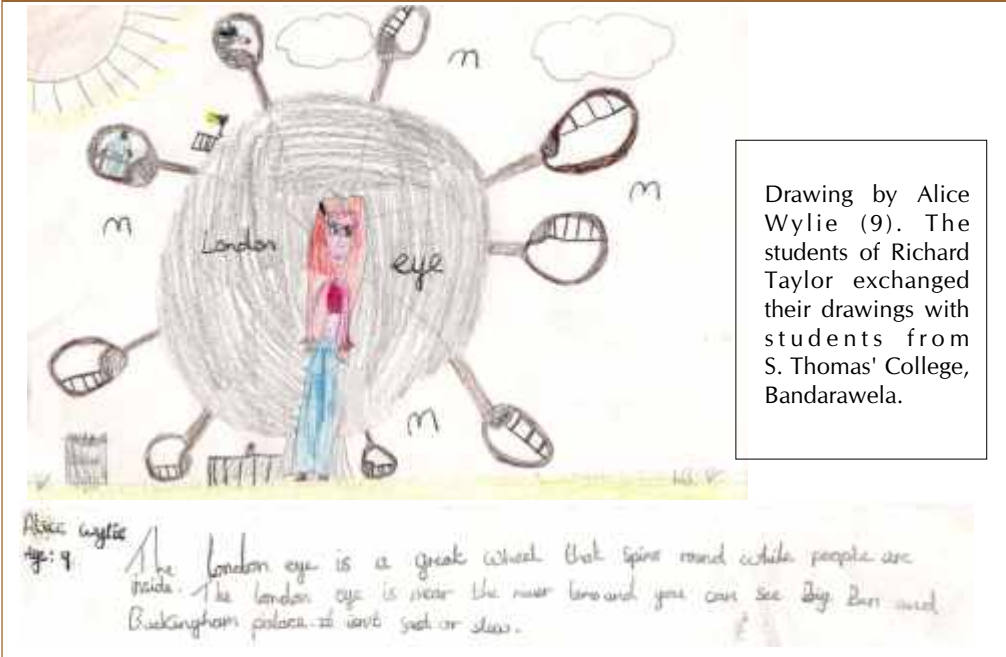


Many of the students from Richard Taylor expressed their thanks to our teachers during their visit to the UK.

### London Eye: "Not fast...Not slow..."



Drawing by Alice Wylie (9). The students of Richard Taylor exchanged their drawings with students from S. Thomas' College, Bandarawela.



### Headteacher Barbara writes...



**A**yubowan! This is the very first of the "TayThom" newsletter published owing to the enthusiasm of all the staff involved in the Link Programme between Richard Taylor Church of England, UK and S. Thomas' College, Bandarawela. In case you are still wondering as to what "TayThom" really means, it simply links "Tay" from **Taylor** and "Thom" from **Thomas**! Read on...

### In Appreciation...

The staff, students and friends of Richard Taylor School donated a large sum of money towards the children affected by the Tsunami. These funds have been allocated to Pandirippu Maha Vidyalam, a remote school in the East of Sri Lanka. We are very grateful for their generosity!

When I first visited Sri Lanka in 2002 with Christian Aid I thought what a beautiful island it was and how friendly and welcoming the people were but I never thought I would be returning three years later to meet the staff and children at St Thomas' College. I had been very keen to encourage the partnership of schools as I felt it would be of benefit to both schools and I have also made some very good friends.

It has been a privilege to see the work you are doing at St Thomas' and we have been impressed by the high standard of work and the behaviour of the children and the enthusiasm of the teachers we have met. All the staff who have been to Sri Lanka have commented on the kindness they have met with and they are all very keen to develop the link. We have enjoyed entertaining all our visitors from St Thomas' and we are looking forward to meeting more of you in September.

I think it is a wonderful idea to have a newsletter about the partnership and I hope the link will continue and develop in the future.

**Barbara Belsham**  
Headteacher  
Richard Taylor C of E, UK

### From the HM's Desk...



I am happy to pen this message at the inaugural newsletter of the "TayThom".

The link programme between Richard Taylor School and ours has developed over time and borne much fruit on either side of the globe.

We have been very impressed in what we have seen and learnt at Richard Taylor. The staff and children went out of their way to make our visit a memorable one and we are truly grateful.

Inside this issue, Maheshi Perera has included an interesting article on her visit to a very special school in the UK. I think this a very good practice that we too should implement in order to expose our children to differently-abled schools in the area.

In February, we had the good pleasure of hosting Sarah Jackson and Lynne Stott who also brought along valuable resources for our children. A student's perspective of their visit is also included in this newsletter and worth reading...

I wish the link programme all success!

**L.A.M. Chandrasekera**  
Headmaster  
S. Thomas' College  
Bandarawela, Sri Lanka

### School Links Programme Funded By:



Commonwealth Education Fund

For more information visit: [www.britishcouncil.org/globalschools](http://www.britishcouncil.org/globalschools)

## Partnership Plan S. Thomas' College and Richard Taylor

Date	Activities	Responsibility
Sept-Dec 2006	<p><b>Energy:</b> Sustainable development, independence, values and perceptions.</p> <p>Children in Year 5/6 (RT) and Grade 6 (STC) to study aspects of energy (eg. Sources of energy, conserving energy). Find similarities and differences and consider the effect on the world of our use of energy.</p>	<p>Ms. Sandanakrishnan Ms. Caroline Simpson</p>
Jan-March 2007	<p><b>My Family:</b> Diversity, human rights, citizenship, social justice</p> <p>Children in Grade 1 (STC) and year 1 (RT) to share aspects of their family life.</p>	<p>Ms. Maheshi (Sinhala medium) Ms. Kokila (Tamil medium) Ms. Sarah Jackson Ms. Rachel Bulley</p>
May/Jul 2007	<p><b>Culture:</b> Diversity, values and perceptions</p> <p>Grade 4 (STC) and Year 4 (RT) to share and celebrate their own and each others cultures through art, music and dance. Focus on traditional aspects. "Cultural Day" for the whole school possible?</p>	<p>Ms. Maheeka Gunasekera Ms. Sumi Gnananeson Ms. Lynne Stott Ms. Carmel Wake</p>

## Present Projects 2006

### Grade 01

#### Keeping healthy:

Different types of food we eat  
Fruits we eat in Sri Lanka  
Vegetables

#### Cultural Patterns

Clothes we wear in Sri Lanka  
To be a good citizen  
Cultural habits (Sri Lanka)

#### Science (ENV)

Plants and animals around our school



### Grade 2

#### Keeping healthy:

Food we make with milk  
Different types of grains  
Food we make from floor (rice and wheat)  
Why we need to eat food

#### Cultural Habits (Sri Lanka)

#### Special clothes we wear in Sri Lanka

**School Uniform:** Girls White and tie (climate)

Boys Blue and white and tie

School emblem, flags, songs and motto

**Festivals:** Weddings, opening ceremonies, funerals, birthdays, etc .....

#### Casual Dresses

**Science (ENV):** Animals and their habitats  
Special valuable trees and herbs



### Grade 3

#### Categorizing Food (Sri Lanka)

Carbohydrates, Protein, Fat, Minerals and Vitamins  
Spices we use in Sri Lanka

### Grade 4

What should be included in a balanced diet  
Why we need a balanced diet  
How food is spoilt (Artificial and Natural) illustration (School curriculum activity)



### Grade 5

Grown food items in different parts of Sri Lanka  
Cultivation in Sri Lanka  
Fair trade, Garnishing, Table arrangements  
How we preserve food in Sri Lanka

# Photo Album



September 2004: Maheshi Perera and Nayomi Joseph training the children of Richard Taylor the art of Kandyan Dancing



June 2005: Primary Students of Richard Taylor preparing Sri Lankan "Sweet Rice"



February 2006: Lynn and Sarah along with the Chief Minister of Uva Province, Headmaster and the Scouts of Bandarawela



February 2005: Rosie Jones and Barbara Bellsham where Guests of Honour at the Annual Sports Meet of S. Thomas' College, Bandarawela



February 2006: Participation at the Annual Scouts Jamboree in Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka



June 2005: Maheeka Gunasekera, Barbara Belsham (Headteacher, Richard Taylor, UK), Sarah Fishwick, Sumi Gnananesan, Jennifer Chandrasekera and L.A.M. Chandrasekera (Headmaster)



February 2006: Some members of the UK delegation at Trinity College, Chapel - Kandy with Rt. Rev. Kumara Illangasinghe, Bishop of Kurunegala



February 2006: Cultural Programme by the Primary students of S. Thomas College, Bandarawela as a farewell event for Sarah Jackson and Lynne Stott from Richard Taylor, UK.

## What I see through the Link Programme

Through the Link Programme our teachers get a chance of visiting the United Kingdom and study their culture and live with them for a short period of time. During this time, they visit some schools in the UK, specially the Richard Taylor Primary School and work with those teachers and children. Through this they get a good experience and knowledge about their educational system and when they return they give us that knowledge. The teachers of Richard Taylor School also benefit by visiting our school, gaining first hand experience about the Sri Lankan culture and education. So I think this is a very useful programme for both countries and it should continue to provide us with a good education.



**Denis Morrit**  
Grade 4A2



Masks made by students of Richard Taylor and brought to Sri Lanka



Teaching aids brought from Richard Taylor School to S. Thomas' College Bandarawela

## The Educational System of Sri Lanka

The present educational system of Sri Lanka derives from the British educational system, which was introduced by the British colonial masters in the 19th century. The British colonial government established colleges for boys and girls separately. These colleges consisted of **Primary Schools**, Lower Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools.

In 1938 the education in Government schools was made free of charge as a consequence of the Universal Franchise granted in 1931. Subsequently many government schools called Maha Vidyalayas were started in all parts of the country. The medium of education of Maha Vidyalaya's was either Sinhala or Tamil. Today **primary education** lasts six years, after which the pupils sit a

scholarship examination. Those who pass the scholarship examination qualify themselves to be admitted to popular schools and are granted monthly financial support until they pass out from the university.

After **primary education** there is Junior Secondary education which lasts for five years, after which pupils have to sit a government examination namely the G.C.E. ordinary level to qualify for Senior Secondary education which lasts another two years. Then comes the competitive university entrance examination which is called G.C.E. Advanced level examination.

All **primary** junior secondary pupils get their school uniforms and text books free of charge from the government.

Source:  
<http://www.mysrilanka.com/travel/lanka/education/>

## My visit to a very special school

During my visit to the U.K. in 2004 I happened to visit a very special school. This was no ordinary school, but from the moment I stepped in I realized how special this place was. The school was special in many ways. First of all, the children needed special attention because they are differently-abled. Secondly, the attention and dedication of the teachers in showering so much of love to the children was truly amazing.

What was also amazing was the governments involvement in schools of this calibre. Not only do they provide food and transport to the children but also the supply of machines and instruments to upgrade their standard of education. Facilities also include continuous observation by doctors. As a precautionary measure and also to provide mental stability in the children, no photographs are allowed to be taken in the premises. Apart from all these, hygiene is at a very high standard. The classes as well as the environment around is very eco

friendly due to the concerted effort by the staff and volunteers to make their surroundings a happy one.



During the school term, children from other secondary and high schools pay regular visits to develop friendship. By this the gap that lies between society is further bridged and children get to feel responsible in a certain way.

Coming back on the aspect of education one can see a vast difference in which studies are conducted in these classes. Although each class has about only 7 to 8 children (total school population 75) the teachers pay individual attention to every child. This is done according to their various needs. Physical improvements in children is done in a dual way.

1. Muscle coordination,
2. Mental education

In addition to the above, special training is given to improve hand-eye coordination, hearing, sight, etc. While this training is mainly through exercise, teachers are always there to help each child accordingly. Each lesson is conducted in separate classes. This is done so as not to make the lesson boring and also make the children more enthusiastic.

One of the loveliest moments I remember is when the children dressed with makeup and acted various parts from fairy tales they had learnt from their classes.

Finally, looking back on my visit all I could think of is how privileged these children must be. Although they are differently-abled, the world that surrounds them is certainly filled with a lot of love.

**Maheshi Perera**  
Supervisor  
Primary School

## Opening: SCM Library



In response to a request made by S. Thomas' College, Bandarawela, our link school, Richard Taylor, UK gifted a number of books for the Student Christian Movement in 2005. As a result, the SCM Library was ceremonially opened by Sarah Jackson and Lynne Stott on February 14, 2006.