

Dear Headteacher

The Mathematics team would like to support Sue Atkinson's Asha Kiran project. It could provide a great opportunity for you in school to have some fun while doing mathematics.

By taking part you will be able to help raise money to support the building of a special needs school in Bangalore, India.

Details of the project are attached with this letter. We hope that you will consider this as a project for your school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Constance M Tyce". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Constance Tyce
Numeracy Adviser

Enc.

ASHA KIRAN SPECIAL SCHOOL – A LENT PROJECT



*Rt Revd David Atkinson,
Bishop of Thetford*

I am delighted to be able to share with you about this wonderful project! Asha Kiran is the name of a school – the only integrated special needs school in the whole of Bangalore, South India, a city of eight million people.

My wife, Dr Sue Atkinson, and I were teaching at SAIACS, one of OC Team's partner colleges in Bangalore last March, and Sue was invited to help with some staff development at Asha Kiran School. We were delighted not only to be able to see this fine project in action, but also to discover that Prem James (the head teacher's husband and a trustee of the school) and I had met some years ago at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies.

WHAT DOES ASHA KIRAN DO?

At the moment there are 50 children at the school, all with disabilities of various sorts, some have severe learning difficulties. Asha Kiran is the only school which promotes an inclusive system of education, having children with differ-



Above: The staff and students of Asha Kiran



Left: Principal Rita James

ent disabilities under one roof. Parents are involved in the training process.

other crafts, drawing, painting, nature study, and PE. The older children study business studies.

The school was founded by Prem and Rita James, graduates of SAIACS. Rita is the head teacher and the school currently meets in her house, and in her rooms, and on her roof! They keep having to turn down requests for more pupils to come because there is no space.

A RAY OF HOPE

Asha Kiran means Ray of Hope – and one hope is that they will be able to build a new school for up to 200 children, and also accommodate about 50 boarders. The school is a firmly Christian foundation, a registered Trust.

The project is approved by local government agencies in Bangalore, but there is no State or government money. The land for the new building has already been obtained, partly through a gift from an evangelical church in the UK. My wife Sue and I went to see the land: at the moment it is a field of mango trees. I was asked to say a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing. All the architects' drawings and business plans have been drawn up and approved by specialists.



Music is just one of the extra-curriculum activities enjoyed by the students

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO HELP?

The Church of England Diocese of Norwich is sponsoring a Lent Project from Ash Wednesday (5 March) to Easter this year, to raise some funds to enable Asha Kiran to have their new building. They need altogether over £100,000 – which would not build much here, but will go a very long way there.

I recently asked all our Church Schools whether they would like to register to be part of this project – and quite a number signed up very quickly. I then wrote to all the other schools in Norfolk to ask them to consider supporting the project and some of them have already indicated their desire to do so.

An article in our local newspaper and a piece on local radio have also yielded quite a lot of interest and contributions. Groups of people are planning a sponsored weight loss over Lent in aid of Asha Kiran! I think it would be a wonderful expression of Christian concern and neighbourly love for schools and churches here to contribute to building a special needs school in India.

My wife, Sue, is a primary maths specialist, and she has devised a 'maths pack' to help schools link various fund-

raising ideas to primary maths learning – both in school and at home.

I am grateful to OC Team for handling the finances for this project, co-ordinating the reporting of the project to supporters and for their invitation to share this project with you. I would like to invite readers of this newsletter, whether individuals, trusts or churches, to join with us in the Norwich Diocese to sponsor this project.



Classes include children with various disabilities

FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Please write to me at Rectory Meadow, Bramerton, Norwich, NR14 7DW. My office phone number is 01508 538251.

Sue and I will return to Bangalore in 2004 – it will be wonderful to see the new school in operation. There will be another prayer of thanksgiving and blessing then!

OC Team Executive Director Fred Connell writes:

It has been a great pleasure to enjoy fellowship with Bishop David over the last year. We count it a privilege to be able to work in partnership with him to support the Asha Kiran project, which is reaching out with Christ's love to some of India's most vulnerable children. It is so encouraging to see the impact this school is having, the outworking of graduates from one of our partner colleges.

Please give your support as you are able, using the response form on page 7.





RESULTS form to fax to 01508 538371

Learning objective

- Exploring place value and large numbers
- This activity is an opportunity for children to explore some very large numbers by joining in a sponsored matchbox filling activity. Children try to get as many things as they possibly can in a matchbox (or film canister, or small Smartie box).
- Then in a class activity they total the number of items in all the matchboxes in their class. When this activity has been done before it has worked best if Year 4, 5 and 6 children to go into classes with younger children and help them with this adding. Don't worry too much about every young child following every step! Previously we have found even Reception children fascinated!
- Then, maybe in a whole school assembly, the total number of items for the whole school is found. (You might want to write down some estimates first.) You might find the Millions Poster from Tarquin useful for this.

**Please fill this in with the children and fax to 01508 538371
at any time, but no later than Wednesday 7th May 2003**

Class name/number	Total items

Our school grand total

If you send us your school fax number and you would like to know the final grand total for all of the Norfolk schools which take part, we will send it to you.

From (school)

FaxContact person.....

Asha Kiran sponsor form(school) (AK logo)

Name

Asha Kiran is the only integrated special needs school in Bangalore, India. At the moment children are taught in the head teacher's house. We are raising money to build a new and much larger school.

The task is to fill an 'ordinary' size match box with as many items as you can, all of them different. Make a numbered list of what you have in your box eg

1. a pin
2. a grain of sugar
3. an eye lash

Put your name and class on your list and on your match box.

Bring your list and your match box back to school on(date)

Sponsor name	Address	Amount per item	Total/ donation

Thanks very much for your help.