Ockbrook School
Trip to India

In July this year we went to India on an expedition with Wilderness Expertise. Our first week was called the ‘Project phase’ and we spent it in Dehradun at the Moravian Institute there. Everyone was very friendly, and we had a wonderful time. Our main task was to turn an old boys’ dormitory into a library and move all of the furniture up into the new renovated dormitory. The store room where the books were being kept also needed cleaning out, and we spent our afternoons tutoring the children in English and Maths and playing games, so there was plenty to do!

When we first arrived, we were welcomed by the school in a special assembly, where we explained what we were going to be doing during the week. We were lucky enough to meet the head teacher in England before flying out, so we had a good idea of the jobs that needed doing. We were also invited to join the school’s evening devotion, which was a lovely short meeting where the students would lead themselves in worship and then an alumnus of the school would come and talk about their journey in faith. We were hosted in the parsonage of the church, and both were separate from the school, so we travelled to and from the site on the school bus.

The following morning, we got started on the task in hand. We began moving steel bunk beds from the old dorm into the new and setting them out in rows. The new dormitory was across a basketball court and up two flights of stairs from the old, so this was a pretty challenging job! There were also lockers and large cases to move, which left the room ready to turn into a library.

The bookcases in the store room were emptied, cleaned and moved up to the empty room, and their contents were put into large rice bags. These books then had to be sorted by genre and dusted when they got to the new library and returned to the bookcases. Each morning was more and more rewarding as we watched the transformation.

Every afternoon was spent with the younger children at the school, and each member of our team had one student to tutor. We taught English or Maths depending on what the students most needed help with, and then we introduced the whole class to some of our favourite games! All of the children were lovely, and their passion for learning was inspiring.

On Sunday morning at the end of our fun week at the school, we had the opportunity to join in the service at the church next to where we were staying. One of the members of our team even got to play the drums with the band! The service was very similar to one that we would recognise in the UK, and it was interesting to learn the Hindi versions of songs we already knew.

We would like to thank everyone at the Moravian Institute and the church in Dehradun for making us feel so at home and comfortable while we were staying there. We went on to have an amazing time trekking in the Himalayas for our second week and enjoying the wonders of India including the Taj Mahal in our third and final phase. Our entire experience was phenomenal, and the school project was no exception.

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