



# ITHEMBA SCHOOL

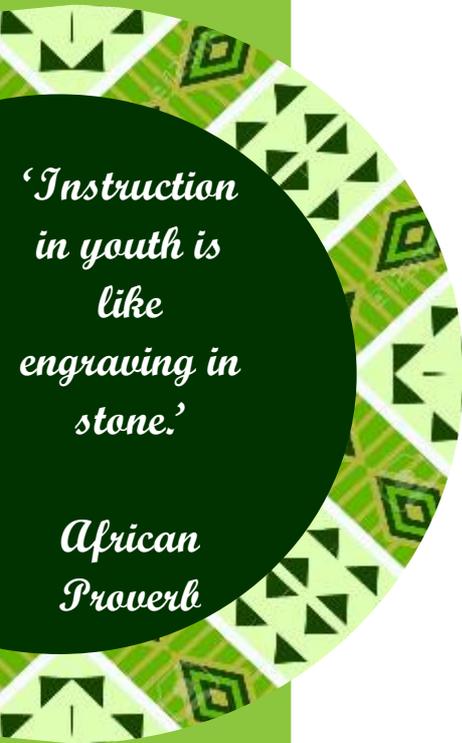
## ANNUAL REPORT

• JANUARY 2020 •



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*'Instruction  
in youth is  
like  
engraving in  
stone.'*

*African  
Proverb*

# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

This was not the year we were expecting at iThemba School!

We are so grateful though, that in the face of so much stress, confusion and uncertainty we can entrust ourselves and our school into the hands of a loving and sovereign heavenly Father. We're thankful to Him that, through all the difficulties, he sustained us and he ensured that we were able to keep on caring for and teaching our pupils.

From small beginnings in 2012, iThemba now educates and cares for approximately 60 children. Each year, around 20 of those children leave us for primary school, having received an educational grounding of the highest standard. We're especially excited by the number of our children who are being offered bursary/scholarship positions at some of the top primary schools in the Deep South.

I do hope you enjoy reading this report. However, as encouraging and exciting as it is, it still doesn't do justice to the amazing work done by the Principal, teachers, staff and Board of iThemba School. Their wisdom, diligence, care and hard work ensured that children received excellent teaching input all through lockdown and then also returned to a loving and Covid-safe school environment.

We are so grateful to God for each one of our staff. Each and every day they make a massive difference in the lives of these kids.

We're also so grateful for all our funding partners. Their partnership with iThemba is such a meaningful investment for the future and, of course, essential to the sustenance of the school. If you're not yet partnering with iThemba, please get in touch with us – it really is a wonderful way to change young lives and help change our country.

The Christian message offers solid hope in a society that seems to be most concerned with living only for the here and now. The name "iThemba" means hope. As we look to the future, with that hope, our prayer is that God will continue to show his amazingly gracious and loving character through the work of this very special school.



**Murray Anderson**

Chair of the iThemba School Board





# VISION AND MISSION



iThemba School's **vision** is to give children from under-resourced communities the best possible intellectual, physical, emotional and spiritual roots – giving them hope for the future.

Our **mission** is therefore to provide

- High quality education
- Balanced nutrition
- A safe and caring environment
- Teaching and modeling the good news of Jesus

Our **long term vision** is to grow iThemba School into a donor-based primary school, in partnership with St Peter's Church's plant in the Masiphumelele community.

Rezoning permissions for the land and establishment of governance structures are still in progress.



*“Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.” Psalm 145: 2-3*

# STORIES OF HOPE : LOCKDOWN

## Remote Schooling



2020 started brilliantly with our children quickly settling into their new classes. The rhythm from our good start didn't last long! With our iThemba families being from a **vulnerable hotspot community**, we were closed from April, through the Western Cape Covid-19 peak during June/July and reopened on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Our team showed innovation to make sure our children had the opportunity to continue being taught by family members.

### LEARNING FROM HOME

We communicated with all our parents through **WhatsApp**, sending them guidelines for **activities** to do at home, often in English and iXhosa. These were age appropriate activities aligned to the NCF and CAPS curriculums.

We made sure to use materials available in the home or provided in home learning packs. Activities included those the Western Cape Education Department provided and links to books made freely available from Book Dash and WordWorks. Daily Bible devotions for parents to do with their children were done after a parent requested it.

[Watch our iThemba Stories of Hope : LOCKDOWN video to see our children hard at work from home.](#)

### Home learning Records

During lockdown we engaged with our parents about their implementing of the home learning activities. Each week they answered questions on the curriculum linked activities they had been doing at home with their children. We sent parents Home Learning Records for terms 2 & 3 on WhatsApp, based on their answers. This was also a good way for us to monitor how the children were doing.



# COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Some of our staff had essential service permits, and we were able to help our families with the challenges of Lockdown in the following ways:

## Home learning packs

Each child received:

- Stationary, including pencils, crayons, glue and plastic scissors for everyone and whiteboards for the Grade R's
- Custom made activity books and colouring booklets

Nine pre-Grade R children received additional support materials.



## Food parcels and Checkers vouchers

Each family received food parcels or Checkers vouchers once a month from to April to July.



## Airtime

A donation came in which enabled us to load R30 airtime onto each parent's phone from April to August.

## Reduction in School Fees

iThemba School Board agreed to halve the school fees for the duration of the school closure with a payment holiday in July.



*Thank you to all the individuals and companies who helped us to make this support happen!*

One of the highlights of the year has been the St Peter's and the broader community using their skills to support iThemba children and families. As well as to help us prepare for a Covid-safe environment.



*Super seamstress supporters made enough masks for our children and staff!*



*Our teachers and children are enjoying perception games made with love by a supporting family.*

*Specially made for us! Bead embroidered Christmas masks brightened our staff function.*

*We love the individual coat hooks outside the classrooms put up by a woodwork wizard supporter!*

*Beanies and blankets were knitted for our children went into our July parcels.*

*Desk shields / dividers were donated allowing the children to sit safely while they work*

Our children's work tables are easy to keep clean, thanks to a donation of plastic material covers!  
Face shields to protect our staff and children were given.

Handmade chair bags for our children to keep their stationery and books in add to our children's a sense of belonging. Lego and puzzles were donated so each child can have their own set.



# Renovations and Covid-readiness



We are very grateful for a large donation from a Trust that included funds to do some much needed renovations at iThemba. Jeremy Louw Projects undertook these for us and we were able to:

- Replace the leaking **Grade R classroom and kitchen roof**
- Replace the water damaged **Grade R classroom floor**
- **Renovate the kitchen**, including important hygiene changes like stainless steel surfaces, an industrial dishwasher, better ventilation, a knee operated hand wash basin at kitchen entry and a more efficient layout.

Our staff and children love the more efficient, safer environment!

*“What I have noticed is that we have all felt an increased sense of value of our working environment.*

*This has motivated our team for the various roles we serve in at iThemba.*

*We walk into school each day and feel that we are walking into a safe environment that we can feel proud of.”*

*iThemba Staff Member*



# Stories of Hope: Schooling in a Pandemic



The **Departments of Education and Social Development** issued documents detailing protection measures to implement and practicalities to consider when schools re-open and emphasized that “only if it is safe to do so and the environment allows” will schools be allowed to open.

We drew up and implemented our **Coronavirus Workplace Plan**, which aims to:

- Take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among our learners and staff
- Make sure that staff understand and agree to changes in roles, protocols and programs
- Implement new protocols in such a way as to maintain a caring environment.

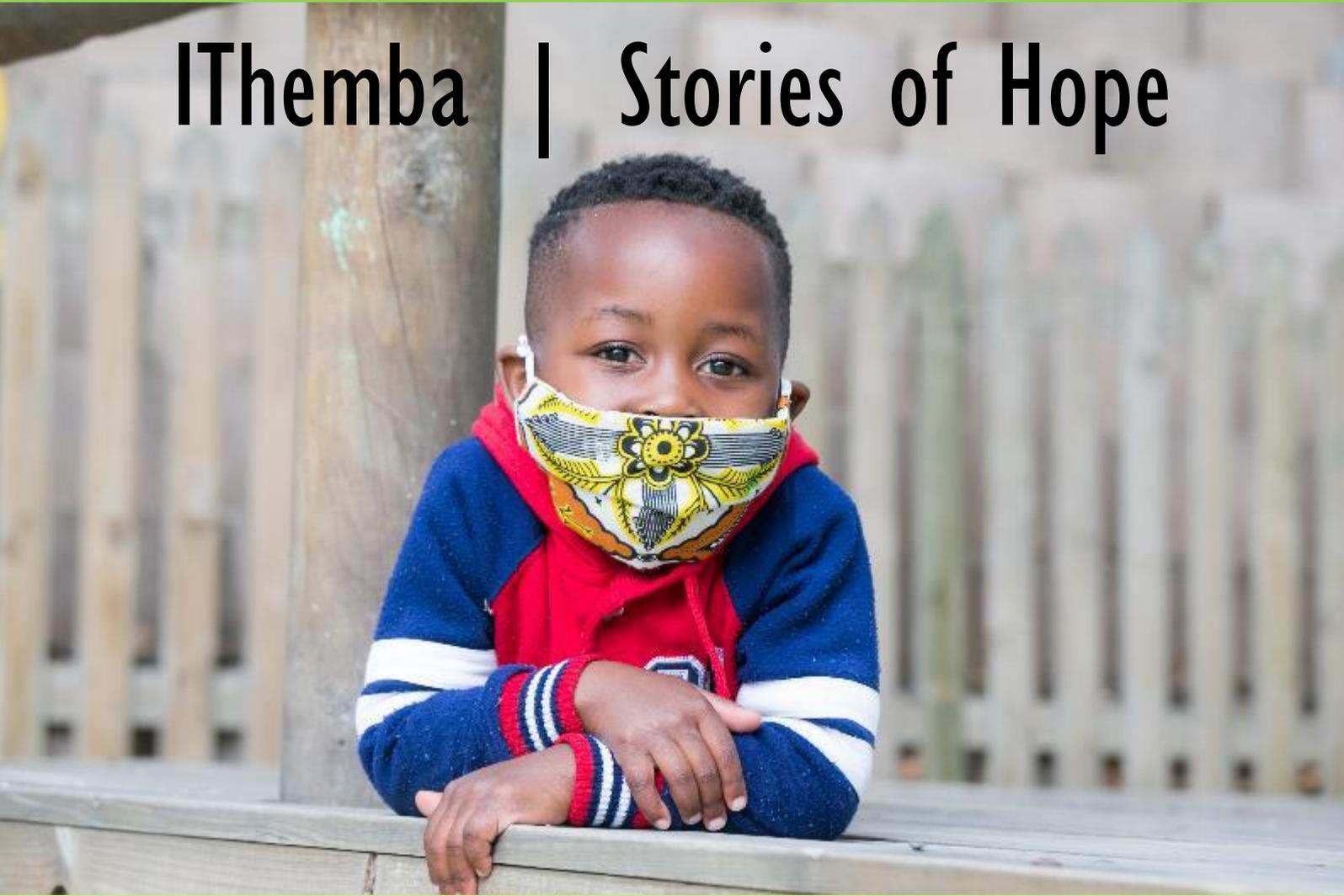
Our renovations came at the perfect time to incorporate hygienic standards needed to welcome the children back and keep them safe and healthy.

*‘Education is  
the great  
engine of  
personal  
development.’*

*Nelson  
Mandela*



# iThemba | Stories of Hope



## Some of our iThemba Stories of Hope videos

- **GRATEFUL** : [a story from lockdown 2020](#)
- **RETURN TO SCHOOL** : [When all our children came back to school after a long lockdown](#)
- **JERUSALEMA** : [We got into the spirit of dancing in the season with joining in with the Jerusalema](#)





*'It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation.'*

*Nelson Mandela*

### Covid-ready changes included:

- Training staff in Covid-19 practices, Commercial Cleaning and Food Safety Training
- Installing hand wash basins in the playgrounds, foot pump sanitizers and soap dispensers around the school
- Arranging protective equipment for staff and children
- Setting up individual, stationary, equipment and play stations for the children.

As an **independent school** we applied for deviation from Dept. Basic Education terms, as we were ready to open on 11th August 2020, although DBE had called for a break.

We had **children rotating** days; half of each class on premises each day (30 children in total). The full morning program operated, with adaptations to ensure all indoor and outdoor play was set up and sanitized according to guidelines.

Rotating days proved to be a huge disruption of routine for our young children. **From the start of 2021**, we are pleased to have arranged class spaces and staff programs so that children attend full day, for five days a week. This will mean starting with 47 instead of the maximum of 60 children. We hope to increase numbers during the year, should spacing restrictions ease.

# OUR PARTNERSHIPS



**ST PETERS**  
C H U R C H

We praise God for providing for His school! We have had some new partners join and some large once off donations.

The St Peters, and wider community has shown invested support for our parent assistance during Lockdown. As well as for covering some of the extra expenses with keeping our children safe from the coronavirus. We have also been blessed by partnerships that are non-financial, and include those providing expert advice and resources for us to give our children the best start possible.

**Heartstyles** *Growing heart in business*  
Transform behaviour. Enrich culture. Drive performance.

**Visio Capital Management** (Pty)Ltd

**BLUE DOG TECHNOLOGY**

**Sun Valley Group of Schools**

**ACSI**  
Association of Christian Schools International  
SOUTHERN AFRICA

**Western Cape Government**

**Education Department**

**uBabalo neThemba Church**

**MICA**  
Let us show you how

**Chemistry English Ministry**

**rugby tots**

**grace CHURCH**  
WORCESTER PARK

**Pick n Pay**

**Chaeli CAMPAIGN**  
hope in motion

**PureSurvey**  
INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

**Cityhope**

**CALLING EDUCATION**  
INSPIRE · EQUIP · GROW

**Siyakhulisa**  
Together We Grow

**Fish Hoek pre-primary**  
2 years - Grade 3  
"Reaching out to all"

**KDP Signmakers.co**  
From concept to completion

**The Learning INITIATIVE**

**sage Foundation**

**Fowler Financial Services**  
Member of F

**BLOCKS 4 GROWTH**

**The Printery**

**airspace**

**book dash**

**LIONS INTERNATIONAL**

**MONTEREY**  
SKILLS FOR LIFE

**MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet**

**bédinkt**  
design, packaging & floral creation

**CareCompany**

**Inclusive Education SOUTH AFRICA**

**CBN SOUTH AFRICA**

**AFRICAN LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY**

**social development**  
Department: Social Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Claire's Aquatics**

**iThembaSchool**

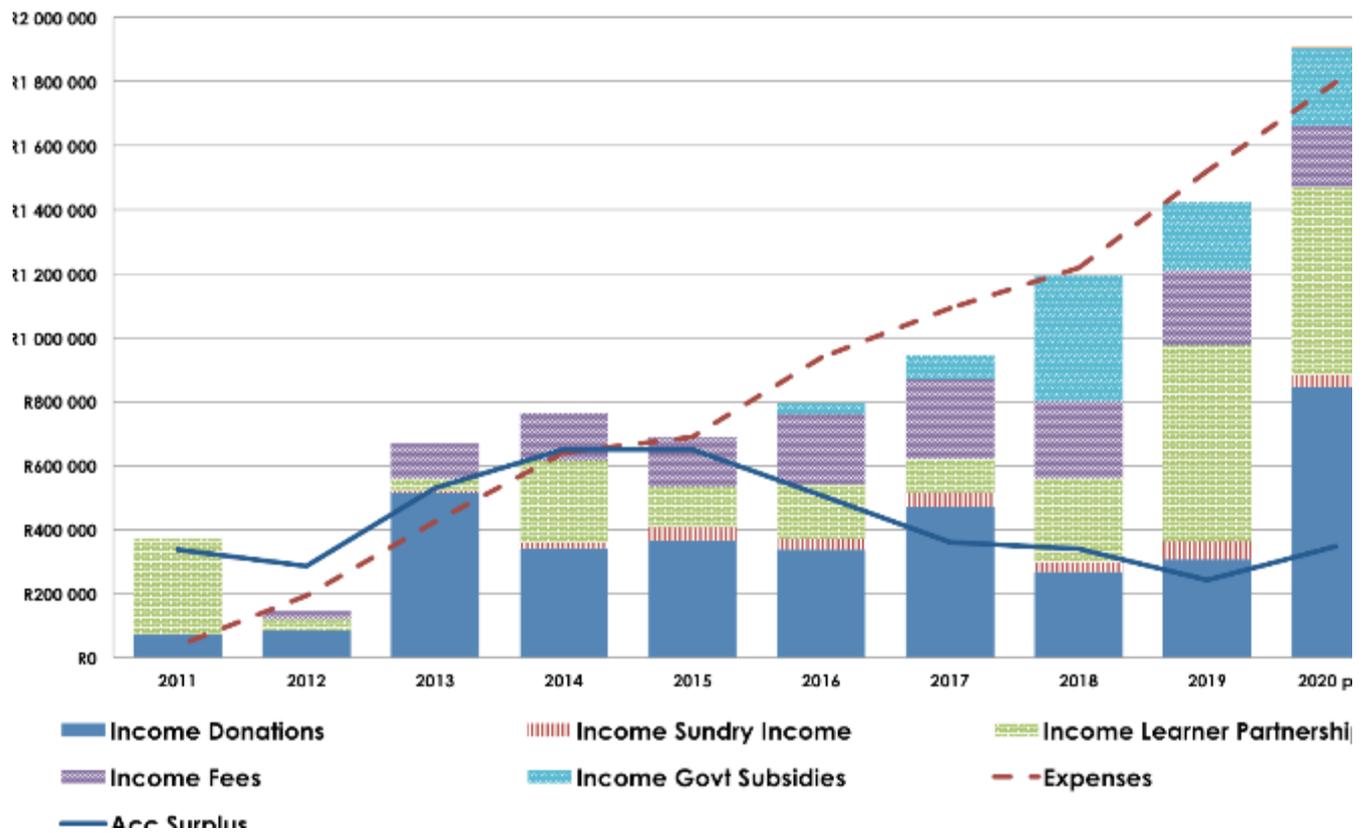
**the love trust**  
A JOURNEY OF HOPE

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

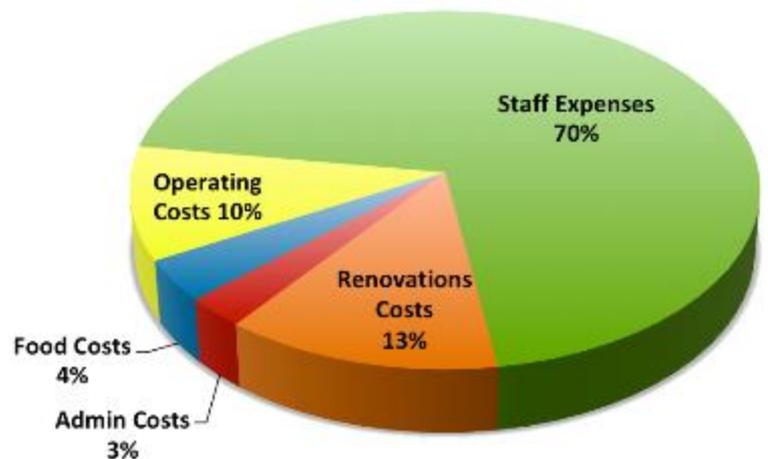
Remarkably, when you look at the economic climate, the school's expenses were met this year. Our expenses look a little different this year because of the pandemic. The Board decided to halve school fees for the duration of the lockdown, for which a reduction in spending on food helped to cover the shortfall. Our operating costs increased due to additional expenses related to Covid protocols and protections.

Renovations of the kitchen, roof and flooring were a major expense item, which was thankfully covered by a large donation.

**Income vs Expenses History**



We are very grateful to Fowler Financial Services who did our 2019 Financial Statements pro bono. These are available on request – please email [kerryn@ithembaschool.org](mailto:kerryn@ithembaschool.org)



# LEARNER PARTNERSHIPS

**Learner partnerships** are integral to our funding model. A partnership covers a single child’s financial shortfall at school for the year, after we receive school fees and government subsidies.

A partnership amount comes to R13 200 per child for 2021. We are so grateful for the **individuals** who have taken up single partnerships and for **businesses** that have taken up multiple partnerships.

## Learner Partnerships Info 2021

**Projected Expenditure:**

R1,796,152	£82,392	\$105,656
R1,004,129	£46,061	\$59,066

**Projected Income:** Fees, government subsidies, donations and learner partnerships

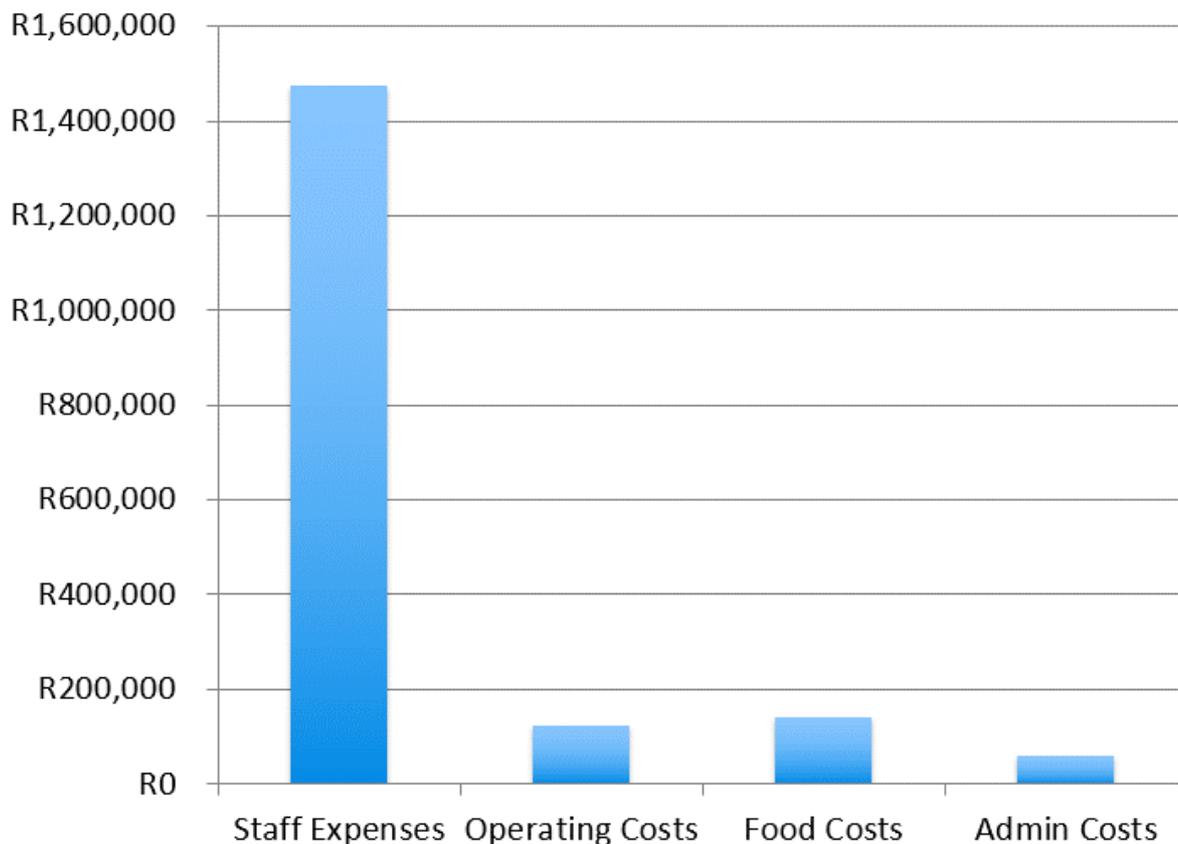
**Projected shortfall:**

R792,023	£36,331	\$46,590
R13,200	£606	\$776
R1,100	£50	\$65

Projected shortfall per child/year:

Shortfall per child per month:

## 2021 Budgeted Expenses



*Be a Partner,  
Change a Life!*



# STAFF 2021

Janet  
Principal



Shélagh  
Deputy



Grace  
Office Administrator



Laura  
Chef



Natalie  
Teacher



Chrishiance  
Teacher



Nadine  
Teacher



Edith  
Teaching Assistant



Lungi  
General Assistant



Thandi  
General Assistant



Kerryn  
Finance Administrator



Thembi  
Trainee



# Be a Partner, Change a Life!

**iThemba is a Public Benefit Organisation and we are able to issue tax certificates.**

Giving details from different countries are on the

**How to Help** page of our website:

[www.ithembaschool.org](http://www.ithembaschool.org)



Snap here to pay

 SnapScan

Bank: FNB Long Beach

Account Name: iThemba School

Branch Code: 260 300

Business Cheque Account : 62328250626

SWIFT Code: FIRNZAJJ

Reference: your name / name of your business



[iThembaSchool/Fishhoek](https://www.facebook.com/iThembaSchool/Fishhoek)



[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/iThembaSchool)



[iThemba School Fishhoek](https://www.linkedin.com/company/iThembaSchool)



[iThembaSchoolNPO](https://www.instagram.com/iThembaSchoolNPO)