

5th November 2015

Dear Nicky and Colin,

We would like to send you our best wishes from Massmulle primary school in beautiful Kamburupitiya.

Last year our school celebrated its 50 year anniversary. Speaking at one of the many events we held, our teacher Mrs Sriyani told how you revived the fortune of our school. In 2007, student numbers had dropped to just 23 because of the lack of facilities and run-down buildings. The government was about to close our school. The closure of the school would have been the end of the Massmulle community.

By chance, in 2007, Mr Devsiri and Mr Gamage visited our school and were shocked by the mud hut that was the class room for our grade 7 children. They passed the photos on to you, and you pledged to help us. The day that news was given to us was the happiest day in our school.

In November 2007 you made your first donation: a computer. Next, books and shoes for the children. After that you donated uniforms, shoes and books every year. For the first time, the children came to school wearing smart uniforms and shoes looking very happy. Their parents, who earn no more than 2000 Rupees (£10) a month could simply not afford these. In 2008 came the biggest gift of all: the Lillian Library. The library changed the fortune of our school forever. Next, you funded our computer room, four new computers and a scanner. You gave children a notice board and now they proudly display their literary talents, and then there was the wonderful school stage where children now show their talent for cultural dances, speeches and plays, and where we meet for assemblies and to give thanks.

Now, we have more than 100 children, and this year seven have passed the Grade 5 Scholarship Examination (11+), bringing so much credit to our school. Our boys have won prizes at inter-school sporting competitions, and we even won the Gold award for Health Development in 2014. (We're sure we will win again this year!)

But even better, thanks to your support, our school has been chosen as the best primary school in the district by the Education Department, and the government is now able to help us too. Your kindness really has saved us, transformed our school, and improved our whole community.

Massmulle School would not be here today if it was not for your kindness and generosity. Not only current children, but future generations who will learn at our school will be so grateful to both of you. Generations of villagers in future would remember what both you have done for the their community. So thank you, a thousand times. We will never forget your kindness, and we hope to welcome you to our school once again soon.

With best wishes

Principal and staff, Massmulle school