



For many years Calthorpe Park School has supported the Ocean Stars Trust (OST), a local charity set up by Dilanee Bunter following the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004.

Since 2013, teams of students from Calthorpe Park School have visited Sri Lanka every year during the October half term. Our teams have visited a number of local schools, including Amirthalakali Sri Sithy Vinayagar School, Navalady Vidyalayam School, Batticaloa School for the Deaf and Azhar Muslim Maha Vidyalayam school in Vellaimanal.

The CPS/OST team spend the year before their trip raising money which is used in various ways to support the education of our friends in Sri Lanka. The team also prepare and gather resources for the activities that we will run in the schools, such as dance and drama, samba drums/ukulele, craft activities and sports/games. The Sri Lankan students do not normally have access to these areas of the curriculum, so our visit provides a time when the students can really enjoy themselves and let their creative talents run free.

One year the money raised was used to purchase

some IT equipment, in order to enable Year 11 students to attend revision sessions in their school; last year the money went towards a new building for Chenkallady I Pre-School and, this year, the fundraising has been used to purchase playground equipment for Chenkallady I Pre-school – and they also have a grassed area (practically unknown in Sri Lankan schools!).

In the photos you can see the building which previously housed the Chenkallady I pre-school and the new building behind the 2018 team, together with the little ones enjoying the new playground equipment.

Following the Easter bombings in Sri Lanka we have had to cancel the trip in October 2019, much to everyone's great disappointment. We are, however, hopeful that, after a period of peace and calm, we will be able to rearrange the trip with these students.

We are enormously impressed by the 2019 OST team who, in spite of their disappointment, have been adamant in their wish to complete their year of fundraising.



They have, in fact, increased their efforts to raise even more money, as they feel that our Sri Lankan friends need our support even more at this time. Our team have held an afternoon tea, with homemade scones and jam; a curry evening was organised at a local restaurant; students joined in the Fleet Fun Walk and have taken part in cycle rides; grandparents have raised money at cakes sales; students have bag packed in the local supermarkets etc and they have managed to persuade local businesses to donate prizes for raffles.

At school, each group take it in turns to organise our Friday Fundraising. This is held every Friday in the quad during lunchtime, when there are a variety of treats available to purchase.

We would like to thank everyone who supports the Ocean Stars trips in any way - parents and wider family members, friends and members of the Calthorpe Park community.



'SLUGG' WALK

The annual SLUGG walk was held on 17th July and raised £4000. This event aims to raise awareness of charitable organisations, whilst providing a fun and interactive day for all students to enjoy. The money raised went towards four different charities. This year, Calthorpe Park had chosen to support four charities: Water Aid (a charity that aims to provide clean water and sanitation to less developed countries); Ocean Stars (a children's charity that hopes to alleviate poverty and provides education to young people in Sri Lanka); Cancer Research UK (the world's leading independent cancer research charity) and Young Minds (a charity dedicated to improving the mental well-being of young people).

This year, SLUGG walk followed a different format than usual. Instead of having regular lessons for the first two periods, there were four different interactive quizzes on the four charities that Calthorpe was supporting. The purpose of this was to try and give the students a more in-depth awareness of where their donations were going.

During the day students walked around the school where, en route, they passed different country themed stalls, which were run by teachers and staff or by the Prefect Team. The day was run in a competition-type format, with the aim being to do as many laps of the school as possible, which go towards your House's grand total. After lunch, all students made their way to the courtyard to watch SLUGG Sound (live music performed by students). That was a big hit with everyone and, following on from that, the scores were announced. This year the scores were the closest that they had ever been — only five laps difference between first and third place. However, at the end of the day, Somerville came out top! Overall the event was a great success, and we are very pleased to have raised so much money for these very worthy causes.