



Kenya Trip 2019

September 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

This letter outlines some background to our proposed trip to Kajiado, Kenya, East Africa in the summer of 2019. The main purpose of the trip is to continue the building of a secondary school for girls at Oloiyanalani, Kajiado, Kenya. We also hope to participate in classroom activities with the pupils and potentially work on other smaller projects.

The district of Kajiado is about the size of Northern Ireland. Down the years it has suffered, and continues to suffer, from severe famine and drought. This makes day-to-day life very difficult and has badly affected the economy of the area, disrupted family life in the villages, and restricted the education of many children whose daily task it is to go in search of water.

In February 2001 Bishop Jeremiah Taama, the former Anglican Bishop of Kajiado, visited our school to share his vision for a safe and secure water supply; good education for the children so that they could employ their skills usefully to the benefit of the whole community; and training for leaders so that they could offer hope and direction to the people. As a result Year 8 pupils decided to walk the 25 km from Londonderry to Limavady and raise money for the building of a catchment well in Kajiado and the building of a secondary school for girls at Oloiyanalani. And so our "WALK FOR WATER" was started. Since 2001 the pupils and friends of Limavady Grammar School have raised more than £100,000 for these worthy projects. In July 2004 a team from the school spent 4 weeks in Kajiado helping with a wells project. In July 2008 a second team spent four weeks laying the foundations for the school. And a third team in July 2011 dug the foundations for the dormitory block which now houses more than 130 girls, and the most recent trip in 2016 included refurbishment and continued construction, as well as introducing an irrigation system for sustainable crops and piped water to the kitchen.

Mr Ronnie Briggs, Missions Director with CMSI (Church Missionary Society Ireland), who has 20 years' experience working on building and farming projects in Kajiado, helps to co-ordinate the school project on behalf of the Church of Ireland.

Plans are being made for a return trip in July 2019. We hope to take a party of 30, which would include 6 staff and 24 pupils. Pupils in Years 11, 12 and 13 will be eligible to apply and after selecting 24 pupils who will be offered places we will also draw up a reserve list.

At this stage we are asking interested pupils to complete an initial application form and seek their parents' permission to participate in this venture. The application will be followed by an informal interview for those pupils who have met entry criteria.

We expect interest to be considerable – but we can only take 24 pupils. The trip is not a holiday and conditions can be basic. We will be living in an African community with its peculiar customs and culture which for some will not be easy. It is very important that pupils and parents think carefully before completing this application form. A committee will agree criteria for selection. The final team chosen must reflect the general ethos of the school.

In view of the interest shown already, there will be some disappointments and it is important that pupils discuss these issues with their parents.

Yours sincerely,

B. Purcell & S. Stewart
(Team Leaders)

APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION TO JOIN THE TEAM FOR THE VISIT TO KAJIADO, KENYA IN 2019

Here are some things you might like to consider at the outset:

- The main purposes of the trip will be to help with the ongoing building work at the school –this will involve manual work; and perhaps to be part of some classroom activities with the students.
- The duration of the trip will be a maximum of THREE weeks from the end of June into July 2019.
- The cost will be in the region of £1,500 per person.

Practical facts to be aware of:

- We will be living in an African community. The local people are extremely friendly, generous and hospitable and will engage you in conversation, family chores and song & dance. This can sometimes be a new and different experience.
- Water may be in short supply – there may be very little running water. Even though showers are available, if there is no water we cannot use them.
- There will be no television, limited electricity and plenty of “creepy crawlies”.
- There is no WIFI or mobile data available.
- We will have to make our own entertainment – song, dance and story-telling are very important and you will be expected to play your part.
- The community we will be living in is a religious one and certain norms and traditions are important (eg a strict dress code for men and women). Much community life revolves around church and you will be expected to take part.
- At present at least three members of staff will be leading the trip: Mr Purcell, Mr Dixon, & Mrs Stewart. All have previously been in Kajiado. Our group will probably consist of 24 students and 6 leaders.
- You will be expected to organise and support fundraising events for the Kenya project.

If, having read the above information and discussed it with your parents/guardian, you still want to be considered for the team, then please **complete the Application Form** carefully and **return it in person to Mrs Stewart or Mr Purcell no later than Wednesday 20th September.**

Please note that completion of the Application Form is only the first part of the process by which team members will be selected.

On the basis of your application form you may be chosen for interview to select the final team.

Some of the skills and qualities we will be looking for in applications and interviews will include: It is not required that an applicant will have evidence of all the skills and qualities listed.

- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Flexibility / Adaptability
- Creativity
- Ability to play a musical instrument / sing / dance
- Hard working and determined
- Sociable and good communicator
- Initiative / problem solving

APPLICATION FORM

- (1) Have you participated in any of the “Walks for Water/Schools”? How many?
(If you have not participated it will not prevent you from being chosen for the team)

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017

- (2) Are you prepared to organise and support fund-raising for the trip to Kajiado?

Yes No

If yes – what ideas do you have for fundraising?

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- (3) Are you prepared to attend training for the trip to Kajiado –this may involve some weekend commitments?

Yes No

- (4) What do you see as being the major **problems** of going on such a trip?

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How do you think YOU can help overcome these problems?

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- (5) Kajiado is a **mixed community** of Protestant, Catholic and Muslim faiths. We will be staying in a conservative Christian community. Are you comfortable with this?

Yes No

- (5) What do you think **YOU** can contribute to the success of this venture?
Do you have particular **skills/abilities** which would be an asset to the team?
Outline your experience and give **evidence** of how you demonstrate these qualities.
NB. It is not necessary to demonstrate all of these skills or qualities

Leadership:.....
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Teamwork:.....
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Flexibility/Adaptability:.....
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Creativity:.....
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Ability to play a musical instrument / sing / dance:.....
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Hard working and determined:.....
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Sociable and good communicator:.....
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Initiative / Problem solving:.....
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(6) Please complete the following:

I wish to be a member of the team to Kajiado in 2019 because:

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(7) Do you suffer from any major medical conditions for which you require regular medication (please state)?
Are you prone to travel sickness?
Do you have any dietary requirements?

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(8) Because Kenya is in the tropics you will need to get a number of inoculations and take regular medication (malaria tablets). Would that be a problem for you? Yes No

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Pupil's Signature: Year Group:

(9) Now a question for parents/guardians

Are you prepared to be involved in fund-raising for the trip? Yes No

Parent's Signature: Date:

**Please make sure this form is completed and returned to Mr Purcell or Mrs Stewart
no later than Wednesday 20th September 2017**