

Do you know what this is – (*show plumbline*) – Do you know what its name isand do you know what it is FOR?Yes, it is used when you are building a wall. When you are beginning to build a house, the whole house will fall down, if the walls are not straight. The builder needs a plumb-line so that he builds the bricks up to the line. If God puts his plumb-line against your life and mine, will he find it straight or crooked?

Maybe someone says to you and me, “I want a straight talk with you!” That probably means that they are going to tell us exactly what they think. It may be painful but it will probably be healthy. They are going to tell us the truth as they see it. Straight talking is very important in all relationships.

Being straight – being true is a good quality of character and one that we need in friends, partners and family. It is very good that we ask God, every morning, to make us true.

God bless you.



SCHOOL PRAYER 10. WORK AND PLAY *Assembly 42 – Sunday March 16th 2003*

The very final phrase of the school prayer is ‘in all our work and in all our play.’ The whole sentence is ‘Preserve us from sin and selfishness and make us generous and brave, pure and true in all our work and in all our play.’ I like this phrase because it tells us that, when you come to school you play as well as work and sometimes, just sometimes, a teacher makes their lesson SO interesting that you do not know whether you are working OR playing because it is such fun! Do you sometimes find that? That is very nice, isn’t it? It is good when we enjoy what we are learning – when it feels really good to feel your brain cells turning over like the engine of a racing car! Or, maybe, when we are

doing creative work, when we are reading some lovely poetry or some really interesting book, or when we are making music or looking at pictures – or painting pictures – or acting in a drama – then our minds are playing happily in the presence of beauty. Is it work or is it play? We do not know!

But whether we are working or playing we should keep a good attitude. If you are pleasant and cheerful in the classroom but, when you get onto the cricket field, you have a very bad temper, then you need help to balance your life. In fact, you can learn a lot about someone on the sports field. It is quite a good rule – never to marry anyone unless you have seen them LOSE a match or competition. See how they behave! Someone who behaves badly every time they lose can be a big problem to live with. Good behaviour in play-time is just as important as good behaviour in class-time. Some of you are getting much better at eating your tiffin nicely but some of you still like fighting and quarreling in your free time, or whenever there is no teacher to supervise you.

I hope you all have some play-time when you go home in the afternoon. It is very important to play with your families. How many of you have little brothers and sisters? I hope you do not say, “I am now a student of the The British School, and I am MUCH too busy to play with you!” Especially if they are very little, I am sure that whoever has been looking after them all day, is very grateful when big brother or sister comes home and plays with the little one for a time. I am sure you know how important it is to allow little ones to win races and games by slowing down and making deliberate mistakes so that you lose and they win and so you let them feel VERY clever! It is nice when you have games you can play indoors as well as outdoors – apart from computer games. Maybe, in your classes, your Form Teacher can let you take it in turns to bring your favourite board game to school and show the other members of the form.

I like watching Animal Planet on TV – do you? And other animal programmes, too. Do you like pictures of young animals

playing? You see young lions and tigers pouncing on Mummy's tail but, when they are playing, they are developing their muscles for the day when they will be pouncing on deer or zebra when they are hungry and need to eat. Play is practice for life. It is true of us too. When we are playing, we are practicing our life-skills. Never let anyone say to you, "It is ONLY playing! It is not important!" or "You must not play. You must work!" To be really healthy in body and mind, we need BOTH work and play. There is an English saying, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy!"

God bless you.



YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY PEBBLE ON THE BEACH!

Assembly 43 – March 17th 2003

Those of you who remember the first few days of this term, will remember that some of the children from Nursery School, having been brought here on the first day of school, decided, quite quickly, that they did not like school and, please, could they go home to Mummy *now*? When a little child goes to school for the first time, many find it very hard. At home, some of these little 3 year olds have been treated as little kings and queens and, suddenly, they are in a classroom with 15 or 20 other little kings and queens! They are now one of a group and many of them do not know how to behave as one of a group.. Some of them, who have a large family at home where they have begun to learn how to fit in, find it easier. But for others it can be very difficult.

But it is not only in the Nursery School that these lessons have to be learned. All the way up the school, some of you behave as though, when you forget something or do something wrong, it

will not be treated as important. The teacher asks the whole class to do something – but *you* find it a little inconvenient and so *you* do not! You say, "I have left my work at home," or "I have forgotten a pen today," and you think the teacher will say, "Oh, never mind, dear. That does not matter!"

Education is a preparation for life. As you grow up and as you get jobs and join families – and as you create families of your own, you have to learn to fit in with what is convenient for other people. You *are* an individual but you are *also* part of a group. This school is going to be much tougher with those of you who are forgetting to bring your work to school. It has become an epidemic! Every teacher knows how maddening it is, not to have a complete set of work to mark – to have work coming in late. So I am warning you what will happen. When you do not give work in on time, the Subject teacher will write a little note and give it to your Form teacher. Your form teacher will collect these little notes and, when there are three of them, your Form Teacher will talk with the Coordinator and a letter will go to your parents or guardians and you will be 'in detention'!

I hope all of you who *do* hand in your work on time will welcome this development. You must get very annoyed because your teachers waste so much time on those pupils who cannot organize their work properly. Please help yourself by using your diaries to help you to remember when your work needs to be handed in. Write it in your diary for the evening before. For the rest of your life, you are going to have to learn to keep a diary so start now! This is a good preparation for life.

But, more importantly, you have to be helped to *care* about being one of a group and not just a little king or queen who always wants your own way. It is right that, in a school, we treat you, as much as we can, as individuals. We have small classes which helps a lot. But learning to behave as one of a larger group of people is also a life-skill that you must learn. There is an English expression, "You are not the only pebble on the beach!"