

Waunifor Primary School, Kipkabus, Kenya





Kipkabus



Location of Kipkabus

Coordinates:  0.3°N 36°E



- Waunifor Primary School was opened on the farm of Mr and Mrs S D Whetham, in 1953 for the children of those working on four farms which neighboured each other.
- The bricks that were used in the building of the school were made on the farm, using clay from the river bank.
- The pupils had to pay a small fee to come to the school, though the farmers subsidised this.
- The school was very popular and it wasn't long before other children came to join the school, some coming from as far as 20 miles away.
- The school now has 11 classes.

- The school was taken over by the local government in 1963. Families continued to have to pay for the children to attend school until 6 years ago, when the Kenyan government made primary schooling free.
- This sounds wonderful, but actually, as there is no age limit on going to primary school, and people are keen to learn how to read and write, the schools were overwhelmed as even adults signed up to go to primary school.
- There are now 504 pupils at the school.



This is part of the school buildings. There are two more sides around the square in the middle. The classrooms have dirt floors, and some do not have complete roofs.



The classrooms are basic as you can see. The desks and chairs are made from rough timber.



A new tarmac road is being built near the school. It is being funded by Chinese companies. It will mean that there will soon be lots of traffic as lorries carry their goods from Nakuru to Eldoret, which is the nearest town.



These are some of the youngest children in school. They take great pride in their uniforms and value learning. There are 22 different ethnic groups attending the school, each with their own language. In the first two years of school the children are taught in the language of Kiswahili and after that in English, in which they become fluent.



There are 11 teachers. The government pays for 9 of them, but the school has to find the money for the other two. Families are asked to contribute towards this, so although school is officially free, they still have to pay.



Some of the children have very little money at all, yet still make the effort to come to school everyday, as they value the importance of education.



This is the very clever system created to help children to be able to wash their hands.



This is the kitchen. All children are required to bring something to put into the pot. It is then turned into a soup for them to eat. If children cannot afford to bring something to go in it, they do not get a meal.

The school has a computer lab, with lots of tablets and computers which were donated by a Canadian charity. They are very proud of this. The children have to do some of their school work, and tests on the computers, which are monitored by a central government agency in the capital city of Nairobi.

Electricity bills are very expensive and the school has to find the money to pay for half of the school bill.

The library, however, has very little in it.



This is the Head Teacher, Mr Chesire. His office is not much more than the size of a broom cupboard!

Mr Chesire would like to start a secondary school, as when the children have finished primary school, there is nowhere for them to go to continue their education. He has started a single class for secondary pupils, but is hoping to increase this.