

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

look very nice and put up displays of work and practice the cultural events – the songs and dances and drama. The school will be open between 9am and 3pm so we hope that all families will be able to come for some of that time. The prize-giving will be at 11am and there will be food at 12 pm so we will need a lot of helpers who will practice how to be gracious hosts and hostesses to all our visitors. It is very good education for life to learn how to be someone who can welcome others to your home and see that they have a good time and serve them food. We will be welcoming a lot of visitors – and the important guests who will be presenting the prizes – and it will be good practice for some of you to learn how to do this very nicely.

We are going to lose 3 school days – there is a hartal tomorrow then we have 2 days next week with no lessons. So we are asking you to come to school on Saturday 25th when we will have the time-table for Thursdays because we will have lost two Thursdays. I hope the 25<sup>th</sup> is not anyone's birthday!

The teachers are looking for examples of best work to put up as part of the classroom displays. Not everyone's work can be put up but I hope that all of you will try to have something up in your best subject. I hope we will all work together to make our Foundation Day Ceremony, a week on Thursday, a happy day when we can prove that we know how to work together to give our visitors a happy time and good experience of our school.

God bless you.



**LEARNING TO BE PART OF A GROUP – AND  
BEING TRUSTWORTHY**  
*Assembly 10 - January 19<sup>th</sup> 2003*

Last week, I asked you to bring unwanted warm clothes to give to the poor who are suffering from the cold – and some of you brought bags of nice things. Thank you very much. Our Superintendent knew about the leading NGO working with poor people in the country villages in the north-west of Bangladesh where it has the coldest and driest weather in Bangladesh. This NGO is called RDRS – Rangpur Dijnapur Rural Service and it has been working there for over 30 years, since the War of Independence, when it helped refugees. RDRS works to develop the lives of the poorest people, to increase their skills, to develop their confidence, especially of the women. Except for a few advisers and consultants, all the staff are Bangladeshis, although the funding comes from churches in Europe, America and Asia. They have a minibus that goes regularly from Dhaka and our clothes went up there on Friday so they have reached an area of great need very soon after we had the idea that we should organize this collection. We have acted quickly. Well done to everyone!

I am still helping us all to think about the way in which we can learn how to be part of The British School or, indeed, any group, for the rest of your life. We are thinking about what life-skills you need to be part of your family, part of this school, part of any group or team of people – and part of your country and world.

One of the most important skills is to be trustworthy – to behave in a proper way so people do not hold onto their purses every time they see you. If we cannot trust one another in this school, then this is a very serious business. If we have thieves in our midst then all of us feel very unhappy.