# BIKANTI MALI

## DOB-10th June'01

## Attendance- 179 out of 183 days

## Report- 2023-24 (First Term)

### Academics

Currently, I am preparing for my MA (English Hons.) exams scheduled for December. Although I have submitted all four assignments, I've chosen to focus on a single exam, MEG 05 (Literary criticism), due to my giving limited time. I am dedicated to working hard and will do my best in this examination.

### Volunteering

My volunteering routine underwent changes. Until July, I contributed to the Gratitude and Humility groups for their English class in the 10th standard. I found this

experience enjoyable, although it required substantial review work. I also volunteered for the Progress group, helping with their Maths, Social Science, and English.

From July onward, I've adapted to a modified timetable. I still dedicate two hours to the Progress group's Maths sessions, with one in the morning and another in the evening. Moreover, I have started engaging with younger groups for their Math classes, including the Victory group (Class 1 level) and Courage group (Class 2 level). Teaching young children, especially in the Victory group, is a new challenge, as I must employ activities and interactive methods. I introduced them to concepts like counting, before and after numbers, skip counting (by 2, 3, 4, and 5), addition, and subtraction using visual aids like ice-cream sticks.

Furthermore, I formulated word problems based on real-life examples. I also acquainted them with shapes, including rectangle, triangle, square, circle, and semi-circle, using geometry. Teaching these fundamentals was a new

endeavour for me, but I could facilitate learning by collaborating with Suparna didi, who provided guidance with her expertise.

In the Courage group, I have collaborated with Suparna didi and Gauri to impart a range of concepts over the past three months. These include number writing up to 500, arranging numbers in ascending and descending order, creating numbers with three different digits, and solving addition (with carrying over) and subtraction (with borrowing) problems. Additionally, I learnt how to use the abacus while working with these students. I find this group comparatively easier to work with because the students can write, and I can explain concepts on the board or slate. I enjoy working with these children, as it's an opportunity to continually learn and experience new things.

Apart from classroom volunteering, I also participate in dance activities on Tuesdays. During this time, the entire school is involved in various activities

such as dance, art, craft, and music. I opt for the dance activity, joining Gauri and Tulsa. The children are divided into groups, and each group rotates through different activities. In the dance group, we focus on introducing children to Indian classical dances like Bharatnatyam, Odissi, and Kathak. We have been teaching the children hastamudras (hand gestures, both single and double). To ensure effective teaching, I learn these dance forms myself before instructing the children. I thoroughly enjoy dancing and the bonding time, although the extended four-hour class can be exhausting.

## Shramdaan (Work Offering)

I previously adhered to the regular shramdaan routine, participating in gardening, kitchen work, school cleaning, hostel cleaning, and toilet cleaning activities alongside the children. However, starting from July, I have dedicated this time to teach a specialized Math class instead. This class is attended by children whose exams are nearing, and they need to cover the material quickly. There are six students, each studying Math at different levels - 6, 7, 8, and 10. I genuinely enjoy this class. I explain concepts to students when they have doubts and review their notebooks. I am confident in teaching Math for the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, but I sometimes face challenges explaining 10th-grade Math topics. I consistently encourage these students to study and provide as much assistance as I can.

## Celebrations & Festivals

Over the past few months, the school hosted several celebrations, and I actively participated in the 15th August program. We were honoured to have

Pandit Shantanu Bhattacharya (Shantanu da), his wife Durba didi, and their daughter Mitra as special guests. They arrived two days before the program and prepared those of us interested in learning songs for the event. We performed a bhajan on Sri Aurobindo and another bhajan, *'Tujhse humne dil ko lagaya*,' alongside the three talented singers. This was a fantastic learning opportunity, and I enjoyed every class they conducted. I spent nearly the entire day with them during their five-day stay, acquiring a wealth of knowledge and creating unforgettable memories.

I also participated in a play about India's freedom movement, where I sang along with friends and Pranjal bhaiya. We sang ten songs in total, with two songs at a high pitch that posed some challenges. Despite the difficulties, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

For the school's birthday celebration on 5th July, I contributed by assisting with decorations. I suggested decoration ideas and had fun decorating the stage for this special day.

In preparation for Ganesh Chaturthi, I had rehearsed an Odissi dance on a Ganesh bhajan with Bhavna and Chandrama. Unfortunately, we were unable to perform as both Bhavna and Chandrama sustained leg injuries just two days before the event. We had invested a lot of effort and time in practising the dance, which was particularly challenging as I had to learn it first, teach it to others, and then ensure coordination during group practise. We are hopeful of getting another opportunity to showcase our hard work in a different program.