

HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

2025/2026



31 preschools supported all-island, with **12 new Expansion Preschools** joining our Child Development Programme.



Residential Teacher Training completed for **75 preschool teachers**, introducing the new Literacy strand.



Reading corners introduced across all our preschools — several created by teachers within days of the training.



PowerBI data analysis introduced, giving teachers live dashboards of their children's progress for the first time.



OST **raised £12,000** within 2 weeks to respond to Cyclone Ditwah, delivering emergency food, dwelling repairs, and replacement school supplies.



20th anniversary celebrations held in Sri Lanka, attended by the Government Agent for the Eastern Province and local dignitaries.



Dilanee launched her book "**My Ocean Stars Odyssey**" at our Curry Evening in September.



Calthorpe Park School students raised **£14,000**; **9 students and 3 teachers** visited their link schools in October.



Two Trustees, **Amali Bunter** and **Cameron Williams**, visited Sri Lanka to see our work first-hand.



New partnerships formed with **Action Unity Lanka** and **araCreate**.



Three new Trustees welcomed to the Board: **Janine Dunbar**, **Sharron Marsh**, and **Abdul Basith Rafeekin**.



31

Preschools
Supported

75

Teachers Trained
(Residential)

£12,000

Raised for Cyclone
Ditwah Response

21

Years of Impact
in Sri Lanka

ANNUAL REVIEW & FINANCE 2025–2026

Empowering children through Education

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ANNUAL REVIEW AT A GLANCE



1. Income 2025/2026
approx. £135,000



9. Reading corners
introduced to all our
preschools



2. 31 preschools
supported
all-island



10. PowerBI data
analysis tool
introduced to record
all data from the
Child Development
Tool



3. 12 Expansion
Preschools
joined our CDP
programme



11. CPS students
fundraised £14,000



4. 44 teachers'
salaries
paid



12. Teaching
resources
distributed to all
preschools



5. 6 Ocean Stars
Lanka staff salaries
paid



13. Government Agent
and local government
dignitaries
attended Ocean Stars
Lanka 20th celebrations



6. 142 children and
teachers
on sponsorship
schemes



14. New partnerships
with Action Unity
Lanka and araCreate



7. 15 breakfast
projects
in preschools



15. Social media
posts
regularly posted



8. Residential
Teacher Training
held for 75 teachers



16. Working closely
with Batticaloa
Preschool Bureau

CHAIR'S REPORT

1 MAY 2025 – 30 APRIL 2026

It is a privilege to present my Chair's Report as we reflect on another year of meaningful impact and steady progress for Ocean Stars Trust.

Thanks to our supporters, partners and the dedication of our team in Sri Lanka, the year to 30 April 2026 has been one of growth, strengthened partnerships and continued commitment to the children, teachers and communities we serve.

“

Ocean Stars continues to bring friendship, hope and practical support to communities in Sri Lanka through careful stewardship, partnership and education.

1. GOVERNANCE

During the year, the Trustee Board saw several changes in personnel. Jennie Gilbert and Revd Dan Haylett stepped down after 10 years of service, Denise Barnes stepped down after 2 years, and Tim Rüpke concluded 3 years as a Co-Opted Trustee.

In their place, Ocean Stars welcomed Janine Dunbar, a long-term supporter of the charity; Sharron Marsh, whose family experienced Ocean Stars through the Calthorpe Park School link; and Abdul Basith Rafeekin, a former OST sponsor child now working in digital marketing in Sri Lanka.

John Bunter continued as Chair, alongside Jo Barton, Rachel Angel and Cameron Williams. Amali Bunter remained as Co-Opted Trustee, and Wendy Haynes continued to provide valued support as Minutes Secretary.

A number of sub-committees met between the six full Trustee Board meetings, including Finance, Child Development Programme, JAYDD, Child and Teacher Sponsorship, and School Links. Ocean Stars Lanka staff also continued to contribute closely to the Child Development Programme group.



The annual September Awayday remained an important strategy-setting moment for the charity, helping shape priorities and the Strategic Review towards 2030.

Ocean Stars continued its mission of supporting communities in need, especially in Batticaloa and Trincomalee, while maintaining careful stewardship of resources and strong collaboration with the Ocean Stars Lanka team. The improved website, newsletters and social media activity also helped strengthen visibility and supporter engagement.

2. FINANCE

Prior to Independent Examination, income for the year to 30 April 2026 reached approximately £137,820, representing a strong increase on the previous year. The contingency fund was raised to £17,300 to reflect higher teacher and staff allowances in Sri Lanka, while Trustees were still able to maintain strong support for established projects.

With generous support from Goldranch Investments Ltd for the feeding programme, continued support from the Fonthill Foundation for educational work, and many smaller individual and corporate donations, Ocean Stars was able to expand its work further.

Fundraising was effective throughout the year, including the annual quiz, the Curry Evening where Dilanee launched “My Ocean Stars Odyssey”, and presentations delivered in several locations.

3. SUPPORTED PROJECTS AND IMPACT

Our Restricted Funds allow us to support the sponsorship programme (some 150 of the most needy youngsters in Batticaloa and Trincomalee), and a number of our preschool teachers, as well as our well-established Hope House sewing and IT-teaching projects. Unrestricted Funds pay our staff in OSL (Ocean Stars Lanka, who manage our projects on OST's behalf), our ongoing expenses in maintaining the OSL operation, and other relevant capital projects, when funds allow.

With the benefit of Goldranch's increased financial support, OST has allowed some 400 of OST-supported preschool children to be given a daily nutritious breakfast. Our Child Development Programme, which assesses educational progress, has shown clearly how the feeding programme has advanced achievement in the preschools. The support of Fonthill Foundation enabled some 70 preschool teachers to meet together in July for Teacher Training, and at other shorter meetings. This programme is the envy of the Education Department of Eastern Province. Additionally, through the OST Gift Catalogue, many individuals have benefitted over the year, not least local fishermen who have been donated new boats.

True to our record in quick response to emergencies, OST raised £12,000 within 2 weeks to relieve distress amongst our communities caused by Cyclone Ditwah in November. We used our contacts in Batticaloa to deliver emergency supplies of food, repairs to dwellings, and latterly, replacement school supplies for those items that had been washed away.

4. VISITS TO SRI LANKA

Dilanee our Head of Operations led a school group of 9 students and 3 teaching staff on a trip to Sri Lanka in October. This included extensive volunteering in our preschools and secondary link schools in Eastern Sri Lanka. In many instances for the students concerned the experiences were life-changing, and there is every indication that these visits will restart annually, now in the post-Covid period. The students from Calthorpe Park School raised in excess of £14,000 for OST causes, some of which funds they could see being put “into action” whilst there.

In addition Dilanee visited the area in June to observe and monitor the OSL operation, and in particular the Teacher Training. Through JAYDD, Dilanee has enabled four other interested parties to visit OST/OSL activities — visitors who have reported back very favourably!

5. SUMMARY

In my report for 2025, I highlighted celebrations for “OST 20”, the work of 20 years since the founding of the charity. One year on, those celebrations can almost be seen as a very successful relaunch, with the evolution of new personnel on the Trustee Board, and very effective fundraising throughout the year to extend our work further.

John Bunter, OST Chair — May 2026



MISSION, VISION & ACTIVITIES

Vision

Our Vision is a Sri Lanka where every child has equal opportunities.

Mission

Our Mission is to identify and overcome barriers to equal opportunities for children in Sri Lanka through education and social enrichment, sharing friendship, hope and joy.



Activities

1

Sponsorship Scheme

2

Exchange Programme and Partnerships

3

Targeted Quality Education

4

Advocacy

5

Community Programmes



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN SRI LANKA

2005 – 2025

As well as in the UK, celebrations to mark the 20 years of Ocean Stars took place in Sri Lanka. The main celebrations took place at the launch of our annual residential Teacher Training in July 2025. Several Ocean Stars birthday cakes were cut.

Our 20th anniversary celebrations in Sri Lanka were filled with joy, tradition, and gratitude. The event featured:

- The cutting of a special Ocean Stars cake
- The presentation of beautiful shawls — a traditional gift for honoured guests — to Dilanee and the Government Agent for the Eastern Province
- A vibrant dance performance by teachers from our Yatiyanthota Preschool, wearing costumes made especially for the occasion
- Gifts of appreciation for everyone who took part

It was truly a special occasion to mark 20 years of empowering children and communities through education. A huge thank you to our incredible OSL team for their hard work and dedication in organising this unforgettable celebration.



MY OCEAN STARS ODYSSEY

A JOURNEY OF RECONNECTION AND GIVING BACK

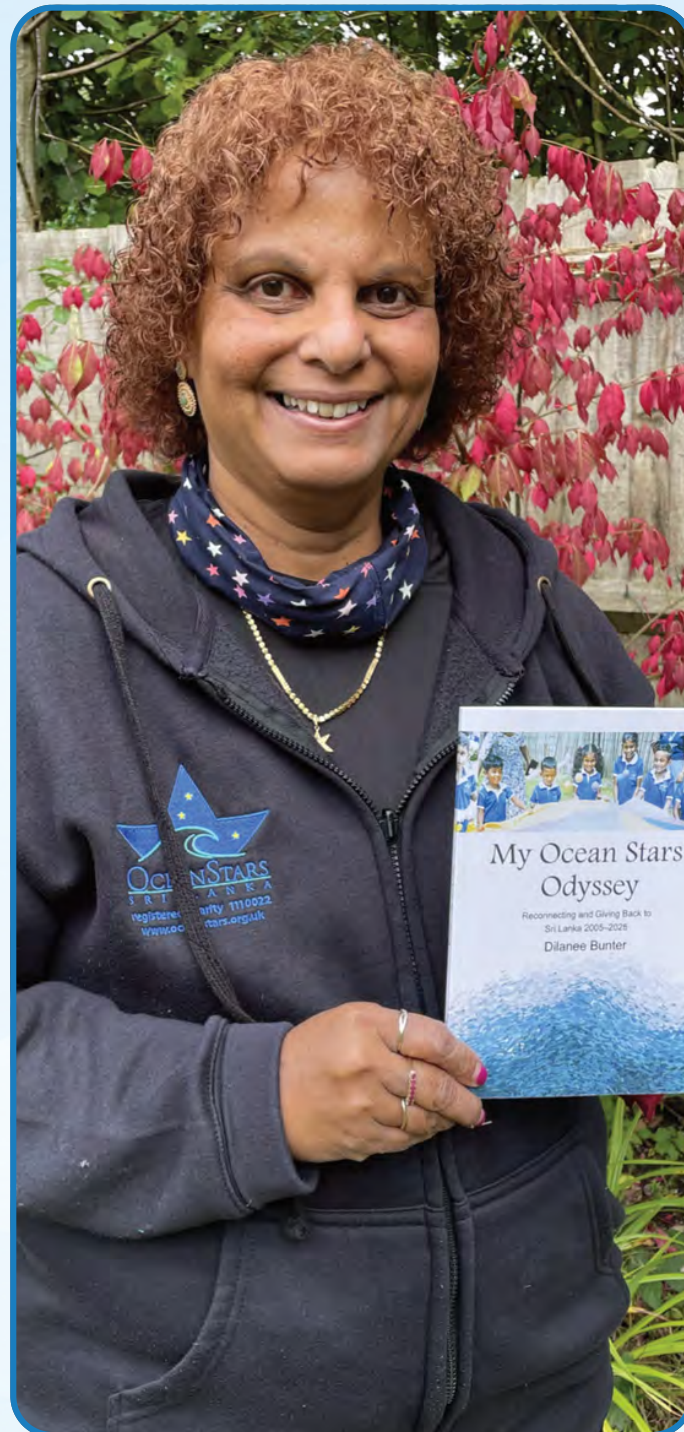
In September 2025, Dilanee Bunter, founder of Ocean Stars Trust, launched her book *My Ocean Stars Odyssey: Reconnecting and Giving Back to Sri Lanka*.

The book tells the deeply personal story behind the creation of Ocean Stars Trust and reflects on a journey of roots, resilience, reconnection, and giving back to the country that has always remained close to Dilanee's heart. Although she left Sri Lanka in 1976, her connection to the country never faded.

A defining turning point came after the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami. Dilanee describes Boxing Day 2004 as her 'own tsunami' – a moment that transformed tragedy into purpose and inspired the founding of Ocean Stars Trust.

The book celebrates not only one person's journey, but also the many lives, communities, volunteers, schools, and supporters who have helped shape more than 20 years of Ocean Stars Trust's work in Sri Lanka.

Since its launch on 27 September 2025, around 80 copies of the book have been sold, helping to share the Ocean Stars story and inspire others through a journey of compassion, resilience, and hope.



“

My Ocean Stars Odyssey captures the spirit of Ocean Stars Trust – reconnecting, empowering, and giving back to the communities of Sri Lanka.

”

CYCLONE DITWAH EMERGENCY RESPONSE

NOVEMBER 2025

When Cyclone Ditwah struck Sri Lanka's Eastern Province in November 2025, many of the communities we work with in and around Batticaloa were hit hard. Homes were damaged, belongings were lost, and children's school supplies were washed away.

True to Ocean Stars' record of quick response to emergencies, our supporters raised £12,000 within just 2 weeks. Working through our trusted contacts in Batticaloa, the Ocean Stars Lanka team delivered:

- Emergency food supplies to affected families
- Repairs to damaged dwellings
- Replacement school supplies, uniforms and equipment for children whose belongings had been washed away
- Emergency response reached approximately 500 families and children.

Because our team lives and works in these communities, help reached families within days – not weeks. Thank you to every supporter who gave so quickly and so generously.



SPONSORSHIP REPORT

2025/2026

Sponsorship continues to be an important part of the work of Ocean Stars. During the year there has been a certain amount of ebb and flow of sponsors but children all continue to be supported. There continue to be children on the waiting list who have been identified by the OSL team as needing support. Some sponsors have been able to visit their sponsor children on visits to Sri Lanka which has proved to be a powerful experience for them. Sponsors continue to appreciate the personal touch in receiving letters and photographs from their sponsor children.

Scheme / Location	Supported	Needing Sponsorship
Kallady, Batticaloa	83	7
Vellaimanal, Trincomalee	55	8
Mahadeva, Kilinochchi	4	0
Teachers	15	29

142

children and teachers on sponsorship schemes

15

children currently needing sponsorship

Sponsors value letters, photographs and personal connection



Sponsor children supported through Ocean Stars

Sponsorship provides practical support while building lasting human connection.

SPONSORSHIP IMPACT STORIES

Shiyanujan

Shiyanujan was sponsored by Ocean Stars from the time he was 8 years old. Both his parents are from the hearing-impaired community, so life was tough growing up. He had to be the spokesperson for his parents from a very young age. He had to go on behalf of his parents to parents' meetings, village meetings and medical appointments. Shiyanujan was not trained by anyone in sign language and given support in how to communicate with his parents. They worked out their own system for communicating. He was determined to make the best use of his sponsorship money so used it entirely for educational purposes. He said that the Ocean Stars sponsorship was a major pillar in his life growing up.



He passed with 9 Grade As for his O Levels and went on to do A Levels. He excelled in his A Levels and his dreams of becoming a Doctor came true when he was accepted to study medicine. Gaining a place at University is a competitive process in Sri Lanka and securing an entry to medical school is an even more coveted prize. We are truly delighted that Shiyanujan has now left his hometown of Batticaloa and travelled to Galle to start his medical studies at the University of Ruhuna. We wish him all the very best with his studies.

Basith

Basith, another former sponsor child, comments: "My father is hearing-impaired so growing up life was very difficult for us and the sponsorship money was a lifeline for my family and provided for my education. I co-founded Dream Space Media, a digital media startup focusing on constructive post-war stories in Sri Lanka. I want you to know that your support did not end with my school years. It has carried forward into my work today, helping me empower and uplift others in Sri Lanka. I am forever indebted to you for the opportunities and hope you provided me during my formative years. Your generosity has inspired me to pay it back by making a positive impact on the lives of countless others.

It has been simply wonderful to be able to attend the 20th celebration of Ocean Stars. To meet with all the people who have supported Ocean Stars over the years was a truly amazing experience. I am blown away by the support of the Fleet community for Ocean Stars. I have seen first-hand all the hard work the Ocean Stars Team puts into the charity every day."



SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Facebook (Apr 2025 – Mar 2026)

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total /End
Post s	14	13	15	24	18	32	44	9	22	16	17	20	244
Page likes	650	650	649	769	776	664	696	827	827	831	832	835	835
Ave likes/	17	8	6	9	5	6	13	15	19	28	7	10	12
Shar es/C	11	15	28	45	11	2	114	27	94	440	120	192	1,099
Total reac	1,918	13,638	3,084	8,380	1,941	3,400	9,600	6,900	7,300	3,961	932	12,472	73,526

Instagram (Apr 2025 – Mar 2026)

Metric	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total /Ave
Posts	11	11	13	19	15	28	39	9	22	14	15	24	220
Followers	372	372	383	385	384	390	396	404	403	403	405	413	413
Ave likes/post	8	8	8	9	6	4	13	14	9	8	10	25	10

LinkedIn (Apr 2025 – Apr 2026)

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Post s	2	13	14	21	14	15	6	5	15	16	13	11	10
Follo wers	73	80	81	83	83	85	85	87	90	93	93	94	97
Ave likes/	0	3	15	33	8	9	3	4	32	10	3	20	6

Website & Mailchimp

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Web site	1,700	671	561	550	599	443	1,400	1,600	1,800	1,300	2,400	1,300	14,324
Ave sessi	1.02	0.43	0.36	0.42	1.34	0.43	0.23	0.1	0.12	0.1	0.05	0.13	0.39
Emai ls	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	3	0	1	0	10
Ave open	—	—	228	222	201	207	208	—	234	—	97	—	140

Metric	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Tot al/A ve
Emails Sent	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	3	0	1	0	10
Avg Numb er of Opens	N/A	N/A	228	222	201	207	208	-	234	-	97	-	139.7

SOCIAL MEDIA SUMMARY Facebook

244 posts

Reached 73,526 people on Facebook throughout the year

1099 shares and comments throughout the year

Ended the year on 835 page follows (+185 from the beginning of the year)

Instagram

220 posts

On average, 10 likes per post

Ended the year on 413 followers (+44 from the beginning of the year)

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

LinkedIn: 153 posts; ended the year on 97 followers (+24, 33% growth); engagement rate 304%; 45% visitor-to-follower conversion.

Website: 14,324 visitors.

Mailchimp: 10 emails sent; on average 140 people opened each email.

COMPARING THIS YEAR TO LAST YEAR

- 71% increase in number of Facebook posts
- 67% increase in Facebook reach
- 390% increase in Facebook shares/comments
- 28% increase in Facebook page follows
- 65% increase in Instagram posts
- 11% increase in average likes per Instagram post
- 12% increase in Instagram followers
- 194% increase in LinkedIn posts and 33% follower growth
- 14% increase in visitors to the website (some visits confirmed as bots)
- 22% decrease in average Mailchimp opens



CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

ANNUAL REVIEW 2025/2026

Overview

At Ocean Stars, our commitment to preschool education is centred on delivering a high-quality educational experience for children in our schools through the Child Development Programme (CDP). This initiative is designed to enhance teaching standards, monitor each child's progress, and bolster classroom resources. The CDP Steering Group – formed of Ocean Stars Trustees and Ocean Stars Lanka staff – meets monthly to guide the programme's strategy and outcomes.



There are three key pillars of the CDP:

- **Teacher Training:** Regular residential and follow-up training sessions, covering new curriculum additions, tablet use, and best practice sharing. We once again thank Fonhill Foundation for their continued financial support of our teacher training.
- **Assessment Tool:** A child development tool tracking each child's progress across key areas of early years development, receiving consistently positive feedback from teachers.
- **Resourcing:** Resource bags were once again distributed to all preschools at our Summer Teacher Trainings.

Assessment Tool Development

Literacy: Introduced at the July 2025 Teacher Training, the new Literacy element supports teachers in building print-rich environments, developing phonics awareness, and strengthening letter-sound associations. A real highlight of the impact of the training were images sent through depicting reading corners created by our dedicated teachers within several preschools, just two days after the training, with one school having parents contributing handmade cushions too.



Understanding the World: The final component of the CDP Assessment Tool development, planned for introduction at the June 2026 Teacher Training. This element is designed to be bespoke to each community, enabling children to learn about their own environment rather than through a generalised lens. A working group of selected teachers and the OSL team continue to shape this content going forward.

Teacher Training

The July 2025 residential Teacher Training was once again a great success, well attended, with workshops well received by teachers. The Pre-school Bureau Director and Field Officer attended and were highly complimentary of the programme. The training introduced the Literacy strand and provided reading resources.

In October 2025, Dilanee attended follow-up training sessions, conducting 1-2-1s with preschools and walking teachers through their PowerBI dashboards so they could see their own progress data. The June 2026 residential training (26th–29th) is expected to welcome approximately 70 teachers, with Dilanee presenting the Understanding the World segment and various workshop presenters across the four days.



2025–2026 Assessment Data

The CDP Assessment Tool continued to gather robust data across all schools in 2025, with both Year 1 (ages 3–4) and Year 2 (ages 4–5) cohorts assessed across baseline, midline, and endline phases. Initial midline feedback was positive, with results showing continued improvements compared to baseline, with endline assessments taking place between 24 November and 12 December 2025.

Assessment	Year 1 (3–4)	Year 2 (4–5)
Baseline (Y1/Y2)	333	394
Midline (Y1/Y2)	388	394
Endline (Y1/Y2)	386	380
TOTAL	1,107	1,168

Assessment	Year 1 (3–4)	Year 2 (4–5)
Baseline (Y1/Y2)	421	402
TOTAL	421	402

Insights from PowerBI Analysis

- The 2025 Child Development Programme reached 646 preschool children, with a balanced sample across gender: approximately 52% male and 48% female.
- Overall child development outcomes are strong across most domains, with average scores close to the expected maximum – Maths Development 5.0/6.0, Physical Development 3.7/4.0, Personal, Social & Emotional Development 3.7/4.0, Creative Development 3.5/4.0.
- Communication and Language remains the main area for continued attention, especially Listening (2.0/3.0). Speaking and Understanding are stronger but still show room for improvement.
- Year 2 (4–5) children show the clearest improvement: total average score rose from 15.1 at baseline to 19.3 at endline – a 16.5% gain.
- Year 1 (3–4) shows mixed progress, with a decline from midline to endline that requires further investigation before drawing conclusions (cohort, attendance, assessment timing, or data-quality factors).
- Outcomes are broadly equitable across gender, with girls scoring slightly higher in communication and early learning.
- Lowest-income children perform strongly overall, with headline achievement rates of 89%/96% versus 82%/94% for the highest-income group – positive outcomes across income levels.
- Early Learning Goals average 2.7/3.0, indicating good school-readiness outcomes by the end of the programme.

Impact Monitoring & Partnerships

Impact monitoring visits take place every six months. The July 2025 visit found students developing well and gaining new skills. Three children under close monitoring successfully progressed to Grade 2. The Steering Group identified teacher impact as an area requiring deeper measurement, with plans to develop the post-training teacher reflection form as a starting point. Key partnerships in 2025 included continued collaboration with the Pre-school Bureau, a productive meeting with the Ministry of Women and Children, and ongoing engagement with expansion preschools – growing from 12 schools in 2025 to 17 in 2026.



PRESCHOOL REPORT

Our Preschool Link Programme

Our link schools bring together children, teachers and communities in Sri Lanka and the UK. Through friendship and shared learning, we build global connections that inspire, encourage and create brighter futures.

SRI LANKA ↔ UK LINK SCHOOL PAIRINGS

Samanthan Preschool	↔	Crookham Infants School
Chenkalady 1 Preschool	↔	Calthorpe Park School
Little Stars Preschool	↔	Fleet Baptist School
Soruvamunai Preschool	↔	St Luke's School
Ampilanthurai Preschool	↔	Heatherside Junior School
Thirukovil 2 Preschool	↔	Beacon Hill Academy
Yatiyanthota St Peters Preschool	↔	Fleet Methodist School
Trinco / Vellaimanal Preschool	↔	Buttercups Pre-School
Sri Murugan Preschool	↔	Dogmersfield Primary School
Vigneswaran MV Preschool	↔	Royal Hospital School

Working together for children's brighter futures

Our link programme encourages cultural exchange, pen-friendly activities, shared projects and visits, creating lasting friendships that cross oceans.

Preschool Data — 10 Years

2017	–	666
2018	–	669
2019	–	617
2020	–	821
2021	–	679
2022	–	687
2023	–	730
2024	–	762
2025	–	760
2026	–	828



PRESCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMMES

2025/2026

Our Feeding Programmes continue across our poorest preschools, launched in 2023 following requests from preschool teachers, DS Offices and our own local staff. Currently **15 preschools** are on our Feeding Programme, and some **400** OST-supported preschool children access a daily nutritious breakfast. We are very grateful to individual donors and Goldranch Investments Ltd for supporting our Feeding Programme.

Data from our Child Development Programme continues to show that students who are well-nourished perform better than those who are not, and these Feeding Projects remain essential to our Early Years programmes.

WEIGHT GAIN SAMPLE – 2025/26

MM Preschool — Sample of 5 Children			
Child	Nov 2025 (kg)	Mar 2026 (kg)	Weight Gain (kg)
T. Alvin	8.0	10.0	+2.0
R. Akshith	11.0	13.0	+2.0
S. Kavinkumar	9.2	11.0	+1.8
S. Vithun	11.2	13.0	+1.8
R. Havishka	10.5	12.0	+1.5

Ilampirai Preschool — Sample of 5 Children			
Child	Nov 2025 (kg)	Mar 2026 (kg)	Weight Gain (kg)
N. Rushath	13.5	14.5	+1.0
J. Keshavi	12.0	13.0	+1.0
N. Rakshan	11.0	12.0	+1.0
T. Janani	11.0	12.0	+1.0
K. Kavishnavi	8.5	9.5	+1.0



OCEAN STARS LANKA PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

Ocean Stars Trust UK and Ocean Stars Lanka are indebted to our preschool teachers who do an extraordinary job, often under challenging circumstances. OST UK pays the wages of 44 preschool teachers in Sri Lanka. The teachers receive a saree as their uniform and a work bag from Ocean Stars UK. All the children who attend our preschools also receive a uniform and a school bag.

Our teachers value the support they get from us and most of them have been working with us for several years. They value the regular visits from our staff on the ground and the teacher training that we offer them – this year including the new Literacy strand and PowerBI dashboards showing each teacher their own children’s progress. These events give them the opportunity to network with other teachers and exchange good practice. The teachers are very grateful for the nutrition programmes which mean that our preschool students are able to access their early years learning free from hunger.



GIFT CATALOGUE



Our Ocean Stars Gift Catalogue has provided essential items to our communities in Sri Lanka during 2025–2026. Examples of gifts that have been donated are boats, bicycles, stationery items, food parcels, shoes and chickens. Recipients are chosen by the local Divisional Secretariats we work with in Sri Lanka as well as our families involved in our sponsorship schemes. Everyone involved in the process in Sri Lanka would like to thank the UK donors for their generous gifts, which transform their daily lives.



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

- **FISHING BOATS — Impact: Sustainable**
Providing fishing boats so that families can generate an income from the sale of fish. One boat can be used by up to three families.
- **SEWING MACHINE LOAN SCHEME — Impact: Sustainable**
Helping ladies to set up and develop a small business to enable them to contribute to the family income. Our well-established Hope House sewing project continues, with women gaining skills that lead to further employment.
- **BUILDING WORK & WELLS — Impact: Sustainable**
Building preschools, digging wells, and supplying toilets in the poorest rural communities.
- **COMPUTER CLASSES — Impact: Sustainable**
Paying for teachers to instruct adults and children in computer skills through our Hope House IT-teaching project, so that they can communicate and work in the modern world.

TWO TRUSTEES VISIT SRI LANKA

October 2025

From Amali Bunter

It was great to return to Sri Lanka and visit the Ocean Stars Lanka team after 6 years. In this time the OSL team has faced the Covid-19 pandemic, an ongoing economic crisis and changes in government. Despite the hurdles of the last few years, it is clear to see that Ocean Stars has continued to be a consistent presence and support for children, families and communities across Sri Lanka.

We have seen sponsorship children grow into young adults going on to pursue careers, and women of the Hope House programmes gaining skills to achieve further employment.

It was a privilege to visit the people and programmes of Ocean Stars and to see the amount of work that goes in from the OSL team to ensure that the money received from donors in the U.K. and beyond is spent to maximise reach and impact. The volunteer teams this year brought so much energy to the week and embraced the varied and busy schedule. It was great to spend time with everyone involved and really felt like a reflection of our mission — “to share friendship, hope and joy”.



From Cameron Williams

After 6 years away from the home of Ocean Stars, this October/November I was lucky enough to return to that special island of Sri Lanka and see more of our wonderful eastern gem of Batticaloa, and this time with the focus of a Trustee. The agenda for the trip was centrally to see first-hand the work I hear so much about year round in our trustee meetings; the Calthorpe Park School trip, the Team 2, educational and community development projects visit whilst meeting our Sri Lanka team in-person for the first time.

Highlights: Meetings with NGOs and local government — learning from those working in similar spaces and sharing understanding with stakeholders that can help us grow our impact; meetings with Dream Space Productions, Link School visits, Deaf Link school, and visiting the preschool and Link School in Vellaimanal Trincomalee T/Al-Azar Muslim Maha Vidyalam. Final night’s celebrations with everyone being together with deserved thanks to Dilanee and all of those making this all possible.

Reflections and learning: The benefit of collaboration — learning what others in our space are doing, how and for what purpose and how this differs or shares similarity with our own work — so we can continue to strive and be our best.



Our wonderful Ocean Stars family, incredible team, working tirelessly to deliver impactful services to those we work with and for. Those that support us, our volunteers, donors and helpers in all that we do. Looking forward to the future — growing from our learnings and continuing to strive to make as long-lasting an impact as we can to those that we work with.

Gratitude: Thanks again to all those that make it possible; ongoing generosity enables us to continue to deliver for the families and children we work with in Sri Lanka, and without our donors all this simply could not be happening.



WELCOMING OUR NEW TRUSTEES

This year we said thank you and farewell to Jennie Gilbert and Revd Dan Haylett after 10 years of dedicated service each, to Denise Barnes after 2 years, and to Tim R pke after 3 years as a Co-Opted Trustee. We are deeply grateful for everything they gave to Ocean Stars.

We are delighted to welcome three new Trustees to the Board:

Janine Dunbar

A long-term supporter of the Charity, Janine brings years of connection to the Ocean Stars community and its work.



Sharron Marsh

Sharron's daughter enjoyed the Ocean Stars experience on a Calthorpe Park School trip to Sri Lanka – a first-hand family connection to the impact of our link programme.



Abdul Basith Rafeekin

Basith joins us from Sri Lanka, having benefitted enormously as a former OST sponsor child. Now working in digital marketing and mostly based in Colombo, he remains a regular visitor to his home town of Batticaloa, liaises easily with our Ocean Stars Lanka staff, and knows the communities we serve intimately. His appointment brings the voice of our beneficiaries directly into the governance of the charity.



OUR FOCUS

Trustee Focus Areas 2025/2026

FOCUS AREA	OBJECTIVE
Fundraising	A fundraising target set (Target �12,500 � Raised �31,730)
Strategy	Complete Strategic Review towards 2030
2030 Plan	Constantly review progress
Marketing & Communications	Review and strengthen OST social media and digital presence
Ocean Stars Lanka	Grow CDP programme – onboard expansion preschools



OST GOALS

By 2030

As well as our strategic objectives the Trustees are looking ahead with goals we would like to achieve by 2030.

FOCUS AREA	OBJECTIVE	STATUS 2025	STATUS 2026
Preschools	OST will run a network of 35 preschools across Sri Lanka (full and soft support)	29	31
Teacher Training	OST will provide context-led, transformational teacher training to over 70 teachers	TBD	75
Child Development	OST will engage 2,000 children through the CDP tool per year, doubling reach beyond the OST network	760	1,500
Teacher Sponsorship	OST will facilitate sponsorships for 100% of its preschool teachers in full support schools	50%	34%
Ambassador Programme	OST will have developed a network of 5 ambassadors to promote cultural links & exchange	1	1
Child Sponsorship	OST will facilitate 150 personalised & impactful child sponsorships	141	142

GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Organisation chart :

- Ocean Stars Trust Board of Trustees — John (Chair), Jo, Rachel, Cameron, Janine, Sharron, Basith; Co-opted: Amali; Minutes Secretary: Wendy Haynes
- Finance Group
- Ocean Stars Operations Manager (Head of Operations: Dilanee Bunter)
- Intern & Office Staff — Child Sponsorships, Fundraising & Partnerships, Volunteers, Marketing & Social Media
- Ocean Stars Lanka Board → Ocean Stars Lanka (OSL) → Batticaloa Projects
- SL Project Managers → Island-Wide Projects
- UK Operations



OST BOARD

Ocean Stars UK Trustee Board
and Founder 2026



John Bunter
Chair and Finance Group



Dilanee Bunter



Jo Barton



Rachel Angel



Cameron Williams



Janine Dunbar



Sharron Marsh



Wendy Haynes



Abdul Basith Rafeekin



Amali Bunter

OCEAN STARS LANKA TEAM 2026



Salujah



Danushika



Dishanthini



Luxmy

PRINCIPAL RISKS & UNCERTAINTIES

RISK	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS
GDPR	Registered with Information Commissioner's Office.
Safeguarding	Policy in place.
Terrorism	High risk insurance policies when organising trips.
Lack of income	Contingency, reserve funds in place (raised to £17,300 this year).
Liability claims	Liability insurance.
Local travel	Travel with registered tour companies in SL.
Travel to Sri Lanka	Travel only on advice of FCO.
Natural disasters	Emergency response capability via OSL team on the ground, demonstrated in the Cyclone Ditwah response.
Damage to reputation	Accounts are kept up to date, submitted to the Charities Commission and all records are transparent.
Fraud	Double signatories for bank transactions (SL and UK), independent counter and banker of cheques and cash.
Fundraising	Registered with Fundraising Regulator.

OST DATA IMPACT

2005–2026

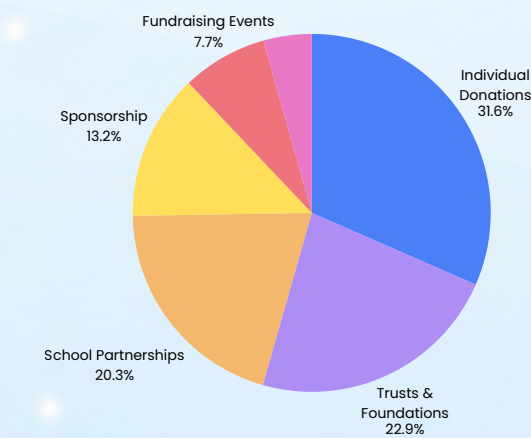
DATA	IMPACT
17,000	Children have attended OST preschools
84	Teacher Training sessions
375,000	Meals provided through our feeding programmes
700	Women have attended a sewing class
180	Children have attended OST computer classes
290	Children have been sponsored
149	UK students have visited their link schools in Sri Lanka
[UPDATE — was 155 + 2025 volunteers]	UK volunteers have visited our OST preschools



OST INCOME STATEMENT

Year end April 2026, with 2025 comparison (prior to Independent Examination)

	2025%	2025 £	2026%	2026 £
Income		115,886		137,820
Fundraising Activities	1.9	2,202	15.8	21,797
HMRC Gift Aid	7.1	8,228	6.5	8,884
Donations	55.8	64,664	46.5	64,136
Sponsorship of teachers	3.4	3,940	3.3	4,434
Sponsorship of Children	16.7	19,353	13.9	19,210
Restricted Income for Projects	15.1	17,499	14	19,359
TOTAL	100	115,886	100	137,820

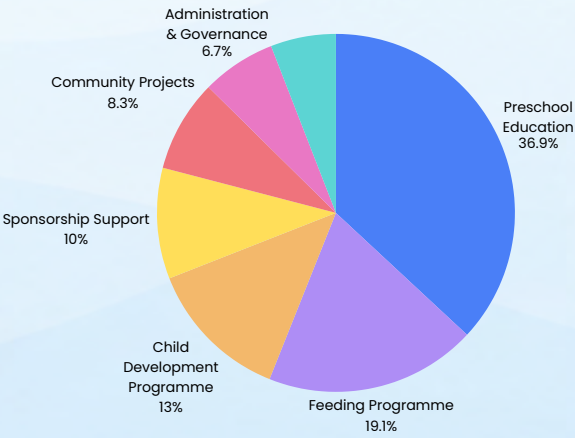


OST Income To April 2026

OST EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

Year end April 2026, with 2025 comparison (prior to Independent Examination)

	2025%	2025 £	2026%	2026 £
Expenditure		122,344		141,662
Capital Projects	51.3	62,762	49.6	70,197
Sponsorship of Children	16.6	20,309	13.4	18,933
Staff and Teacher Wages	19.3	23,613	22.5	31,819
Fundraising	0.8	979	0.4	458
Accountancy	1.5	1,835	1.8	2,658
Publicity/Outreach	4.1	5,016	2.2	3,123
Bank charges	0.2	245	0.2	326
Postage, stationery, phone	1	1,223	2.1	3,045
Travel and Subsistence	4.9	5,995	7.7	10,948
Miscellaneous	0.3	367	0.1	155
TOTAL	100	122,344	100	141,662



OST Expenditure To April 2026

OST ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ocean Stars would like to thank everyone who supports our work in so many ways. These include:

- Our general regular donors
- Our child sponsors
- Our teacher sponsors
- Our preschool sponsors
- Our link preschools
- Our volunteers
- Our link primary schools
- Calthorpe Park School
- Fonthill Foundation
- Goldranch Investments Ltd
- Action Unity Lanka
- araCreate
- Kiri Ravi and Ghanapathy Temple
- Our teddy knitters
- Our volunteers who help out at fundraising events
- Godfrey Wilson Limited
- C.T Services Limited
- Fleet Methodist Church
- All those who attend our fundraising events
- Our office helpers
- Our Ocean Stars Lanka staff
- Our OSL Preschool teachers
- Our sponsor children and families
- Our drivers for volunteer trips
- Our tuk-tuk drivers
- Beyond Boundaries Team in Sri Lanka
- Everyone who gave so quickly and generously to our Cyclone Ditwah emergency appeal

We sincerely apologise if we have not mentioned you. We thank our extended supporters who help Ocean Stars empower children through education in Sri Lanka.

