

ACSIans In Action ; Siem Reap, Cambodia

For the many ACSIans able to embark on overseas mission trips, travelling to a foreign land to serve may seem like a well-trodden path. However, for 18 Year 5 students, their ACSIans In Action (AIA) trip entitled "ConnACt" sought to forge new ground against the familiar backdrop of serving the needy. The objective of this trip was to not only serve the children in Cambodia through education, but for the members to discover a side of themselves that they never quite knew.

In Siem Reap, we were involved in crafting plans and conducting English lessons at a local primary school in the morning. This was primarily done through the provision of educational tools such as flashcards and English story books. Lessons were also carried out in the evening in separate schools, Happy Hearts 1 and 2, which allowed for our short time spent to leave as widespread of an impact as possible. We were also able to express our creative side through painting a mural in the newly-built Happy Hearts 2. A night for bicultural exchange with the children on our final day at Happy Hearts concluded our visit, which began with a homecooked dinner prepared by us followed by a night of song and dance.

Having been blessed to be a blessing, we were able to achieve our aims by leaving an impact on the lives we touched and through a little self-reflection along the way, learn something new about ourselves. Thus, this service-learning trip was an unequivocal success, and will hopefully light the way for future generations of ACSIans with a heart to serve.



Group picture taken at the local primary school



Interacting with the local children at the primary school



The mural painted at Happy Hearts 2



Bonfire during Cultural Night