So the big word today is – SHARING. Maybe some of your teachers will speak more to you about this word and its meaning.

God bless you.

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I AM LEARNING!

Assembly 3 January 7th 2003

Do you remember the theme of yesterday's assembly? SHARING. Today, I want to show you what, in England, we call an L-plate. *(Show it)* Do you know what L is for? Do you know where you see L-plates in England and other countries?

We see them on the front and back of cars? What does it mean? That the drivers are Learner-Drivers! ? The L-plate tells people I AM LEARNING. Learner-drivers are the drivers who are preparing for their driving test. They have to drive on the roads in order to practice but all the other drivers know they are learner-drivers and usually keep their distance and are especially tolerant.

The driving test in England is very difficult. Some people take it many times before they pass it. When you pass, you are very happy and sometimes you invite your friends and you burn your L-plates!

But when it comes to education, we can never burn our L-plates. We are always learning. In fact, in the business of being alive, of being human, there is always something new to learn. Especially now, the world is changing very fast. In education, every teacher is having to learn new methods, even ones who are good teachers – *especially* ones that are good teachers. But it is also true in every job. Everyone is having to re-train. None can say, "I have been doing my job now for so many years, that no one can teach me anything." None can say that.

In the more developed countries, there is a culture of re-training. Everyone is being re-trained! Directors of big companies – and hospital cleaners, doctors, teachers and musicians – everyone goes away for re-training. People are networking to share new ideas. Here in Dhaka, the English-medium schools are beginning to network with one another and we are beginning to organize united cultural events – we are having a dance exhibition in May and Miss Nehreen is already training a group for that. We are also expecting to have some teacher-training events. No one can say, "We do not need this. We have nothing to learn from each other!" We learn from each other when we listen and work with each other.

When you come to school, the most important thing you learn is HOW TO LEARN. You are learning how you are going to learn the skills you need to live. What is our school motto? 'Education for life'. We are all students, all our lives long. We have to wear our L-plates all our lives. I AM LEARNING is a verb in the continuous present tense.

God bless you.

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LEARNING FROM OUR MISTAKES

Assembly 4 – January 8th 2003

(Show L-plates again)

Do you remember what these were? Learning for a life-time - Education for a life-time.

Have any of you seen a baby learning to walk? What happens? .....It keeps falling down. When we see a baby falling down when it is learning to walk, what do we do? Are we angry? .....No, of course not! .....What would you think if someone said, "You naughty baby! How dare you fall down? How stupid you