

THE Sylvia Wright TRUST

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 326139

Supporting

Residential School for 220 profoundly deaf children
Education & Therapy Centre for 100 severely disabled children
Nursing College for 120 students

Newsletter Easter 2020

www.sylviawright.org

Dear Friends

Here in India I get my news from the BBC World Service and I have, of course, been closely following developments in regard to Coronavirus. You are all in my prayers and I do hope that you are all safe. At the time of writing things are developing here. Although none of us have yet been affected, on government orders we have sent home all the schoolchildren under 15. The older ones will follow shortly.

I am well and fully recovered after last year's accidents. However, although I am still working 10 hours a day for six days a week, I am now 82: with future partnerships in mind, a number of visitors have been coming to meet me, the children, staff and governors.

Visitors always comment on how happy the children are. This is a great reward and a tribute to my dedicated staff.

I do thank you all most sincerely for your continued generosity and encouragement. Please continue to pray for us all in the present emergency and in our efforts to secure the future.

Love Sylvia

Parents Day



The school for the deaf is residential because the children come from a wide catchment area. For nearly 10 months each year, apart from the many Indian festival days, the staff not only have to meet the children's educational needs but also to give them security, affection and social skills. The last Saturday of every month is Parents Day. Extended families are the norm in India, especially in rural areas. Family values are very strong, so everyone looks forward to this day. Fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and grandparents come to the school, bringing food from home. Nothing can compare with home cooking! Parents have a meeting with the staff, discuss their child's progress and then spend the rest of the day with their child.

Eager Young Gymnasts



Children from the school for the deaf are encouraged to join in games, gymnastics and running in addition to their academic studies. They are very enthusiastic. Cricket is the boys' favourite game with gymnastics coming a close second. The girls tend to enjoy basketball and volleyball. Many are very good runners.

Clowns Visit the Day Centre

A group of clowns from Germany gave a show for our disabled and deaf children. None had seen clowns before but they were thrilled by the antics.



Preparing for Exams



Exam revision is a serious matter and is done with great intensity, often out of doors. Many children like to study in 'Christopher's Garden', a covered area surrounded by trees and flowering plants, built in memory of a son of Michael and Judith Lydon who died in his thirties a decade ago. Christopher was born with spina bifida and spent his life in a wheelchair. Sylvia knew Christopher from when he was a small boy and was always impressed with the devotion of his parents and brothers: She said, 'He was one of the happiest persons I have known in spite of the physical challenges he had to face.' The Lydon family have been stalwart supporters of Sylvia ever since she first went to India in 1982.

Nursing College

This academic year's new intake of was welcomed by staff and the governors, in the presence of parents. Second and third year students helped design a formal induction programme which was followed by games, competitions and a dance entertainment. A small gift was given to each new entrant. All monies to pay for this were donated by senior students. A lamp lighting ceremony takes place six months after entry when each new student is given a candle lit by a person of seniority in the profession, as a symbol of passing on the principles of care, compassion and the vocational aspect of the work. An oath is taken to do just that! It is very moving.



More Sponsors Needed

Most of the children in the school and a few of those in the day centre have sponsors. They are delighted to have a 'friend in the West'. We need sponsors for the remaining children. An update on the child is sent to the sponsor twice a year. Some sponsors like to respond. Details are available from Angela Clark (0113 267 7660).



Tony Allinson is pictured with the children sponsored by his extended family.

Birthday Party

Sylvia celebrated her 82nd birthday in January with nursing students, schoolchildren, parents and staff. A large number of former students came too, many with wives or husbands and their own children. No fewer than 800 sat down to a buffet.

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