

LAKSHYA JANI

I am in the Ninth class and mathematics is one of my favourite subjects. I love playing football and although I play basketball too, but I am not very fond of the game. I read books in my free time. I try to be disciplined and punctual but am not successful all the time. Every evening we go for meditation and sing devotional songs.



SOCIAL SCIENCE:



I love this subject and presently I am on the first book of Class 10 of the syllabus given by the National Institute Open School (NIOS). Bhavna didi and Gauri didi give notes and then I try to attempt the questions given in the

textbook. Didi also gives her own questions and gives me homework. Sometimes didi asks questions in the class too. We are also given tests from time to time, especially after finishing a chapter. I am happy that I am able to finish these tests before time and that is due to the fact that I always make a conscious effort to prepare for them. I am able to pass these tests.

SCIENCE:

I have so far managed to finish the book of Class 9 and I am doing the textbook of Class 10 now.

I have completed one chapter from the Class 10 textbook also. For the Class 9 syllabus, Jagat Bhaiya is teaching me Physics and Biology and Ambika didi is teaching me Chemistry. I have



completed doing the chapters on Time and Work, Gravitation, Motion in Physics. After we finished the Class 9 book; we gave a test of all the three branches of Science and I managed to score 62.5% marks. Sometimes we also performed experiments for the practical examination and I really enjoy doing these.

MATHEMATICS:

I am doing the syllabus of Class 9 and I have finished almost half of



the course from the book. I have now started doing the syllabus of the second term. The chapters I loved doing were: Geometry, Mensuration, Rational Numbers, Linear Equations of Two Variables, etc. But in Geometry, I don't like Congruency. After finishing one chapter, we are given tests on the chapter. I always

get good marks in these tests because I love Maths.

ENGLISH:

I am doing the syllabus of Class 10 given by NIOS. I have finished the first book and am doing the second book now. I attempt the questions given in each chapter and then get it checked by didi. Sangita didi teaches us grammar and gives us a lot of homework. I have improved in Active-Passive Voice and am trying to achieve the same level in Direct- Indirect Speech and Letter Writing. I am fond of reading and I have finished reading 'The Bodyguard', 'The Kite Runner', 'The Magic Drum, 'The Alchemist 'etc. We have group reading with Pranjali Bhaiya which we all enjoy. I enjoy reading books.



Hindi



I finished the textbook of Class 9 but I still have to give a test of the whole book. We have started the book meant for Class 10 and I have completed the first chapter of the book. The book is very thin and consists of only 3 stories which are: "Harihar kaka", "Sapno ke se din" and "Topi Shukla". Didi teaches us grammar, gives us homework and checks it afterwards. I do the questions from the textbook and also give the test after finishing each chapter.

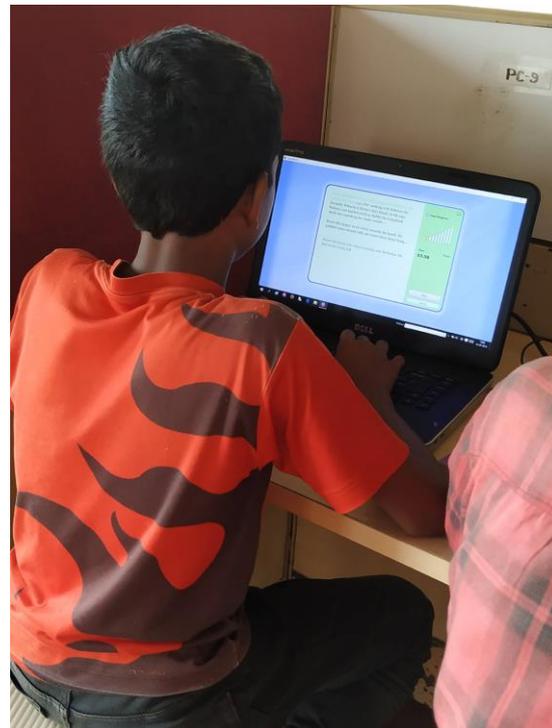
I do quite well in these tests as I enjoy the subject; though at times I lose interest. We also do group reading. We were reading “Virata ki Padmini” but we have not finished it as yet.

ODIYA:

In this class, we learn both spoken and written Odiya. As in all subjects, we do the questions given in the textbook. Sometimes I find this language difficult. Didi gives us dictation and books to read so that we can improve ourselves. I have read many stories in this class. I have very mixed feelings about the class as sometimes I find it boring and at other times, I find that I am enjoying it.

COMPUTERS:

At present, I am learning mainly typing. I find it very repetitive so I get bored in the class. At times, I avoid going for the class. No theory is taught in the class as it is mostly a practical subject. Sometimes I write stories and do excel too. My typing speed is not very good.



DANCE:

Although I like dancing but I have not danced for many days. I am not very fond of Classical dance but I like the contemporary style better. I am not very good at dancing but I always make a conscious effort to improve myself. I do dance because it is a good exercise for the body. For many days we did not have dance class because our didi had exams and then she had gone for the Andaman trip.

CELEBRATIONS:

We celebrated Pranjal Bhaiya's birthday. We all sang songs for him and also performed a play about him. We celebrated Christmas and for that, our group (the Aspiration Group), sang a Christmas carol on Lord Jesus. The celebrations of the Annual Sports day were also thrilling. It was a beautiful day. We had a Frisbie match with another group. We played Tug of War and we won. I participated in unicycle

and loved doing it.

Besides this, there was circus, skating, gymnastics, yogasana, etc. We

celebrated the

Mother's birthday. I

was part of the orchestra with my classmates. These special days are a

source of happiness and enjoyment for all

of us and we love

participating in them.



MUSIC:

I play tabla and a bit of keyboard. Gudu Bhaiya teaches us tabla. In tabla I have improved in Teen tal, Dadra tal and Ek tal. I have taken part in many programmes and I play tabla in them. I enjoy playing tabla.

SPORTS:



Games period is the best time of the day for me as I love Games. I play basketball, football, volleyball and disc. But my favourite game is football. Before playing we chant a few mantras and then do a warm-up for half an hour. We also do Cycling. I have improved in basketball and a little in football too. I cannot play volley ball very well. I do not enjoy playing the disc game and Frisbee.

YOGA:

We have our Yoga class at 6:00 AM. We do warm-ups first and then start our postures. We do many postures such as: Tree pose, Chakrasana, Paschimutan asana, Surya Namaskar, Garudasan, Bird pose, etc. I have improved in many postures and now I can do them properly. There are still some asanas that I need to improve upon. We performed yogasanas on the Sports day. I enjoy Yoga.



SHRAMDAN:

In Shramdan, we have been allotted some duties to do and we follow these instructions daily. Some of the duties are toilet cleaning, helping in the kitchen, doing gardening, etc. I also go for music at this time. On Sundays we clean our own rooms. In this way, we collectively keep our surroundings clean.

TRIP TO ANDAMAN

On March 6, in the afternoon, we left for Paliba station and boarded a train that took us till Shimachalam in Vishakapatnam.

07/03/2020

We went to visit the Shimachalam temple. It was huge and magnificent. I saw many beautiful idols of gods and goddesses. The pandits were chanting mantras and the ambience was really very peaceful. The temple was very crowded. After roaming around the temple, we were free for two hours. We had photo sessions and all of us were free to roam around. After our lunch we went to the port of Vishakapatnam. After checking in the port, we climbed the gangway of the ship, "Swarajdweep" which was to take us on our three-day journey to the Andaman Islands. Each one of us was given a separate cabin.



08/03/20 – 10/03/20



While on the ship, we visited the control room of the ship known as 'the bridge'. We were given a brief about the control system of the ship. The working of the radar was demonstrated and the difference between magnet compass and electric compass was explained. We were told that the left side of the ship was the port and the right side was starboard. We saw many dolphins and turtles going alongside the ship. It was really

nice to see them. I was so surprised to see the Helipad on the ship. It was a very educative voyage. We reached Port Blair on March 10. We went to the place where we were to stay by bus and after settling down and freshening; we all went for a long walk around the town.

11/03/2020

We went to see the Cellular Jail. The structure of the jail was well-made with a good floor plan. It had seven wings. The front of each wing was facing the rear side of the other wing. The prisoners who were sent to this jail were our freedom fighters and they were



forced to do hard labour here. We were told that the punishment for refusing to work was severe. I also saw the prison where Veer Savarkar was kept.

The next stop was the Aquarium. It was very beautiful. I saw many types of fishes and beautiful stones. The various fish I saw were cat fish, rabbit fish, etc. I also saw the skeleton of a whale.



Then we went to the Science Museum. The activities that we saw were very interesting. We saw a three-dimensional show about the adventures of a turtle. Then we went to the Kalapathar beach for a while.

In the evening we again went to the Cellular jail to watch a light and sound show. It was about the life of the prisoner who had been imprisoned there and it showed how the Britishers treated them. It is said that no one came out

alive from this jail. It was very sad to hear about the life of the prisoners and their conditions during that time.

12/03/2020

We went to Baratang. On the way, we accidentally saw a Jarawa tribesman who was walking on the road. We went by a ferry boat to the other side of the Island.

We also had to take a speed motorboat which could seat only 9 people at a time to reach the Limestone Caves that we had to come to see.

This was indeed a very exciting way to travel. It was very beautiful and cool in the cave. There were

many cave paintings like elephant, mace, nose, etc. We came back to the main land again by another ferry.



13/03/2020



We went to the Havelock Island to do scuba diving. I also did scuba diving and it was an amazing experience. I saw many colourful fishes and coral reef while under the water. Then the guide took me out from the sea bed. After that we went to the Radhanagar beach where we ate our lunch and went for a swim.



14/03/2020

In the morning we went to visit the Suicide Point. It was on a small hill. It is said that the British used to throw the prisoners down from this cliff. But we had gone there just to see the sun rise for which it is known. The scenic beauty at the time of the sun rise was really amazing.

We also went to the North Bay Island. There was a glass-bottom boat



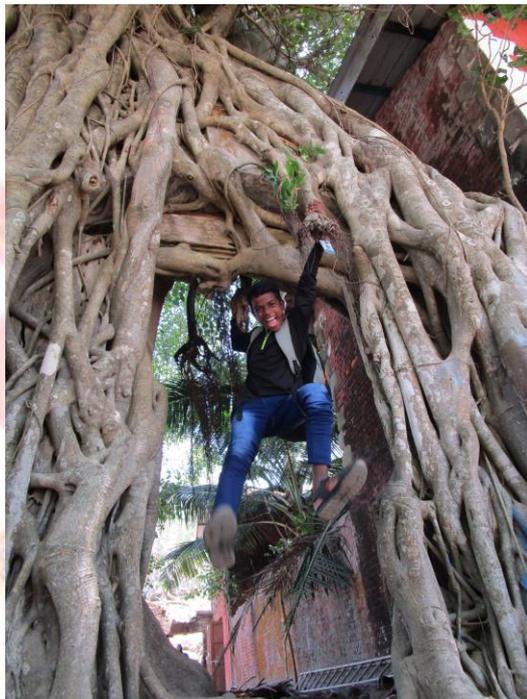
there on which some of us took a ride. The Ross Island was also great and there we generally roamed around and discovered an old ruin. We also saw a Japanese bunker, a cemetery and a church.

Back in Port Blair, we went to the Naval Museum. I saw how the Andamans was discovered. There was a lot of literature on this. We also saw many types of fishes, corals and shells. In the evening, we again went to the Kalapathar beach for a swim which was very refreshing.



15/03/2020

We went to visit the Zonal Anthropological Museum. It was about the tribes of the Andaman and Nicobar Island. I felt a little bored at



this museum. I also saw the various things of the tribal people such as huts, weapons, vessels to cook food in, boats and etc.

Our next stop was the Butterfly Park, also known as the Nature Park and Interpretation Centre. Although it was a very beautiful place but we could not see any butterflies. We saw many medicinal and aquatic plants, some of which we have in Kechla

also.

Then we went to the Chatam Island. The local guide told us about the saw mill there which had been set up by the British and it is used till today. He gave us a lot of information about the different types of



wood used and also told us how some of it is bought from other islands. I saw many carved models made out of the wood. He also told us that the state bird of the Andamans

was the Andamanese Wood Pigeon and the state tree is the Padauk. We went inside a Japanese Bunker and it was very dark. We also saw the second bomb dropped by the British when Andamans was in the control of the Japanese.

After lunch we went to the Biological Park (Chidiyatapu). We saw sea crocodiles, water lizards, eagles, Andamanese pigeons, parrots, parakeets, wild boars and deer. We also went to see the sun set at a place nearby.

16/03/2020

Our first visit of the day was to the Gandhi Park. We enjoyed a lot as we just roamed around and came back.

This was our last day and in the afternoon; we left for the Port. We were on board the ship from March 16 to March 20. When we reached Kolkata, the doctors came and checked us as the scare of Corona



virus had started. For the night we stayed at the Maharashtra Niwas. The next morning; we left for a visit to the Future Foundation School. The owner of the school told us about his school and in the evening, we left for the Howrah station. We reached Kechla on March 22.

