

The last 10 days

During my last full week at the Little Stars School I worked with small groups of children from the nursery/kindergarten classes, as well as children from classes 1 and 2.



As planned I visited the Ashray Centre School on Tuesday afternoon and looked at their material. As is often the case, storage space was an issue. The material that they have is in use once a week, and now they also know how to use the Mini Loco set.

I held a short training session on Friday 10th, attended by 7 teachers. After a review of the new material and its place in the store cupboard, we worked on techniques for using the Cool!

English at School flash cards. There was much hilarity as the teachers took on the roles of pupils.



On my last Saturday I went to the Jeevan School, accompanied by some teachers from the Little Stars School. I presented a short activity, 'We're going on a bear hunt', which fitted well with Kati's topic of imaginative story telling.

Finally I made an inventory of all the material in the store cupboard and numbered the contents per shelf. The supervisor of the junior classes, Dolly, has taken on the responsibility of looking after the play material and, more importantly, encouraging the staff to use it

regularly.

Sponsoring

The Little Stars School is fee-free.
It relies entirely on the generosity of its sponsors.

To make our own small contribution, my husband and I are sponsoring two children at the school, Pooja and Amrish, both in the nursery classes.



For just €120 per year a child is provided with a uniform, schoolbooks and the chance to learn, the chance of a better future.

Sponsoring a girl in the hostel is €720 per year.

I have seen first-hand what can be achieved with these children – to break free from the grip of poverty they need help, and education is the key.

For more information go to the recently updated website: www.littlestarsschool.org.

Time to say 'Goodbye'



After nearly 10 weeks in Varanasi, Tuesday 14th was my last day at school. In the morning I brought in Indian sweets for the teachers, and in the afternoon I gave each of the hostel girls a small gift. A few tears were shed, and of course they wanted to know when I was coming back well, the fortune telling cow did nod when I asked it if I would ever come back to India time will tell.

Back home

As I sit writing this, in a cold and snowy Holland, I can look back on an amazing Indian experience.

I was met with kindness and friendship wherever I went.

My host family took me into their home and treated me with great hospitality.

The children at school were very friendly and always keen to learn.

The teachers were open to new ideas and wonderfully patient with my lack of Hindi.

I knew I could rely on Asha and Pierre to give advice, support and friendship whenever I needed them.

Varanasi was an assault on all the senses, full of contrasts and contradictions.

They say that, of all the cities in India, Varanasi is the dirtiest, the oldest and the holiest.

They also say that you either love India or you hate it I come down on the side of 'love'.

For me this trip was an adventure and an opportunity, and I hope also the chance to make a difference, however small.

Sylvia Livingstone