

# DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME

All over the world Dental Hygiene is very important. Our children tend to have a quick brush whilst watching gallons of clean water gush down the plug hole!

In the rural villages of Cambodia they have no running water, just a glassful to swill out the mouth. If our children have a tooth problem then our NHS provides a first class dental service. In Cambodia few living in rural communities have access to dental care, even if they could afford it, with dental provision strictly limited to urban areas. So something as simple as cleaning your teeth needs teaching, and teaching well, if they are to look after their teeth.

In March 2013 we went out to some of the poor rural villages with toothbrushes provided by our children from schools in East Lancashire . We had first visited the schools demonstrating the need for regular cleaning - particularly after sugary drinks [see sugar content list].

To help we gave them a cartoon which shows why we need to clean our teeth regularly. They learnt a short song which they all sang. These were taken out to Cambodia with toothbrushes brought in to school by the children [toothpaste can be bought over there for a fraction of the price].

**This important module is of great interest to pupils, both here and in Cambodia, and provides the opportunity for creative learning through song.**



## Pupils give toothbrushes to children in Cambodia

Pupils and parents from St Mary's RC Primary School in Clayton-le-Moors are bringing smiles to the faces of children in Cambodia after donating toothbrushes.



St Mary's pupils with their toothbrushes

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The school has developed links with a school in Cambodia with the help of Bob Turner from the Action for Cambodia group. Headteacher Simon Charnock said the pupils also sent a video of themselves performing a song about brushing your teeth.

He said: "It's great that the children have been thinking about how the things we take so much for granted are a great luxury to others in our world and that they can always help, even in the smallest of ways."

