

## British Council school link with Nepal

### Cropwell Bishop Primary School linked with Shree Punya Higher Secondary, Rajarani Village

#### Project: Trash to Treasure

In February half term Miss Arnold and Mr Palmer flew to Nepal to develop the school link with Shree Punya Higher Secondary School in a village called Rajarani. They met the Principle Sir Loki and the teacher Jawan Tumbahangfe.



The school was set high up in the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains. After a short flight from Kathmandu to Biratnagar (where Burton Joyce's school was) it took 4 hours to reach the remote village of Rajarani by Jeep. The roads twisted and turned and were very bumpy and steep. School started at 10am because some of the children took 2 hours to walk to school. This is after they had cut grass to feed the animals they looked after and depended on. The children range from ages 4 to 18. The school also has 4 faculties of higher education including hotel management, education (teacher training), science and management. We thoroughly enjoyed spending time with the children at the school, giving assemblies, teaching lessons and even participating in a school football match!



There was a welcome party for us and on the first morning there was a big assembly outside to welcome us to the whole school. The members of the village community came to meet us and one night the best singer and dancer in the Limbu village came to entertain us around a camp fire. There is a waterfall park dedicated to Buddha and 2 lakes, one for the king and one for the queen of the area as they met here. The sky was so clear in the mountains and the millions of stars at night shone brightly, we could also see Jupiter.

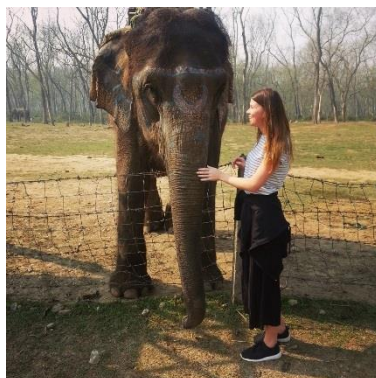
Mr Palmer and Miss Arnold helped the school to continue their ongoing project called Trash to Treasure, as well as offered support and ideas to further the project. One of the areas of the project includes building a greenhouse out of plastic bottles. In Nepal, recycling is not present and their rubbish is collected up and burned. The aim of the project is to encourage the use of recycling and reusing items that would otherwise be destroyed. The children thoroughly enjoyed collecting bottles from around the village and even members of the local community lent a hand!



Towards the end of the visit, we attended a conference in Kathmandu hosted by the British Council. We presented our Trash to Treasure project and the benefits of our link with Shree Punya School. Our presentation was a success and we even won an award for the best project! We are looking forward to watching our project progress and the greenhouse come to fruition.

We also visited several tourist areas whilst we were there:

### **Chitwan**



We travelled to Chitwan National Wildlife Park towards the Indian border to discover the beautiful and diverse range of animals that the country has to offer. We rode on an elephant safari into the Chitwan forest. Here we saw a range of mammals including rhinoceroses, monkeys and deer. We also canoed down the river where we saw reptiles such as crocodiles, snakes and an abundance of birds including spotted eagles, kingfishers, storks, babblers and sunbirds.

## Nargacot



On the way to Chitwan we stopped off in Nargacot, a viewing place for the Himalyan mountains. We were very lucky with clear skies and spectacular views of the highest mountain range in the world, including Mount Everest.

## Swayambunath – Monkey Temple



The main religions in Nepal are Buddhist and Hindu and there are many stunning temples that have been built to celebrate these. We visited the Buddhist temple called Swayambunath in the Kathmandu Valley. It took a great deal of climbing up steep paths and steps to get to it but it was worth it. The main stupa has Buddha's eyes painted on which are very significant. The left eye symbolises compassion and the right symbolises wisdom. The third eye (centre) represents spiritual awakening and the omnipotence of Buddha, while the curly symbol below the eyes is the Nepali character for the number 1, symbolising unity.

## Kathmandu

Kathmandu is the capital of Nepal. Recently large parts of it were destroyed by an earthquake which also affected the rest of the country. We were still able to visit Durber Square, local markets, the

Garden of Dreams and Pashpatunath. This a very old and religious place for Hindus. Many Hindus are cremated here so they can be reincarnated.

We felt very privileged to be able to visit the beautiful country of Nepal and humbled by the Limbu people in the village of Rajarani. The children and staff of Shree Punya Higher Secondary School were amazing and taught us a great deal about resourcefulness and community spirit.

**Long may the Cropwell Bishop and Shree Punya link continue!**