for a degree in psychology and is an incredibly hardworking teacher. Abba teaches phonics with great patience and has full control over the most challenging class in the school. She is an invaluable member of our team.

Ya Awa – Teacher

Ya Awa is a qualified teacher who works in our Butterfly class, teaching 16 children. She travels from the capital, Banjul, each day to be with her class. Ya Awa's class is an inspiration, and the work she does with the children is truly exceptional. The bond she has with her students is very special, and her dedication makes a lasting impact on their education.

Awa – Teaching Assistant

Awa works alongside all our teachers, providing additional support to the slower learners in each class. She steps in whenever there is a teacher absent and ensures the students continue their learning without disruption. Awa lives in Ebo Town, just a short distance from the school, and is a valuable member of our teaching team.

Pa – Our Right-Hand Man

Pa is based in Barra, over 1.5 hours away from the school, and manages all financial matters. He ensures that all bills—such as taxes, social security, wifi, electricity, and water—are paid on time, and most importantly, he manages the payment of staff wages. Pa has been known to the founders of the charity since 2014 and is the most trusted person on the team. He is the backbone of our administrative operations.



4 Chaffinch Way
Sundorne Road
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY1 4TR

web: www.ebotowncommunitynurseryschool.co.uk
email: ebotowncommunitynurseryschool@outlook.com
Phone: 01743 467426
Mobile: 07738 022397
Registered Charity in England and Wales: 1175808