

## Supporting

Residential School for 200 profoundly deaf children  
Education & Therapy Centre for 100 severely disabled children  
Nursing College for 120 students

## Newsletter Easter 2021

[www.sylviawright.org](http://www.sylviawright.org)

### *Dear Friends*



This past year has been unforgettable. The virus has caused a great deal of suffering, especially to 'migrant' workers. There have been a large number of job losses with an increase in poverty in our remote area.

Schools closed in March 2020, opened briefly in the New Year then closed again. Closures and the freezing of the postal system meant we were unable to send our usual updates to sponsors. However, in the brief January window, many letters were written and are "in the post". The children's comments reflect their very unusual year. They, like me, have been grateful for your unwavering support. For 39 years now you have made an enormous difference to these differently abled children and the nursing students we care for.

My staff are deeply committed: many have been with me for a long time. They are embarking on additional training leading to greater responsibility for the projects, supported by some extra new and professional governors.

We have every confidence that, with your generosity, we can continue to serve the needs of those less fortunate than ourselves. Please continue to pray for us. May God bless you all and Happy Easter.

*Sylvia*



## New Lockdown



*Short lived return of senior pupils in January*

After being closed since March last year, Sylvia's projects were allowed a cautious return to a 'new normal'. The nursing students were the first to rejoin but are confined to the college for a while. The deaf children began their return from mid January, class by class, on a non residential basis. Though there is much educational and social remedial work to do, all were delighted to be back. Every precaution was taken to minimise infection risk. However, a surge in the virus in Tamil Nadu led to another government lockdown and most of the children had to return home, apart from 24 in the top exam class. The Day Centre has not yet been able to reopen, due to the children's vulnerabilities. Everyone is desperately hoping that restrictions end soon.

## The Good News

Despite everything, India has had a comparatively low death rate and, along with many countries, has begun a massive rollout of Covid vaccines. This is a huge task in a population of 1.4 billion people, half of whom are scattered across rural areas. Our third year nursing students have been drafted in to help and are undergoing training. Yet more good news is that the number of nursing students starting this year is up to 35, close to our new target of 40.

## Headteacher's Award

Mr Raja, Headteacher of the school for the deaf for the last eight years, has been recognised by the authorities as an outstanding headteacher. This award was celebrated on 3 February, Mr Raja's birthday and the 25th anniversary of his joining Rangammal.



Mr Raja, right, is congratulated by school governor Mr Vijayan

## Sylvia's Birthday

Sylvia's 83rd birthday was celebrated on January 21st, with the children of staff standing in for those who had not been allowed back by then.



Birthday Celebrations for Sylvia

## Hear the World

The charity Hear the World has very generously supported the school for the last six years by providing hearing aids, batteries, audiology equipment and training. Another 50 hearing aids have been promised for the new intake. A further request for hearing aids and for help in enhancing vocalisation over a three year period has been submitted.

## Early Intervention



Learning Speech Through Play

It is very difficult to learn to speak without being able to hear: digital hearing aids and speech therapy have much improved things. See the Hearing Aid Project page on our website for speech clips.

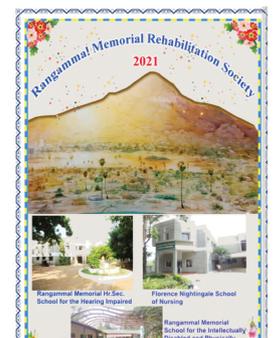
However, intervention at the youngest possible age is most effective. In the West, this often starts from birth, but for practical reasons, Sylvia's children have always started school aged five on a residential basis. Two non-residential classes for three and four year olds are now run and these children attend with their mothers. We are hoping that Hear the World will support them too.

## Rangammal Magazine

The school magazine has grown into a 'Rangammal' Magazine. It gives vivid, lively updates on all three projects and is sent to supporters who have given permission for their e-mail to be used.

Contact Sue Wilson if you would like to receive it:

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