

# Chembakolli: School

These activities enable learners to compare school life in the UK with Vidyodaya School in Gudalur.

Change lives. **For good.**  
**act:onaid**

## Activity 1: My school day

**Aims:** To consider similarities and differences between their lives and the lives of children who experience the world in other ways.

**Resources:** Chembakolli: School PowerPoint, Parvathy's day activity sheets, Comparing days activity sheet

**Instructions:** Many children like Parvathy from Chembakolli go to school in the nearby town of Gudalur.

- Look at the PowerPoint and 24-hour-recall circle that show Parvathy's day.
- Study the key on the second page of the activity sheet to work out which activities Parvathy does through the day. Write these on the left hand column of the chart on the Comparing days activity sheet.
- Now create your own 24-hour recall circle. Draw a circle and divide it into 8 segments. Write the times next to each segment as Parvathy has done.
- Draw symbols to represent the activities you do and add them to your key.
- When you've finished, complete the right hand column of the chart on the Comparing days activity sheet
  - Which activities are the same?
  - Which activities are different?
  - How do you both have fun?
  - What do you like most about Parvathy's day?
  - What do you think she would most like about your day?

## Activity 2: What's for lunch?

**Aims:** To assess what makes a healthy and balanced diet.

**Resources:** Chembakolli: School PowerPoint, Meal in a box activity sheet

**Instructions:** Show the lunch slides on the PowerPoint.

- What foods are the children eating? What different food groups can you see? What foods do you like?
- Complete the activity sheet 'Meal in a box' to design your own healthy and balanced lunch. This meal can be from any culture.
- Use knowledge and understanding from the previous sessions to ensure that the different food groups are suitably balanced.
- Why is it important to have a healthy and balanced diet?

## Activity 3: Performance poetry

**Aims:** To explore how children feel about the landscape in Chembakolli.

**Resources:** Performance poetry activity sheet

**Instructions:** In Tamil lessons, children often read and perform poetry about the landscape.

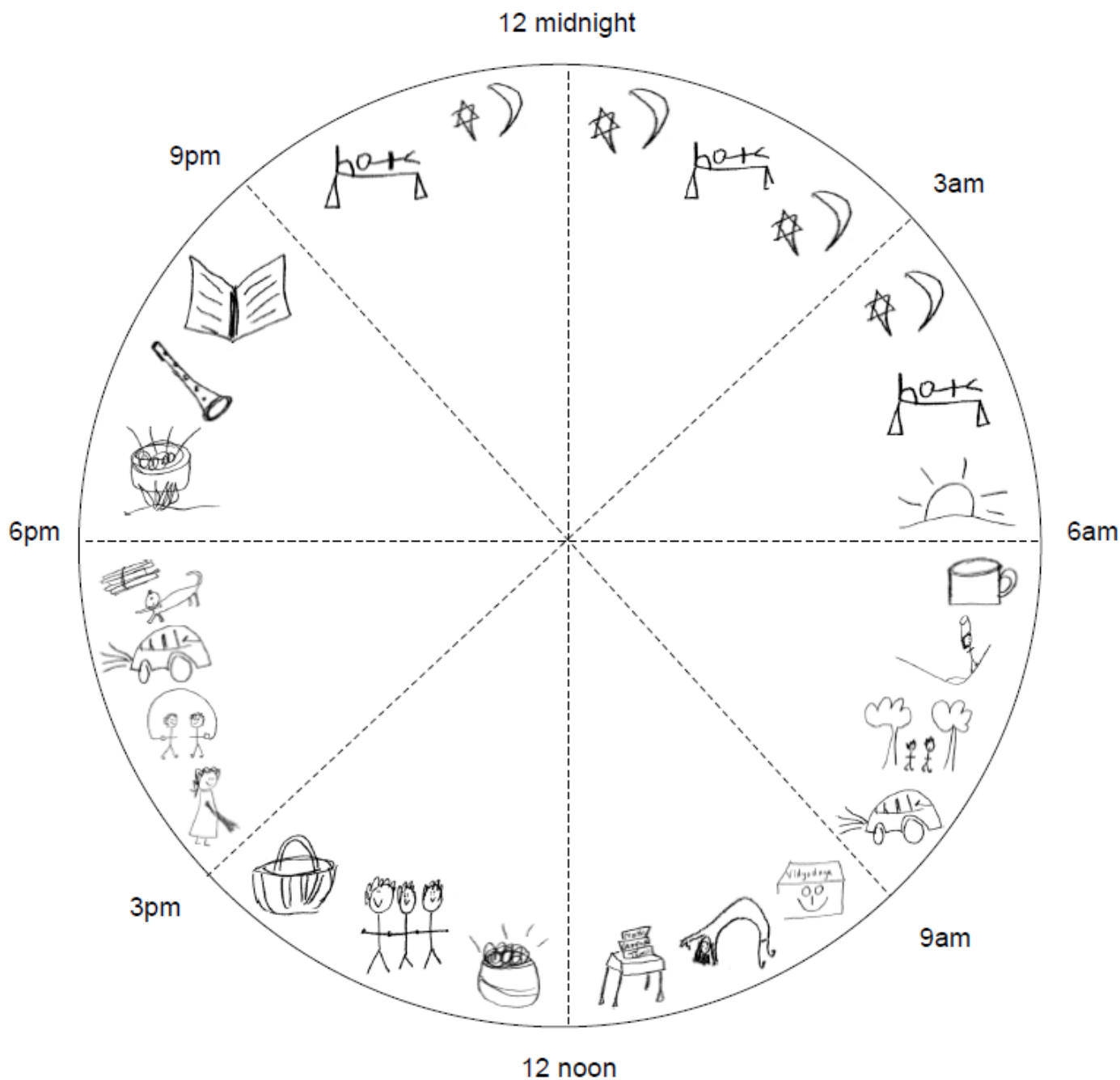
- Read the poem, 'Once I was a tiny seed' with the class. Discuss these questions:
  - What has the seed grown up to become?
  - How does it help look after the forest?
  - What is the message of the poem?
  - Who do you think wrote the poem and why?
- Identify the different roles in the poem. Pupils choose which part to play and decide how to perform their role.
  - There are 10 parts – seed, tree, Mother Nature, branches, children, worms, figs, twigs, bird, elephant, people
- How is performing poetry different to reading poetry?
- Why do you think children at Vidyodaya school perform poetry, not just read it aloud?

# Parvathy's day

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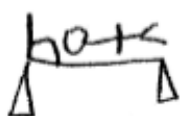
# Parvathy's day - key

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I sleep from 9pm until 5.30am



I get up at 5.30am and wash.



I have tea and rice for breakfast.



After breakfast, I go to the river to wash my pots and bring back water.



I walk with my friends through the forests, to the school jeep.



A jeep takes us 15km to and from school.



School starts at 9am.



We begin our school day with yoga.



After assembly we have lessons like Tamil and maths.



At lunchtime I eat a packed lunch of curry and rice.



Sometimes, we have a school council meeting.



We learn about Adivasi crafts or tell tribal stories.



We have school duties. I help tidy our classroom.



We play games like skipping while we wait for the school jeep.



I collect firewood with my dog.



I help my mum cook our meal. I chop vegetables and grind coconut and spices.



I practice Adivasi songs.



I do my homework by candlelight.



# Comparing days

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**Parvathy**

**Me**

12 midnight - 3am		
3am - 6am		
6am - 9am		
9am - 12 noon		
12 noon - 3pm		
3pm - 6pm		
6pm - 9pm		
9pm - 12 midnight		

# Meal in a box

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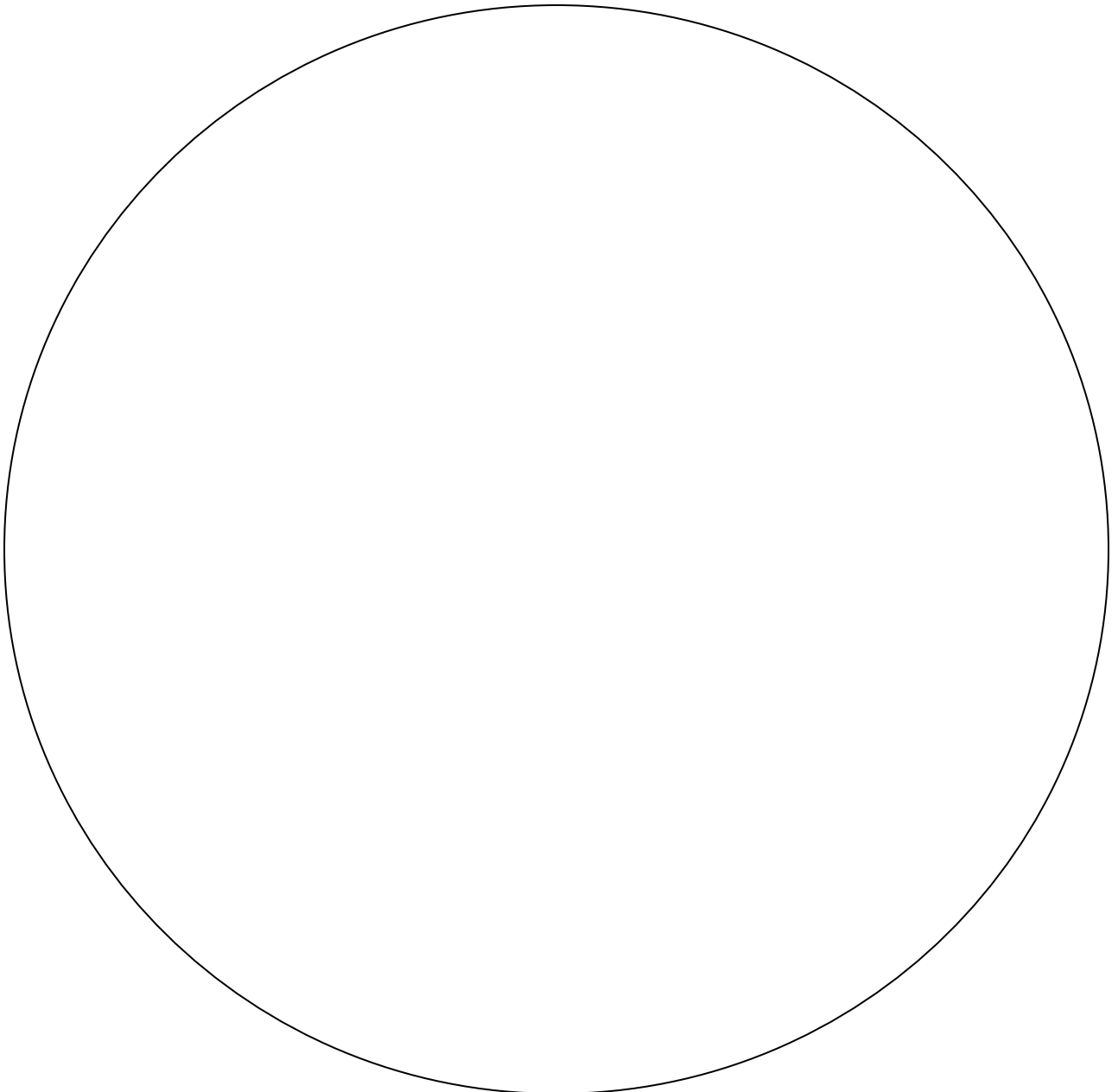
Change lives. **For good.**

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Fill the tiffin box with your own healthy and balanced lunch.  
Your meal may include foods from any culture or country.

Remember the following five food groups

- Starchy foods – bread, rice, potatoes, pasta
- Foods high in fat and/or sugar
- Non-dairy sources of protein
- Fruit and vegetables
- Milk and dairy foods



# Performance poetry

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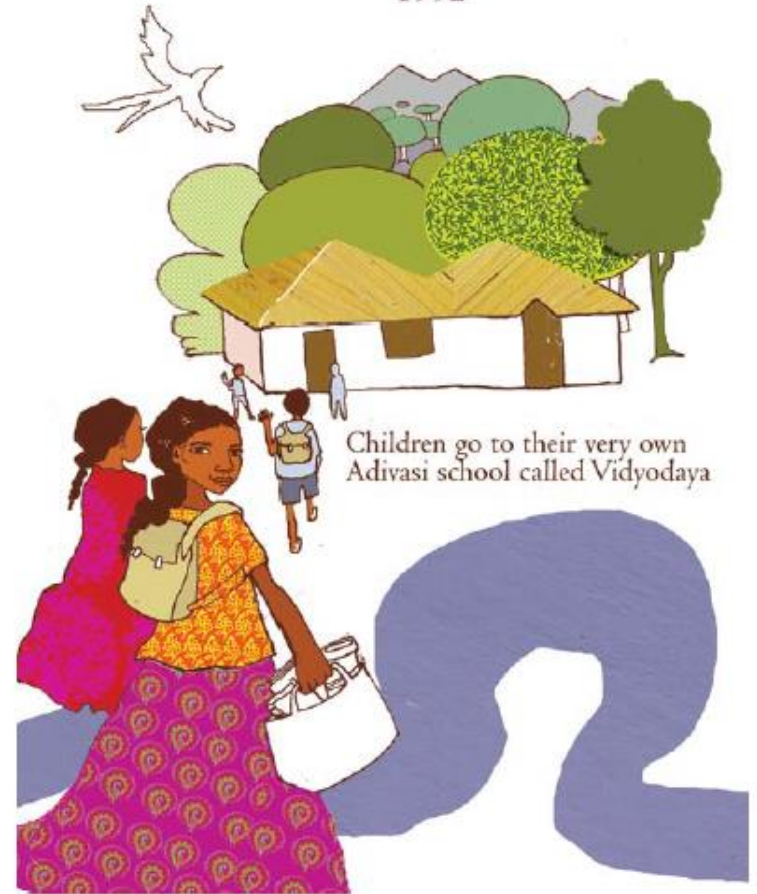
## Once I was a tiny seed

Once I was a tiny seed,  
Mother Nature cared my need.  
I grew up as a shady tree,  
Now my age is seventy three.

I have branches so many,  
For children to play in company  
I feed worms with juicy figs,  
I make homes with piles of twigs.

I am for the resting bird,  
As well as for the elephant herd  
People breathe the air I give,  
So, come, enjoy me, and let me live!

1992



Children go to their very own  
Adivasi school called Vidyodaya