The link between Stanley St Andrew’s Church of England Primary School and its link school in Dum Dum, Kolkata, in India, is a strong and exciting one. From all of the wonderful fundraising activities, to all of the kind donations, everyone does anything they can to strengthen the link between these two totally different schools.

Even though the school is nearly 4,972 miles away from our school, we all love and care about it. So far, Stanley School have set up many fundraising activities to support our link school, including a highly popular Tuck Shop, run by a handful of older students. Recently, Mrs Stanley-Wainwright and Mrs Davies, the Headteacher and a TA at St Andrews, have flown out to India, and visited the children of our school in Dum Dum. They took all of the many donations that they had been given (like pyjamas and toys), along with all of the resources that had been bought with the money raised from the fundraising, to give to the school. When they arrived at the school, the children were ecstatic to see the two teachers, due to a previous visit by Mrs Stanley-Wainwright. The children absolutely loved their gifts and couldn’t wait to use them.

The school itself is very different from our school in Stanley. For starters, the building is very different. It is very small, and there is only two classrooms, which has no tables or chairs, meaning the children have to sit on the hard floor. A lot of the teachers are not qualified, meaning their subjects’ knowledge isn’t as solid as our teachers. However, despite this, the children love coming to school, and are very lucky – there are a lot of children in the surrounding area who can’t pay to go to school, who have to work on the streets. In the school, a lot of the remarkable resources that are available to us are just not there, and nor is the funding, however, our school in Stanley Village hopes to change that.

In conclusion, our school has completely changed when we heard about the children in Kolkata. Suddenly, everything that we took for granted has changed to something that we were extremely thankful for. Clearly, it has made the parents see this too. Together, we are bringing two completely different places together.

By Jacob Pattison

Age 11