

# NEWSLETTER – January 2018

Happy New Year!

**Thakuma's birthday celebrations will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018.** We hope some of you will have the opportunity to attend and grace the occasion.

The last celebration was attended by Oni, Rachna & Agni Sen. Rita Sen (Kutti) was helped by them Rahul Biswas (Bhutu).

Earlier in the year, as usual celebrations were held for **Thakuma's birthday** and **Saraswati Puja** with usual gusto by the children of Balkendra.

As part of the celebrations, most of the school children with their families (some bringing tiffin carriers!) were given a feast.

## **School – “Brahma Ma” Balakendra – Established 2002**

The school continues to provide pupils from the neighboring community with the basics of learning and life skills. We employ 5 teachers to cover a few subjects including English, Mathematics, Science and General Knowledge. During the mid-morning break, each child is provided with nourishing snacks. The children are thriving and show immense enthusiasm for learning.

## **Computer Classes**

The computer classes, which started in 2011, in the annex building (Santi Ashram) continue to provide basic computing skills. We are now however only 10 in attendance as we have a temporary tutor following the resignation of the teacher.

It is expected that the employability of these students will increase significantly.

## **Infrastructure**

We have been able to further develop the school grounds and sanitation for the children by installing 3 new toilets.

The long-running saga relating to metal wreckage and debris left by the previous tenant some 20 years ago has finally concluded. The previous tenant was the Irrigation Department of Bihar and the wreckage and debris was their property. As Bihar was divided into two states in 2000 (with Deoghar becoming part of a new state, Jharkhand), there has been significant difficulty. The conclusion of this saga is a welcome development particularly as they had been taking up considerable space at the Math and were particularly unsightly.

The school grounds can now be used for games and / or gardening.

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## **Global video link**

Investigations are currently being made to install CCTV in the Math. This is intended to allow persons around the world to link up during prayers.

Opportunities may soon exist to view classes during sessions.

## **Donations**

The trustees thank all the members and well-wishers for their generous donations and support. We continue to seek your blessings, well wishes, feedback, suggestions and your donations. We further continue to ardently hope that more of you will soon find an opportunity to visit our Math.