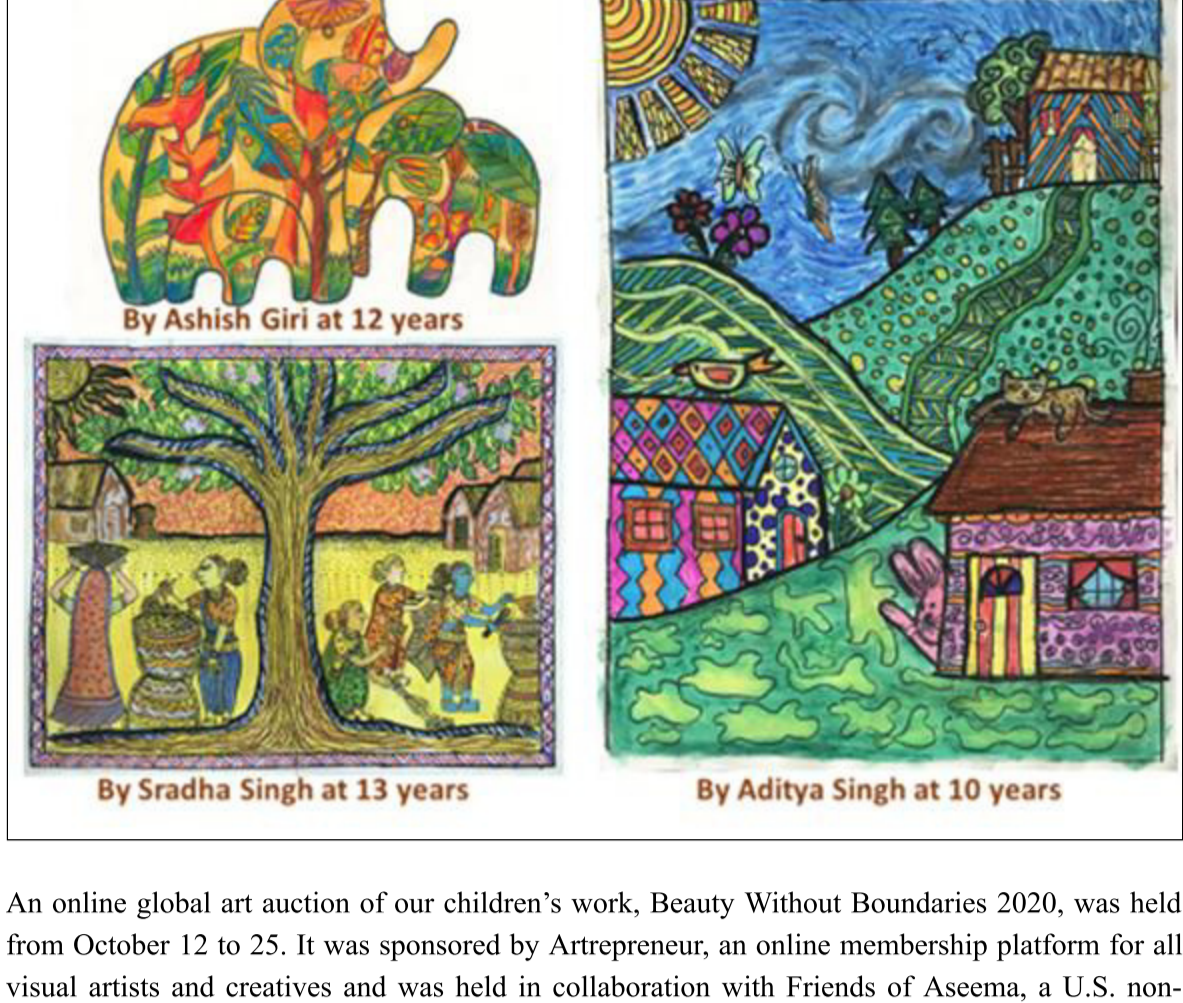


From out of the boundaries and limitations enforced by the pandemic we bring you our 43rd newsletter. We might be physically restricted, but not so our minds and creativity which have been ever active!

**Beauty without Boundaries 2020**



An online global art auction of our children’s work, Beauty Without Boundaries 2020, was held from October 12 to 25. It was sponsored by Artrepreneur, an online membership platform for all visual artists and creatives and was held in collaboration with Friends of Aseema, a U.S. non-profit dedicated to helping Aseema.

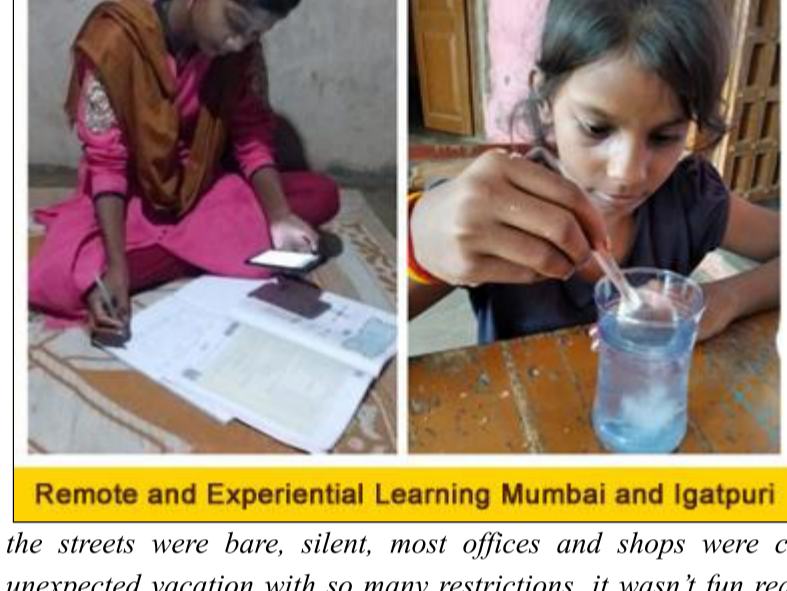
More than 20 works of art created by children aged 10 to 17, were on sale. The collection included watercolor landscapes, pen-and-ink drawings, mixed media and an assortment of brush paintings. Some of this art was created by the children during the COVID-19 lockdown sitting in their little homes with the assistance of their teachers on their mobile phones. Numerous high-level professionals, celebrities and business icons each donated a 15-minute online conversation with the highest bidders. The Guests were:

- Aamir Khan, Actor, Director, Producer
- Al Gury, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Chair
- Anita Dongre, Fashion Designer
- Amish Tripathi, Best-Selling Author
- Anjolie Ela Menon, Contemporary Artist
- Colonel Terry Virts, Commander of the International Space Station and Space Shuttle Pilot
- Danny Boyle, Academy Award Winning Director
- Dr. Jerry Wind, Marketing Professor at Wharton Business School
- Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Best-selling Author and Politician
- Elizabeth Grimaldi, Executive Director of Fleisher Art Memorial
- Joanne Rogers, wife of the late children’s television personality Fred Rogers
- Kate Johnson, President, Microsoft US
- Karambir Singh Kang, Area Director of USA for Indian Hotels Company Ltd
- Navin Valrani, CEO of Arcadia Schools
- Nick Jonas, Singer, Songwriter, Actor, Producer
- Nitin Rakesh, CEO of Mphasis
- Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Actor, Producer, Activist
- Raghav KK, Multidisciplinary Artist
- Senaka Senanayake, Contemporary Artist
- Tulio Milman, Journalist
- Vanessa German, Poet, Sculptor

The auction raised substantial funds despite a COVID-19 depressed economy. It reached over 5 million people in 40 countries. While the auction is now over, limited-edition prints of the children’s art continue to be displayed and sold on the Artrepreneur showroom, [artrepreneur.com/showroom/friendsofaseema](http://artrepreneur.com/showroom/friendsofaseema)

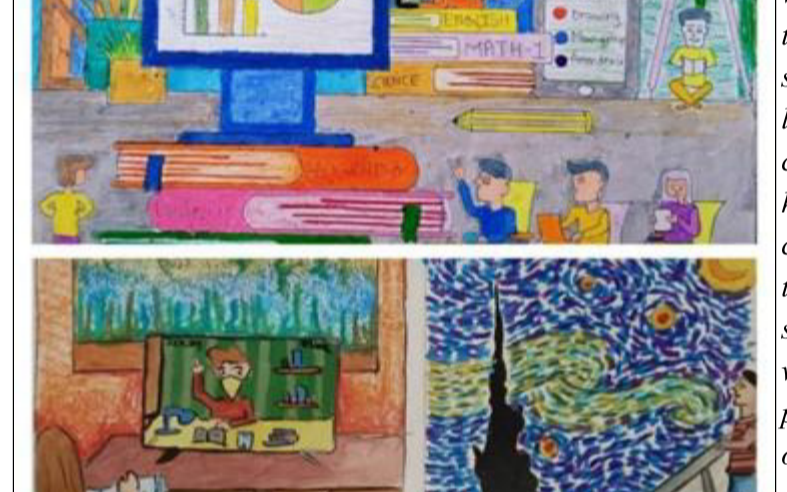
**The Children’s Contributions**

We share our children’s thoughts on different aspects- the lockdown and their lives, remote learning and their ideas for Children’s Day 2020. These insights to the thoughts and feelings of the children are inspiring and uplifting.



Remote and Experiential Learning Mumbai and Igatpuri

*Locked Down - What a year this has been! This is my second last year in school and I approached this academic year with some nervousness and many expectations. I thought I would enjoy being the senior in the school. Sometimes life does change overnight! One day the streets were bustling with traffic and activity, offices were full and we returned from school with stories about class and our friends. The next day the streets were bare, silent, most offices and shops were closed and we children had an unexpected vacation with so many restrictions, it wasn't fun really. We were in a lockdown and our parents were home too as they are daily wage earners. Food was a problem, so was money and so was travel. Those were strange days. We are still in a lockdown 7 months later and if I don't look at it in a positive way then I stand to lose a lot. There are so many positives. Most importantly, I have learnt to be responsible. I am no longer in a classroom with my teacher watching over me. Today, thanks to the many kind donors who sent my classmates and me laptops, we are in a virtual classroom. The decision to study however is mine alone. I realize I can waste my time but I will be the loser. There is no timetable, so I can choose the subject I want to study. There is no pressure to keep up with the rest of the class, so I can study in a relaxed manner. I keep busy, read, exercise, do things I enjoy like cooking. I have prepared many new snacks and have surprised my mother sometimes with a fusion of Maharashtrian and Muslim cuisines. I also enjoy doing art and craft activities, playing indoor mind games and recycling old clothes- all learnt through the internet. This Covid virus has attacked people but it has also brought families together to spend quality time together. Now that everyone is at home, kids are having a good time enjoying with their family members and relatives. As a child living through this extraordinary situation, the lesson I can take away from it is that every negative has a positive side to go with it and that the positive will be the new normal - Saniya Shaikh Standard IX.*



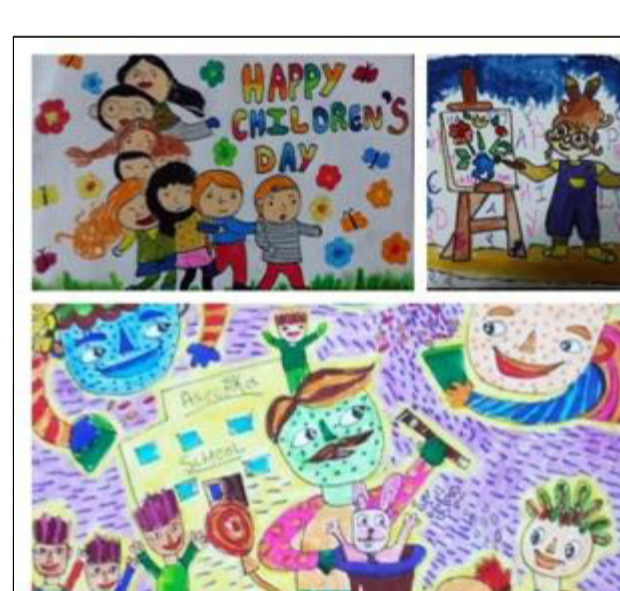
Artwork on Remote Learning by Aseema students

*Online learning vs Classroom lessons -Both have their advantages. I miss school and the company of my friends and learning with them directly from the teacher. But then there is the pandemic and I cannot attend school so that is not possible. Studying online is good as I don't have to wear a mask at home while at school I would. I can complete my assignments sitting at home as long as I submit them on time. In school I had to do them in class with limited time. My parents have me at home all the time and though I used to take away their phone for my lessons, now my sister and I have a phone donated by a kind donor. My parents are happy that I am safe at home and won't catch the infection too easily as long as I keep my hands and myself clean. In school if I had difficulties with understanding a lesson, I could ask the teacher to explain it to me immediately, now I have to message the teacher and she or he takes up the difficulty at another lesson. I miss the personal touch of the teacher in the class. At home I am on my own. Of course, there are videos and lessons but these are few and not enough to satisfy me with the most contactless study. I miss the correction and the scolding too which showed us how much the teacher cared about me growing up into a good person. Someday this will end and I shall be back in school reunited with my teachers and friends. Until then I shall continue to learn and do my assignments online so that I do not miss out on my education which is the key to success- Shradha Maurya Standard IX.*



Remote learning- Our work done at home

*14 November 2020 is fast approaching. This will be a Children's Day with a difference for me and other children like me. I never dreamed that I would be learning, not in a classroom sitting at my school desk, but on my father's smart phone in my village. As the lockdown began, my father brought us to our village. In a way it's quite nice. I wake up to the chirping birds and the smell of flowers. I don't get to see these different birds where I stay in Mumbai as there are no trees and no place for birds to stay. Through these seven months in my village, I have watched various kinds of birds fly past. I remembered a lesson I had learnt in English last year about the endangered Great Indian Bustard and that there are just a few bustards left in India. Before the lockdown, the smart phone was my source of entertainment for games and song videos, now it is my source of knowledge. Learning is different. At first, I missed going to school. But I soon realised that the internet opens up a lot of knowledge for me. I have learnt to search for information to understand my lessons better and I find remote learning has changed my way of learning for the better. I am more confident and am excited to use the phone and internet to know more. My general knowledge is improving. When I spoke with my little neighbour about Children's Day, he wanted to know more about it. I was so happy to be able to share all my knowledge with him. I told him about Chacha Nehru our first Prime Minister of India. That he was born on November 14 and he loved children so it is celebrated as Children's Day. Wow! Instead of listening to a reading about Chacha Nehru in my class, I share the story with my friends and neighbours and as I share knowledge in my village, I feel good. But I still long for my friends and teachers and so I want to go back to school - Suhani Gupta, Standard VII*

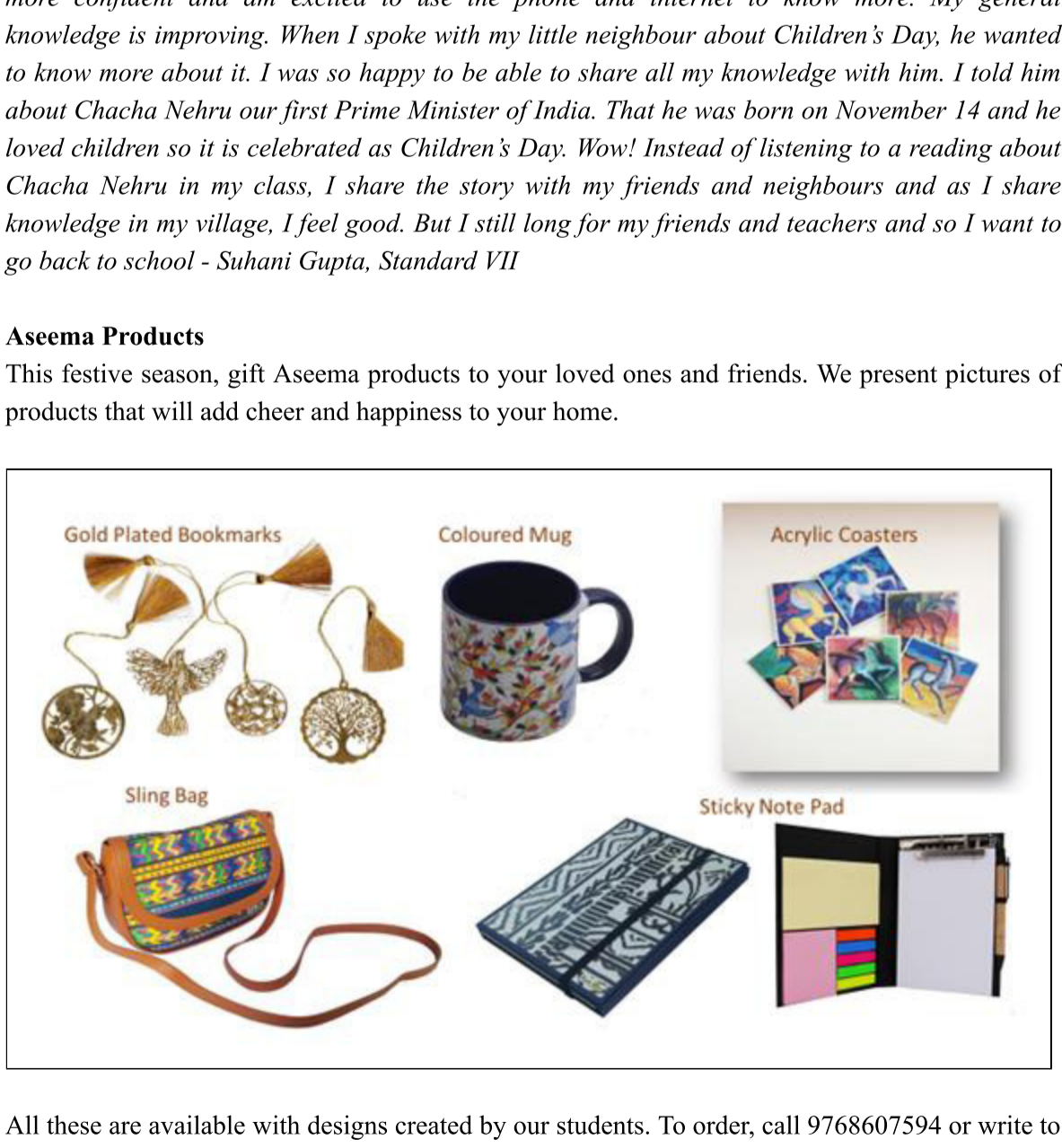


Artwork by Aseema students for Children's Day

*Great Indian Bustard and that there are just a few bustards left in India. Before the lockdown, the smart phone was my source of entertainment for games and song videos, now it is my source of knowledge. Learning is different. At first, I missed going to school. But I soon realised that the internet opens up a lot of knowledge for me. I have learnt to search for information to understand my lessons better and I find remote learning has changed my way of learning for the better. I am more confident and am excited to use the phone and internet to know more. My general knowledge is improving. When I spoke with my little neighbour about Children's Day, he wanted to know more about it. I was so happy to be able to share all my knowledge with him. I told him about Chacha Nehru our first Prime Minister of India. That he was born on November 14 and he loved children so it is celebrated as Children's Day. Wow! Instead of listening to a reading about Chacha Nehru in my class, I share the story with my friends and neighbours and as I share knowledge in my village, I feel good. But I still long for my friends and teachers and so I want to go back to school - Suhani Gupta, Standard VII*

**Aseema Products**

This festive season, gift Aseema products to your loved ones and friends. We present pictures of products that will add cheer and happiness to your home.



All these are available with designs created by our students. To order, call 9768607594 or write to [products@aseema.org](mailto:products@aseema.org)

A big thank you to all our funders, donors and well wishers.

Wishing you all a very Happy Diwali in the safety of your homes!

**Monetary Donations**

Ariez Kothavala Memorial Trust, Astral Foundation, Ajay H. Mehta, BNP Paribas India, BNP Paribas India Foundation, BNP Paribas Foundation, Friends of Aseema, GCO - Global Conference Organisers, Gitanjali Nevatia, HDFC Credila Financial Services Pvt. Ltd., Indian American Education Foundation, Indra Munshi, Kesi Piya Reddy, Laxmibai Dwarkadas Charity Trust, Mateen Dholakia, Moet Hennessy Pvt. Ltd., Mukul Pandya, Nivea India Pvt. Ltd., Resins & Plastics Ltd., The Lotus Trust, Vidya Trust.

**Donations in Kind**

Jain Stores, Kamini Desai.

**Exhibition Hosts**

Ace productions, Futuristic Expo, Nita Sanghvi.