

Kolkata 2018

Day 9 –Saturday 27th January 2018

Our last full day in Kolkata ... full of goodbyes!

As I write this, we are coming to the end of our final full day in Kolkata. This is really hard to believe but by this time tomorrow, we will be well into our second flight of the day and only a few hours from landing in Birmingham.

Today we had our final day of training and I taught Indians how to play cricket! Well, I taught them to play dice cricket. Mind you, the England cricket team (me!) did not seem to fare well when games were played against the Indian teachers. Dice cricket is a simple game that captures the imagination of the children but allows them to use lots of simple addition without even realising it!



However, the training was only part of the day. It ended with a little show that was put on by the Indian teachers and was advertised as just ten minutes. Over an hour later, we had seen songs, drama, dancing, and lots of awards and certificates! It was typical of the Indians we had met - kindness and generosity oozing out of every pore (as well as keeping time like a broken clock!). Well, I suppose everyone has to have a failing.

After the epic send-off, we went to have an audience with the Bishop of Kolkata who gave us presents and

more kind words. Meeting the bishop in Derby is a big deal but this audience seemed like it was meeting the queen or a head of state!

All that remained was one last meal together and a ride in one of Kolkata's Tuck Tucks. Little motorised taxis that can fit five if everyone is prepared to be very cosy. We had wanted to get one for ages but tonight we managed to take it back to the hotel. It was not very far and was probably very lazy but it was fun!

And so to bed for an early night because we have to meet in the hotel lobby at 5.00am so that we can get to the airport in time to get out flight.

I can't believe that it is time to return to England and I will be sad to leave the amazing experiences that I have had with the schools here in Kolkata and Mahamaya but I am really looking forward to seeing everyone at Scargill on Monday morning.



I hope that you have enjoyed reading the blogs about my experiences and I hope to be able to share much more over the coming weeks when I return.



Ready for going home. See you on Monday, Scargill!