

Summer is drawing to an end with days getting shorter and the promise of changing seasons and the hope of a longer summer! However, summer in Nepal and India begins in April, with April and May being the hottest months. While those of us in the UK may long for a warm summer, in Nepal and India, summer can be a very hot and difficult time. Longing for the cool of the rains often turns into a challenge for survival when rain turns to floods.

Here at Child-Link we are excited to bring you news of what's been happening at our projects in India and Nepal, as well as here in Salisbury.

News from India : Gnana Deepam School

A New Academic Year

The new academic year began in June, and the staff and children have all settled well into their new academic routines.

The school has a good and stable work ethos which means staff are happy to stay on and there have been very few staff changes. Most often the changes have been reluctant and due to personal circumstances. This is also the second year that the school has run under the leadership of Ezra Samuel as Head of School, which comes under the oversight of the chair of the charity. Ezra and his wife Ruth have been an integral part of the school and have settled in well to life in rural Tamil Nadu. They have taken up and are running with the vision of the school, which is to ensure a high standard of education alongside sharing of the Good News we hold on to.

Gnana Deepam School Hockey Girls Win District School's Championships !

Sport has also begun with the usual after school practices and inter-school tournaments. The girls hockey teams have done very well so far.

Under 14s District champions in blue and Under 19 District champions in Pink. They will all continue on to the state level competitions.



Child-Link Girls Move on to Higher Education

This year has also seen a record number of girls who have been supported by you, our Child-Link supporters, move on to higher education in nearby towns. Four of the six girls secured sports scholarships through their achievements in hockey at an inter-school and state level. Without these scholarships they would not be able to afford the cost of further study. This has re-enforced the value of sport in the lives of these girls and their future education. Being supported to study at Gnana Deepam has enabled them to pursue sport as well as academic education. Most local schools only encourage academics, at the cost of any sporting achievement.

Improving Infrastructure

The summer holidays are a time when maintenance and building work goes on at full gusto, as there are no children about on the school campus. This summer, the school has been busy building a sheltered pathway between two of the main classroom blocks.



As you can see from the picture, all around the classroom building there is red soil. In summer this kicks up clouds of fine dust and when it rains becomes muddy, sticking to shoes which trail into the classrooms. Many children also do not bring suitable rainwear and get wet in the monsoons while moving classrooms between lessons. This pathway will not only keep the children and classrooms cleaner, but more importantly, will go a long way in keeping colds and illness at bay.

The picture on the left shows the upper storey pathway, which is also nearing completion. All this has been made possible thanks to money raised by Child-Link, mainly through funds raised by sales in the antiques warehouse in Salisbury and gifts other than regular child sponsorships.



Nepal: Devastating floods in the city



Meeting the needs of the Community

At the end of July, the community served by the pre-school was completely flooded with over 500 families being washed out of their homes with no place to eat or sleep. Pastor Daniel was able to provide emergency meals for a few days.

In his words "Floods became very horrible for our families, community and our preschool and for church also. It damages our church building and school, it is leaving us hopeless.."

Most families in the slums cook, eat, sit and sleep on the floor which means when the floor is flooded daily life cannot continue at all.



The pre-school is now back up and running with alternative arrangements, as two classrooms have been damaged. Some emergency work has begun to restore these rooms to avoid further damage.

Could you help us raise a gift towards helping repair the damage caused by these floods?

Email us at info@child-link.org



A Message from the Trustees Here at Child-Link

Firstly, may we say a huge thank you for your continuing support. It makes such a difference to the lives of our children both in India and Nepal.

We are a small charity, with a big heart to change the lives of children. As trustees, we are humbled to see God at work and with His continued grace and blessing, and your support, long may we continue.

One of our trustees, Diana runs pitches at Fisherton Warehouse in Salisbury. This is a vintage/antiques warehouse, which raises a regular amount each month to support our very low administrative cost. This means that **every penny given for the children goes to the children.**



If you are turning out any good quality, saleable items, such as brick-a-brac, small furniture items, pictures, etc, Diana would be very grateful. Do email us and let us know.

Could it be you?

Child-Link are looking for trustees to be involved with carrying this vision on. Are you a self motivated person with ideas and aspirations to make a difference in our world? If so, why not join us as a trustee. Please get in touch by email at: info@child-link.org

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