

Dampura School Newsletter

August 2018

CFDC's child sponsorship program is underway. Donors are covering the full cost of educating the students to break the cycle of poverty and help the community.

cfdc

www.cfdc.co.uk

Registered charity number: 1108952

A note from the principal

The relationship between our school and CFDC is almost three years old. My appointment at the school is also four years old. It was my responsibility to fulfil educational and material needs of the students and there is a great support from CFDC.

Our village is an interior village and most of the people are labourers. Many families are working very hard to earn their livelihoods. It's my duty to take care of the educational progress of the children of such families.

While talking about the children education needs with CFDC this year, it was a matter of worry for us that many girls were not going to higher education as compared to the boys. When we researched the reasons, we knew that the distance between the village and the high school is almost three or four kilometres. The parents didn't allow their girls to take that journey. Some children have no fathers and mothers or both, and some are very poor. These parents could not send their children for higher studies because of such difficulties.

Our criteria for selection are single parented or no parented students Then we selected some bright students from the poor backgrounds.

Secondly, the transport facility for these children has started so that more girls can continue their studies and seeing this, this should inspire other parents to educate children.

The students have been given bags, notebooks, exercise books, shoes, socks, and all annual fees have been paid.

I thank all the Sponsors and CFDC very much. Because of your excellent endeavour, this is a great revolution in the village. The girls are going for further education and making their families proud.

The villagers thank you from the bottom of their hearts. They have said, "If the Sponsors had not helped us, our children would not have continued their studies."

Whenever I meet the parents, they tell me to thank you all very much.

Chirag Shah, Principal

A few messages from the students

Thank you very much for everything you have provided. If you had not supported us we would not have studied further. We will never forget you.

Thank you very much.

Hetalben

- Thank you for providing us these facilities. Had you not given these facilities, we might not continue our further studies. The secondary school is very far from where we live. We can study further because of the facilities provided by you. I always thought I would never have the chance to study further, as we don't have the income and the school is far away, but due to the facilities provided by you we can study further. We promise you that we will learn very well, and we will progress our lives.

- We can't wait to see you again!

Bhumikaben

People from London have given us some beautiful things. To many to list.

They have purchased all these things for us to improve our education. You have done so many things for us. So we promise you that we will learn many new things now.

Thank you

Vijay

First of all, we were thinking of not going to school for further education, but now with the help from you we can. You have given us so much and helped us a lot. This will change our lives. We promise that we will study hard and better our lives.

We thank you very much for all the help.

Heenaben

Hi,

My father is a farmer and did not have much education that's why I want to learn further. I had no idea of studying further, but you have helped us and you have brightened up our lives. You have given us everything required to progress further; school uniform, shoes, socks and plenty more. You have done so much for us which we will never forget. You have created a new life for us and today we are moving forward because of you. We will never forget you when we are get older. We are very grateful to you. Thank you

Asmitaben

First of all, I would like to thank you for all the help you have provided us. I received good marks this year and my desire was to study further and I knew that this was my last academic year at Dampura. I had to go very far from my village to study further. I was thinking of how to go there. But then my school principal informed me that you would not have any problem. You will be provided with best facilities supported by CFDC, so you will go to school. So I promise to get good results from the school because of your help. I will progress very well and I will try to become successful in my life.

Today I see my dream come true.

Miss you...can't wait to see you all!

Jalpa



Daunting but exhilarating...a volunteers story

Having taken part in volunteer and charity work numerous times previously, I expected my time at Dampura Primary School to be very similar but boy, was I wrong. With an Indian heritage, the opportunity to immerse myself in a culture I'd only ever heard of was super exciting. Travelling 6,914 kilometres with my partner to Anand in the heat of summer was not only daunting but exhilarating; the challenge of the 1-80 culture shock, the heat and trying to communicate with little to no ability to speak Gujarati was well and truly on.

We started our work at Dampura Primary school on 11th June; helping the teachers with whatever we could in regards to students enrolling. Watching the children walk into the school on their first day back was magical... such adorable faces with the widest eyes and biggest smiles; I'd never seen children so happy to be at school!

The welcome Josh and I received was unlike any other we'd ever experienced; the teachers (especially Chiragbhai) were so hospitable and willing to go above and beyond to ensure we felt at home. The children's passion for life shone through in their constant waves, smiles and chit chat whenever possible making us feel comfortable and wanted.

Teaching English to a mixed ability class which consisted of a mixture of ages couldn't have been possible if it wasn't for Jayminiben. Her positivity, patience and passion for teaching made the whole experience amazing and definitely less of a challenge. Introducing Jayminiben and the children to new methods of learning through playing games was joyous to watch; the Cheshire cat smiles and shrieks of excitement when we announced we were about to play a game was unbeatable.

After a week of teaching the children new vocabulary we decided to turn things up a notch and explore a topic they'd never touched on; tenses. It was a rocky start but how quickly the children picked up all the new information amazed Josh and I. Seeing the children's knowledge of the English language improve so rapidly was extremely rewarding and made the blisteringly hot heat worth it.

Although we only experienced 2 weeks of the chaos, fun and love Anand and Dampura Primary School had to offer, the time we had with the children and teachers had a huge impact on us. The teachers' motivation and passion they have in ensuring the children got the best education possible inspired us beyond beliefs and the children's ability to always be enthusiastic and happy to learn made us deeply reflect on how much we take our education for granted. One thing is for certain, we will definitely be back and visit both the children and teachers of Dampura Primary school very soon.

Cheyanne and Josh

