

India Link Day 4

Monday 15th January 2019

Today I got the chance to visit our link school in Kolkata which is called Awami. I was excited and a little nervous about today but I really enjoyed it although it was probably the hardest day's teaching I have ever experienced! The school is tiny, just one room which is about 2mx 2msquare! At the busy point there were 36 children and 4 adults squeezed in plus quite a few people watching through the window and door. Some of the younger children did not stay for the whole morning, coming in a bit later and leaving earlier.



You can see how tiny the school is here, it is as wide as the building you can see and goes back about 2 metres, it doesn't have a door and the window has bars. It is very hot in India and although it is winter it was very warm squashed into the room.





I was with another teacher called Kim and we read stories, did some work on colours and animals, practised phonics and did some addition and subtraction as well as singing some songs. They have made lots of progress since we started the link with Awami 2 years ago. We were teaching from about 9.45 to 1.45 without any breaks and the children sat in the same place on the floor for all that time. When we came to leave they still had another hour of school left. They were all beautifully behaved and didn't fidget or moan about being squashed! We gave each of the children a cuddly toy as a gift from Scargill and they loved them



The streets around Awami School are very different to West Hallam but there are lots of similarities, the boys on the left hand picture are playing cricket and stopped when we walked through to shake hands and say hello. You can spot lots of washing hanging out, just like we do in the summer. There were also some people fixing a bike and parents collecting their children from school and having a chat just like in West Hallam



I don't think I will ever see a goat wearing a t-shirt near Scargill but some people do dress their dogs in coats and jumpers in the winter!

