

December 2022

Dear Friends,

Last week our students took their second term exams; we're two thirds of the way through the school year. Tomorrow their parents will come to speak with teachers and pick up their children's report cards. In the evening we will celebrate our annual all-school birthday party with a bonfire, dinner, cake, and performances. It's one of our Asha Deep traditions, always well-attended by current and former students alike. I'm looking forward to it!

In the meantime, construction continues at a good pace at our new site. Here are a few recent pictures:



आशा दीप विद्याश्रम



Here they are working on the walls of the 2nd floor. The building is designed around a central opening which will be open to the sky.



This will be our largest round window. They placed the bricks horizontally to see the proper placement before using mortar.

Then they put the bricks in place, adding mortar and building the wall up around the window at the same time





This will be the view from this classroom . . . quite different from most of the other rooms with their long slit windows.



And here's the new front view. The second floor is now complete except for the roof which will be poured in a few days. The tall space to the right of the 3-round-window wall will be the stairwell.

It's exciting to see the architectural plans come to life! The villagers are also excited as they see the building grow.

We would welcome any year-end gifts toward either our general fund (for the running of our current school) or our building fund. I'm pleased to announce that the school building pictured above and a vehicle to transport our teachers to and from the new location are now fully funded. I am now working on raising money for a community center which will be built during this coming year on the same property. I'll be sending more details about that as our plans become more concrete.

I'm sending this with the very best wishes to you in 2023!

love,
Connie