

right for you to take advantage of the school to develop your brains and get good examination results. We have a Minister for Economic Affairs who keeps saying, "Have you got enough money for that?" We have a Minister for Skills and Hobbies who encourages us to develop in interesting ways. We have a Minister of Religious Affairs who keeps reminding us of the great and ultimate questions of life and meaning. We have a Minister for Fun and Games and that minister is always shouting, "Boring! Boring! I want more of your time!" - but he too is very important because every human being needs *some* fun and games. We also have a Minister for Family and Other Relationships who keeps reminding us that we are not just ME ME ME - we are part of a human family and society that needs our time and relationship skills. All these different parts of our lives are important and, when our lives are governed properly then, like a nation, all matters in our lives have the correct *level* of importance.

In a way, it is another way of looking at this poster. Each one of us is made up of different interests and relationships and feelings. There are times when we can feel great tension between different parts of ourselves. Life is full of difficult decisions when we have to decide which member of our Cabinet has to be listened to most. Maybe you have an important job but a member of your family is suddenly ill or in distress. You have to decide how you can get these two parts of your life to work together - what are your priorities. It is not easy. But most of you can begin to be aware of the importance of listening to the different sections of your life and realize that they all have to learn to work together well because 'None of us is as smart as all of us'.

God bless you.



**'ALL WORK AND NO PLAY MAKES JACK
A DULL BOY.'**

Assembly 77 - May 28th 2003

Recently, the Junior School took home a letter which encouraged your parents to plan some sort of routine for you all when you get home from school - not such a strict one of course, but still some pattern for you to follow that includes a healthy balance of work and play.

I am concerned that some parents in Bangladesh think that the only thing a schoolboy or girl should be doing when they get home from school is hours and hours of study and extra coaching. If some of you have parents like that, there is an English saying which you may like to quote, "All work and no play, makes Jack a dull boy." Can you say that? (*Repeat*) It also applies to girls too, of course. You must have some time for rest when you get home - to wash and eat and even go to sleep for a time. Then it is very nice if you can do some activities that are in a different gear to your school work. Maybe you dance or play the guitar or another musical instrument. Maybe you like drawing and painting. Maybe you like playing chess or other board games. These things can refresh you after your school day. Then you must have time for your homework but this should not go on for ever. And it certainly should not be done with one eye on the television or stopping to play computer games. Go somewhere quiet and fully concentrate for the amount of time that you need and then close your school books, pack your bag for the next day and do something else. I hope all of you have time, at the end of the day, maybe, for some reading for pleasure - a good storybook in Bengali or English.

But it is also very important for you, every afternoon or evening, to do something else that is essential. Please make time to share your life with your parents and other members of your family. Some of you, I am sure, have little brothers and sisters, who cannot wait for you to get home to play with them and that too is important. I remember my eldest brother patiently having lots of imaginary cups of tea from my doll's tea-set. But there are others at home with whom you can learn to talk in a grown-up way. In our new school diaries, there will be a space where you can write down what you studied in class, so that when someone at home says, "What did you do today?" you don't mutter, "Oh, I don't know," before going off to play. The people paying for your education do have a right to know whether this school is doing anything at all for you between 8.15 and 2.30 every day. Think of things to tell them that will interest them or amuse them and help them to understand your world of school. Ask them what sort of day they have had. Get your mother to talk about the friend she has visited or the work she is doing. Ask your father and mother's opinion on things. Communicate! Family life has to be worked at. You can do so many things together that you cannot do separately. The world is changing very quickly. Your life is probably very different from your parents' lives and even more different from your grandparents' lives. This makes being a parent AND being a child not at all easy.

Parents and children can find it very difficult to understand each other. Some parents say, sadly, "My children are living in a different world from the one I had." Please learn to communicate across those different worlds with your family members. Moreover, people are so busy today. Fathers – and mothers too – work very long hours and are tired when they come in – and so are you. But, please, do all you can, to find a time, some time every day, or even every week, just talking with them, showing them that you want to share your life with them because you love them and show them that you are doing your best to understand

the world in which you are growing up and to understand their world as well.

One day, most of you will have families of your own and, I hope you will help them to communicate with one another, share their lives and learn how to love and support one another through lives that may have many challenges but together you can face them.

God bless you.



GETTING ON WITH EACH OTHER

Assembly 78 – Sunday June 1st 2003

I have something to announce which should make us all very proud and happy. There is a very fine NGO called the ICDDR – the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh. It is 25 years old this year and decided to have an Art competition including all the pupils of Dhaka from 8 years old to 15. All the schools in Dhaka were invited to send art work – except us, because we had been missed off the list! But our Art Master, Shawon Akand, has many contacts in Dhaka and he discovered that we had been missed out and we got a late invitation. There was very little time left but, in 1 or 2 days, eleven pupils submitted art work and it was sent up and now we have the results. All eleven of the pictures were considered so good that they were accepted for the exhibition. Moreover, when SIX pictures were chosen as the best in the whole of Dhaka, one picture was from one of our pupils. Deepaneeta Hossein of Year 5 A will receive a certificate and prize at some Assembly in the future. But we want to congratulate her NOW so please will she step forward for a big clap.....