



Friends of Midnapore

NEWSLETTER – June 2016

Supporting pre-primary schools in West Bengal

Would you like to come with me and visit one of the six schools that you are supporting? This newsletter will take you to **Belun pre-primary school**. It is 150 km SW of Calcutta in rural West Bengal. The village is a beautiful tropical place, with traditional mudhouses with clay tiled roofs. The people are farmers, growing rice, farming fish, keeping cows, goats and hens.



The school is a mud walled building with a wooden frame. The children sit outside in the shade under the wide roof. They enjoy a large playing field nearby.

We can meet the teachers:-

Teachers work hard making teaching materials, preparing work, cooking a snack and keeping the school clean.



Why is the school so popular in the village?

The parents say “The teachers with their motherly hearts nourish the children naturally and expand their world as they grow up. They learn with pleasure. I think my child is properly educated at this school”.



This is **Chhaya Pakhira**. She is a trained teacher, housewife, flower grower and she keeps a fine herd of cows. She says “I teach the six-year old students. They learn with pleasure. They use natural materials and a practical way of working”.



This is **Mamata Biswas**. She is a new teacher, replacing Annuva who sadly died last year. She is a local woman and is very enthusiastic about the schools informal methods. She says “I enjoy nourishing the children naturally, and expanding their imagination through joyful learning”

Please continue to help to keep these schools running by your regular support.

Would you like to make a donation?

Please send to:-

Youth Education Service

(Friends of Midnapore)

14 Frederick Place Bristol BS8 1AS

www.facebook.com/westbengalschools



This is **Chhaya Singh**. She is a young widow who finds her regular salary helps to feed her family. She works with the three-year olds. She says “I use playing materials and toys with my young students. They learn colour, early language and maths mostly through simple songs and dance”.