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Morning Assembly at Sipcot School

Questions

What happens at assembly in your school? Where is assembly held? Have you ever had an assembly outside?

What can you work out from this picture about this school and its assembly?

What do the children's hands tell you about what they are doing? Does this happen in your assembly?

Would you like to try Sipcot's "word for the day" challenge in your classroom for a few days?

Background

Schools in South India are not built with assembly halls; the morning assembly is held outdoors in the yard. Often there are special platforms built in the yard for the headteacher and special guest to stand on. As the weather is usually hot this makes assembly outside a sensible idea.

This is a church school, but most of the pupils are not Christians, they are Hindus or perhaps Muslims. Pupils of all faiths are welcome in the church schools which are there to serve all poor people.

In a church school assembly there will be a reading from the Bible and prayers and someone will explain the Bible message. In all Indian schools (both state schools and church schools) morning assembly also includes raising the national flag on the school flagpole and making a pledge of allegiance to India. You can see the pole in the photograph.

At Sipcot the assembly also includes a daily challenge when pupils are given a "word for the day" and everyone tries to use it as much as possible in conversation!



