

school in England, we used to have very long end-of-term Assemblies, with prize-giving, and most of us were sitting on the floor. In the middle, my old Principal used to say, "Now you may have a wriggle!" and we all got up and moved around because we had got very stiff. So, if you have been sitting still for 40 minutes, your muscles have probably got stiff. You need to move around a bit and stretch your legs, so that, when the next teacher comes in, you are not fidgeting all the time. (What is the Bengali word for fidgeting?). So please, let us get the routine between lessons more developed and may I ask the teachers to help see that this routine is kept.

I shall talk about another part of our routine tomorrow – I expect you have noticed that we are all beginning to wear our new badges so I will be talking about that.

God bless you.



**LEARNING TO BE PART OF OUR COUNTRY -  
WHEN SOME PEOPLE ARE COLD**  
*Assembly 7 – January 13<sup>th</sup> 2003*

*(Show the piece of jigsaw puzzle)* – What is our theme this week? Learning to be one piece in the jigsaw puzzle – learning to be part of a group.

The group we are born into is the family – we first learn to be part of that – and then we come to school and we learn to be part of that. We need routines because, if we do not have time-tables and ways of doing things, the school would be a madhouse.

But then, we learn to be part of the wider world also - because there is an even bigger world outside the school that we are also part of. Yesterday, I said I would talk to you about our new labels but one of our teachers had a very good idea yesterday so I am

going to speak about something else. She said, there are so many people suffering in Bangladesh from the cold, maybe our school could help by collecting warm clothes - like socks and pullovers and coats that our pupils no longer need and we can give them to the poor who have nothing. So, we are asking you to bring to school whatever you can spare that will give some warmth to those who cannot afford warm clothes.

But I am now going to say something very important. When we give to the poor, we must give in a way that says to them, very clearly, that, just because they are poor in money, does not mean they are less important or inferior or less intelligent than we are. It is important to give to the poor in a way that is respectful – so please do not give clothes that are dirty or have great holes in them or that you would not like to receive because you would feel insulted. When we give things away we must never give without some sign of respect to our fellow human-beings. A true gift always comes with a little piece of our heart. That is the way we want people to be kind to us – and that is the way we should be kind to others. We are all part of the same jigsaw puzzle.

Now someone will tell you about the collection in Bangla so that you all understand it quite clearly ...



**LEARNING TO BE ONE OF A GROUP – OF  
DIFFERENT PEOPLE!**  
*Assembly 8 – January 13<sup>th</sup> 2003*

*(Show the piece of the jigsaw puzzle)* What is this? What is our theme for this week? Learning to be a piece of the jigsaw puzzle, learning to be one of a group.

Yesterday, our cricket team had a match. They did very well. They lost, but they did very well and they got 115 runs which is



better than last year. They are getting better so let us give them a clap!

One of the things we have to learn when we are one of a group is that we cannot win every time. When we are little and in our families, sometimes our families are very kind to us and let us win. I had two big brothers and sometimes we had races and they pretended to be running very fast but, in fact, they were running very slowly and letting me pass them so that I could win – so I felt very proud! But when I went to school, other pupils were not so kind to me and they ran to win and I didn't win all the races. In a big group, in a class, in a school, someone has to come last.

But when we are very good at learning what it means to be in a group, then we learn to encourage each other so that everyone feels that they are good at something. It is not nice if some people in a group behave as though they are superior to the others in everything. In a good group, everyone is trying to fit well with the others. Those of you who were here last year must encourage the new pupils. It can be very hard to be a new pupil. One day, when you go to another school or college after this one, you will be new and you will want people to be nice to you.

You are learning to be a good member of a group if you are trying to get the best possible marks but not believing that the only thing that is important is who comes first. It is good to have competition at the top of the class but what is most important is whether you are improving – whether you have got better marks than last time. Each of us should be trying to do our best so that our best gets better and better. If you got 1 out of 10 in a test last time and have got 5 out of 10 in the next test, that is very good.

But, if your usual mark is around 8 out of 10 and YOU get 5 out of 10, then your teacher may say, "Huh! You can do better than this!" and you think, "That isn't fair. The teacher has just praised that pupil for getting 5 out of 10 and then is angry with me for getting 5 out of 10! Not fair!" But then 5 out of 10 is a good mark for them because it is a better mark than usual. It is a bad

mark for you because it is a poorer mark than usual. You are all different.

So we learn that, when we are part of a group, we must learn to accept that we are all different and adapt to it. In sport also, we are all different shapes and sizes and abilities. Some of you are growing very quickly and some of you are growing slowly but, in sport, you can all learn to work together in your teams. Every piece of the jigsaw puzzle is different but that is what makes a jigsaw puzzle interesting and it is our differences that can help us to develop our understanding of others and learn to be better people, ourselves. God bless you.



## **LEARNING TO BE PART OF A GROUP – AND CELEBRATING**

*Assembly 9. January 15<sup>th</sup> 2003*

We are part of a group – and one of the really nice things about being part of a group is that we can do lots of exciting things as a group that we cannot do on our own. It is a very difficult to play a game of cricket on one's own. Even a very fast runner cannot be both a bowler and a batsman! We cannot have a party on our own – and you certainly cannot have a school of only one person. No, we all have to learn to work together if we want to live a better and more interesting life.

One of the things that we are going to do together soon is have a special day – a day when we celebrate being The British School. It will be on Thursday January 23<sup>rd</sup> – a week tomorrow. It will be our Foundation Day Ceremony. You will all be taking home an invitation to this day to your family but please remember that it is a week tomorrow. On the day before, there will be no ordinary school because so many of you will be needed to make the school