little brothers and sisters at home and some of you may be teaching your parents how to use the computer or the video!

But there is something very strange about teaching. Imagine that you get a puncture in your bicycle and you do not know how to mend it. Some person comes along and teaches you how to mend a puncture. Fine! Now you can do it yourself – and you do not need the person who taught you! When you have taught someone something, then they do not need you any more. So the aim of teachers is to make themselves unnecessary. Teachers exist so that you do can learn to do things yourself, become independent and accept responsibility for your own life. When a teacher has taught for many years, we have seen pupils grow from weakness to strength, from dependency to independency. It is a very exciting job to see someone you remember as a little pupil, able to cope with life and do something useful and have their own life. When you walk out of the school gate and say, "'Bye, 'bye," for the last time, then that is the completion of our work, because you are able to live without The British School. This school exists so that, one day, you can leave it, because you do not need it any more. Right now, you need our help to learn many different skills – and, above all, learn what it means to be YOU – and the very special person you are.

God bless you.

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LEARNING TO BE PART OF OUR SCHOOL – TIME-TABLES

Assembly 6 - Sunday January 12th 2003

(Take piece of jigsaw puzzle and a time-table)

(Hold up the piece of jigsaw puzzle) Do any of you know what this is? … I wonder if any of you can guess what the theme of this week's assemblies is going to be? Learning to be just one piece in

a big jigsaw puzzle called The British School! Learning to be part of our school. When you are at home, some of you are part of a much smaller group. Here you have to learn to be part of a much bigger group. If over 300 pupils all behaved at school as they do at home – there could be chaos!

To start with, we need to have a daily routine – and part of this routine is called a TIME-TABLE. Many Bangladeshis call this a 'routine' but that is not the correct English word – that is 'Banglish'. I believe a school with the name of The British School, should teach you very good English and not Banglish. *This* is called a time-table. Can you say that? (Spell it…) What do our time-tables tell us? Now, the word 'routine' is a very good word. It does not mean 'time-table' – it means a system – a way of doing something regularly – and we need routines here as well as time-tables. We need to have ways of doing things that help us to be 300 people working well together in one building.

May I ask you to think very carefully today about the routine BETWEEN lessons. When one teacher leaves you, that is not the time to fight, or play or stare out of the window or go to sleep. That is the time when you go to the toilet – I do not want to see pupils going to and from their classrooms in lesson-time unless they are very young indeed or unless there is an emergency of some kind. Between lessons is also the time when you take a drink, if you want one, either from the drinking fountain or from your water-bottle. Try not to do that in the middle of a lesson. Most of all it is the time when you put into your bag the books you used in the last lesson and get out of your bag the books you need in the next lesson so that you are ready when the next teacher comes in. Your next teacher has prepared the lesson and is ready for you – you must be ready for him or her. You should stand by your desks to greet the next teacher with all your books ready and your pencils sharpened or pens at hand.

Between lessons is also the time for what my Principal called 'a wriggle' – do you know what a wriggle is? When I was at

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 13th 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 13th 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