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WELCOME

Welcome to Dream Big Cambodia and thank you for choosing our organization! If you are reading this you will be volunteering for our project or at least you are interested in doing so. We would like to provide you with some advice and information so that you will feel more prepared and that you have an idea of what to expect. Don't be afraid it is an amazing place and we are by your side if you have any questions, worries or feedback. Cristina School was originally founded in November 2015, today, Cristina School is part of the international DREAM BIG ASSOCIATION, directly managed by its Cambodian branch. It is a non-profit NGO that aims to offer children better opportunities for their future. In its Cambodian effort it does so by providing free English lessons taught by volunteer teachers from around the globe. The organization is an official Cambodian NGO and is located close to Siem Reap. It is run by a former student Rathana and has local staff from the surrounding village that help us sustain every day routines at the school. The organization is financed by donations and the contributions the volunteers give for their daily supplies. We therefore kindly ask every staying volunteer for a weekly contribution of for their food and accommodation. We are happy to answer any questions about donations. All our staff is getting paid by the Dream Big Association as well.

WHO IS WHO?

Rathana has been involved with the school since the very beginning and is a former student at Cristina School. She is graduated as a former English Teacher since August 2019. She takes care of the daily routine at Dream Big Cambodia as well as the weekly finances. She welcomes the new volunteers to the school, helping them to feel at home and supporting them to teach the children. Rathana is close with the community and works hard to ensure the wellbeing of the students and the volunteers also. Please give the weekly contribution to her every Monday!!!

Sok Nim is the cook at the school. She is Rathana's aunt and also the wife of the director of Phoum Steung Public School. She is in charge of shopping for the food and cooking delicious meals for all of the volunteers. Sok Nim does not speak much English, so please help her to learn the language so she can soon communicate with the volunteers. Meanwhile if you have any questions, Rathana can help to translate.

Cristina is the project coordinator and helped to establish and build our free school. She is in charge of being in contact with volunteers as well as the international relationships, administration, fundraising and anything related to the project since 2016. Please do not hesitate to send an email to bakongenglishschool@gmail.com if you have any questions or if you need support with anything. Cristina does not live in Cambodia but she comes back to the project every year.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT BEFORE COMING?

Cristina English School is located in a rural area. It is reachable within 20min TukTuk ride from Siem Reap, but there are not many tourists seen around here. We expect volunteers to behave according to the Khmer culture that might be more conservative than western countries. Rathana can answer all your questions on the spot but we expect volunteers to have a bit of knowledge about the country before arriving. We serve three meals per day, they are all very simple and mostly vegetarian. For breakfast we provide bread and coffee. However if you would like to buy jam, additional food or toilet paper please do so in Siem Reap before getting picked up. Also as we live in a very poor area and little amount of money is used by the locals. Make sure to bring the small cash notes (1-5\$) as the locals might have problems with change. Also the contribution have to be paid every Monday in cash and it is easier if everyone pays the exact amount.

We live with the locals here and it is a very communal way of living. We share a bathroom, we share food and the house with Mr. Kimra and his wife and cook Sok Nim. Please be aware that we are a big family and everyone has to compromise for the community. It is a unique experience to come and live here but it is not comparable with a hostel or European standards. Rathana, Sok Nim and Mr. Kimra do their best to make everyone happy and comfortable but please be forgiving if something doesn't go your way. If anything bothers you feel free to ask Cristina for help or politely address the matter to the volunteers/ family.

PACKING LIST

Mosquito repellent

Clothes to cover shoulders and knees

Sun cream

Light sleeping bag

Small bag pack

Flip flops (as we take off shoes inside and they are easy to take off)

Jam/Butter or other stuff to put on your bread

Water bottle to refill

Little cash notes (1-5\$)

The weekly contribution in cash

Toilet paper (as the locals use water)

Fun, motivation and a SMILE

OUR SCHOOLS

1. **Cristina English School** is located in Bakong village (20 km from Siem Reap). Cristina School is placed on Mr. Kimra and Sok Nim's (Rathana's uncle and aunt) land that we rent from them. It consist of four bamboo classrooms as well as a big house in which the volunteers and the family live. Please be aware that there are children around most of the time during the day. For them Cristina School is a playground, a school and place where they can just be children as many of them have to help a lot at home. The amount of children coming can vary every day depending on the month and the time of the year (eg. Summer holiday/rainy season).
2. **Phoung Steung public school** is located in Phoung Steung village (1.5km from Cristina School). The volunteers are able to teach there one hour per day from 10-11am. A lot of the public school students also come to the Cristina School as many of them are very eager to learn! Every child in Cambodia is supposed to go to a free public school. With only few exceptions (students that moved to the area during the school year for example) all students of Cristina School go to one of the Khmer local public schools around Bakong.

ARRIVING AT CRISTINA SCHOOL

When you arrive at Cristina School, our driver will pick you up every Monday from Siem Reap airport or in front of the Lucky Mall. PLEASE pay him a contribution of 5\$ per person for the transport and 7\$ per person if you want to be picked up from the airport. We require this contribution for the driver because when times we don't have enough volunteers, we may be not able to pay him a salary, and it's a way he can have some income to keep being able to help us out with the volunteers and students pick up. He will then take you to the project (40min ride from Siem Reap). At Cristina School Rathana will welcome you and make an introduction of the project. Then she will introduce you the "guardian" of the week, one of our current volunteers with more experience to give you a tour and be your support to help you adapt as soon as possible. Please make sure you are signed in to the right bed and then feel like home! Rathana will be around every day but she will not live with you at the school grounds. Her aunt Sok Nim will be around all the time.

After the introduction and tour, feel free to check out all classes and talk to the other volunteers. Feel free to ask all your questions but please read all the material you have been given. The first days might be very exhausting due to the heat and the new circumstances. Take it slowly and make sure you get some rest. If any questions arise that cannot be answered contact our international team (the contacts are found next to the information board in the office). Enjoy your time here and thanks again for coming and helping us!

Please feel free to ask your "guardian" about our lesson plan and what we teach at the moment. She will introduce you to our monthly topic plan and show you the drive that we use to keep the log books updated. Rathana will ask for your documents (passport and visa) to report everyone to the local police for security reasons. If you wish to extend your stay please contact Cristina in advance so that we can plan for the next weeks. This way we assure that there is no overbooking and everyone gets a bed when they arrive

TEACHING AT CRISTINA SCHOOL

Your help with teaching is appreciated by everyone from the local community and by the children because they know it offers them better opportunities for their future. If you come from far away you will probably notice that a lot of things are done in a different way here in Cambodia. An example is the way children are taught. You are more than welcome to introduce your own teaching methods just remember to be patient as the children are normally only used to repeat whatever the teacher says. Don't worry if you are not a teacher or native English speaker most of our volunteers are not. You will have a great time with the children and you will be surprised by your performance as a

teacher. Most important is that you are motivated and really want to help, then for sure you will succeed. And also remember the Dream Big family is always here to help you!

ENGLISH LEVELS & TEACHING TIPS CRISTINA ENGLISH SCHOOL

When we started teaching in Bakong we only had 12 students. Now, after all these years, the number of students has increased to over 300. The children are aged 4 up until 20. They are divided into different classes according to their English level. The children know in which class they are supposed to be. We provide classes for seven different levels at Cristina School:

- ABC
- LOWER BEGINNER 1
- LOWER BEGINNER 2
- BEGINNER
- INTERMEDIATE
- UPPER INTERMEDIATE
- ADVANCED

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT EVERY DAY BEFORE 4PM ALL TEACHERS COME TOGETHER TO PLAN THE LESSONS!! FROM 4PM IS PLAY TIME WITH THE KIDS UNTIL THE LESSONS BEGIN AT 5:30PM.

ENGLISH LEVELS & TEACHING TIPS CRISTINA ENGLISH SCHOOL

We start classes at Cristina School every morning at 8AM. Before teaching begins, we all come together on the football field and sing our school anthem. After that, all children rush into their classes. Currently, we teach four levels in the morning: ABC, LOWER BEGINNER 1, 2 and INTERMEDIATE. This might change according to the children that show up (as they change the time of their public school lessons every month). The first lesson at Cristina School is a double lesson 8-10AM, divided by a break around nine. Our school bell is rung before and after each lesson.

The afternoon lessons at Cristina School start at 5:30PM and are again started with our school anthem. Many of the children are already playing on the school yard from noon on. In the evening classes are like the following:

- Round 1 from 5:30PM – 6:15PM (ABC, Lower BEGINNER)
- Round 2 from 6:20PM -7:10PM (BEGINNER, INTERMEDIATE, UPPER INTERMEDIATE)
- Round 3 from 7:10PM-8:00PM (ADVANCED)

The big white board in the offices shows the time table as well. Be again aware that this might change due to the current month and season as well as the amount of volunteers we have at the moment.

We also have a big (blue/green & black) folders for each class taught at Cristina School and the Public School. There are pictures of all children in the class as well as their level of English and last exam. Also there is an attendance list we ask you to fill in at the beginning of each class. Make sure that in the beginning of each month there is a new form in each folder for morning and afternoon classes.

WHAT DO WE TEACH THEM?

At Cristina school we teach accordingly to a yearly lesson plan that has to be followed (THE 12 TOPICS). To keep track of what has been taught already, we use an online drive log book for each class. The lesson plan consists out of 12 topics which are each taught for four weeks. Each topic has a plan for each of the four weeks. Please check the drive document to see in what topic we are. Important is, that all classes at Cristina school are following the plans at the same time so each class gets taught the same topic, just at different levels. Please do not make any changes in the topics or plans as they are checked weekly by our international team and assure that the teaching is running smoothly at all times.

In the online log books, in the drive document (if you have not yet received the link please email: bakongenglishschool@gmail.com) we keep track of what has been taught, how it went and what has to be improved. The log books are completed weekly, and we kindly ask you to update the log books of your class on Fridays before you start your weekend, as they get checked by our team and sponsors to make sure they are completed. It is important to repeat what has been taught at the end of the week, as well as at the beginning of each lesson. Children learn slowly, so don't be frustrated if you don't see immediate progress. From our experience, we can tell you: there is a progress and YOU do have an impact on their progress, even though it might not be visible right away. Also, please take the log book entry seriously, as it is from great importance for the next person taking over your class, to see what went well and what has to be repeated, as you might not meet them in person.

IN GENERAL WE FOLLOW THIS LESSON STRUCTURE FOR TEACHING:

- Daily routine (10 min): Phonetics OR Grammar & eg: song, date, questions, reading
- Repeating last lesson (10 min): What do they remember from the last lesson?
- Topic of the week (actual lesson): Introduce new topic/ continue what has been taught
- Summarize topic (10 min): Exercise/activity/ worksheet about today's lesson
- IF TIME LEFT: Games (10 min): Bingo, Give me 5, Teacher says...

* Every Monday: extra important to repeat the last lesson

* Every Friday: resume the week (little test) to see development and improvement

What we teach in every level for each topic can be found in the drive. When you arrive at Cristina school, you will see a big white board in the office, with all the classes we teach at the moment. Rathana already places the new arriving volunteers in a specific class before they come, trying to make sure that they are with someone that already knows the class, and that we have an equal amount of teachers in each class. However, due to the fact that we sometimes do not have enough volunteers, it might happen that you will teach alone. But no worries, our team is always by your side and you can

ask Cristina or the other volunteers for help! If you are unhappy with the class you are teaching we have a meeting every Thursday evening after dinner and you may swap classes. Please keep in mind though that the children already have a lot of teacher changes, so every additional change is more work for you and them.

IN GENERAL WE TEACH THE DIFFERENT LEVELS AS FOLLOWING! CHECK THE DRIVE FOR EXACT INFORMATION

ABC: some of them are not even in school yet and do not read or write in Khmer. We focus on teaching them the sounds of the alphabet (rather than the letters) and try to make them become familiar with the language. They are quite young and energetic so we play games, sing songs or teach them interactively, instead of making them write. Remember that children learn through seeing, hearing and speaking first before they should write.

LOWER BEGINNERS: In the beginning of each class we focus on phonetics with them. We have now divided the class into two (Lower beginner 1&2) to make sure to reach all of them at their level of English. They are familiar with the alphabet, but struggle with speaking in whole sentences, as well as reading and spelling. Check the many worksheets and exercises we have put in the drive to make sure to teach them appropriately to their skills.

BEGINNERS: They are able to spell and read easy words. Nevertheless we start the lessons with phonetics as they still struggle with the sounds of the letters. We focus on their vocabulary and their speaking skills. They will understand quite well what you say but struggle answering in sentences.

INTERMEDIATE: They are able to read and spell out many words. We therefore do a little grammar part in the beginning of each lesson to improve their skills. They are quite good at spelling but struggle with speaking. Please make sure that they hear, see and say the new learned words before they write them down. This way we avoid that they just copy without being able to know what they write down.

UPPER INTERMEDIATE: These students are grammar pro's as their English classes in public school focus a lot on that. They are quite advanced in speaking and are able to read almost everything.

ADVANCED: This class is currently not taking place as many of the students that used to come are taking their final exams in High School. We are hoping to establish a new class as soon as they are finished, but at the moment the class has only one adult student who has his own book he wants to follow. Make sure to check the previous volunteer's log book entries carefully before teaching this class.

ALL classes follow the yearly topic plan according to the DRIVE!

Please feel free to come up with your own teaching methods while following our lesson plan, and remember all children come here in their free time. It is additional work for them but they are super

motivated and hard working. We have lots of interesting activities in the DRIVE folders as well as in the Topic folders in the office. Feel free to add content that fits the week's topic and to use our amazing flashcards. If you have questions concerning the planning and or the drive, feel free to ask our DREAMER RUBY: rubyhemsworth@hotmail.co.uk And make sure you check out her video in the Drive on how to use the DRIVE.

Remember that log books entries are completed each Friday as there might be new volunteers arriving on Monday and our international donors rely on the reports. They might stop their regular contributions if the log book entries are not complete.

Some children seem shy or a bit cheeky in the beginning but we can promise you as soon as you get to know them you will love them all. As they already have a tough schedule from public school we try to make the lessons fun by using lots of material, games and movements to teach. Also apart from little tests and the quarterly exam we do not.

DRESSCODE AT CRISTINA SCHOOL:

At Cristina School you can wear whatever you want. But please remember this is still as school, we do not tan on the school yard and as Cambodia is still more traditional keep that in mind while packing. There might be mosquitos around so please take some long sleeves as well.

OUR YEARLY LESSON PLAN CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

Topic 1: Food

Topic 2: Jobs

Topic 3: House

Topic 4: Holiday

Topic 5: English speaking countries

Topic 6: Environment

Topic 7: Animals

Topic 8: My Body

Topic 9: My daily life

Topic 10: Hobbies

Topic 11: Festivals & Celebrations

Topic 12: Cambodia

As mentioned before the plan must be followed and every topic is taught four weeks. If a week has only two school days (due to weather or celebrations) the weeks topic is continued in the next week as well. Watch the video of our fellow DREAMER Ruby explaining the Drive and how to use it.

WHAT DO WE TEACH THEM?

If you feel the class you are teaching is too loud and concentrated take a small break and make them calm down. A bit of movement can help as well and they will be more focused afterwards. In general if there is a problem with a student try to solve it calmly or ask Rathana for help with a translation. The children are all amazing and don't worry they will respect you as a teacher and love you very soon!

PHOUNG STEUNG PUBLIC SCHOOL

At the public school (located around 1.5km from Cristina School) we teach one lesson from 10AM – 11AM. Either the volunteers go by bike or our driver takes them. It is not more than a 10min bike ride. Public school in Cambodia is a very different experience from anything in the westernized world and might be a bit overwhelming at first. The students are required to follow the classes there and it is free until high school for all of them. Many teachers at public school (including the director) do not speak English but they appreciate us coming and teaching the children.

We do not follow the yearly lesson plan from Cristina School but rely on the PUBLIC SCHOOL BOOK (copies are in the office). We are teaching three levels:

Year 4: age 9-10

Year 5: age 11-12

Year 6: age 12-13

It might be confusing but the age range in one class can be very wide as the children can skip and repeat classes many times depending on their skills. All grades have an A and B class. One of the classes is taught in the morning one in the afternoon. Every month they swap (always 1st of the month no matter what day of the week). As we only teach them 1 hour from 10AM- 11AM the class we teach changes every month. This makes it very difficult to make them remember the previously taught material as they have a one month break (while it is their turn to have lessons in the afternoon).

All classes at public school have around 40 students, and they can be between 9 and 15 years old within one class. However, every child in Cambodia, no matter their age, loves to sing, dance and play games in class. They are all eager to learn, and the director of the school (Kim Rah) and all the other staff teachers are very happy to have us there.

Don't be frustrated if the students are learning as fast as you'd expect them to or forget what you have taught them last week. Learning is a slow process that needs time and a lot of repetition. English is very different from Khmer and also the ways we teach might not be well known to them. But we can promise that the students ARE improving and everything you teach them can make a huge impact on their lives. The students at the public school are used to copying a lot from the board. It is important that they should not only copy, but understand what they are writing down. Everything a student

writes in their notebook should be heard (teacher reads it out), read (loud) and seen (written on the board) before they copy it.

A big challenge is the children's reading level, most of them don't really know how to read in English, that's why we work a lot with phonetics. If you need translation in Khmer, because your students don't understand, feel free to ask the two Khmer teachers of year 6 (only English speaking teachers at the school) or one of the advanced students from Cristina school. Make sure you prepare the public school lessons well, make a lesson plan so that you have no problems filling one hour of class. In the end all the children are happy if you have some minutes left for a game or a song.

DRESS CODE AT PUBLIC SCHOOL:

It is necessary to cover shoulders and knees when you teach in public school. It is traditional that the teachers dress properly in Cambodia and the children will complain if you show up with shorts and tops. Please don't take this as a restriction but rather as an experience.

WHAT DO WE TEACH THEM AT PUBLIC SCHOOL?

We teach at the public school in the morning for 1 hour. That might seem very long, but with the help of our lesson plan, you will see that the time flies:

1. Daily Routine (10min) Start your lesson with the students by completing a daily routine. Children love routines and even if you think it is boring it is very important for them to have something that's done regularly. It could be: - Singing songs - Writing down the day of the week (today is...) - A question round (how are you...) - Counting the boys/girl in class.

If you take over a class they might already have a daily routine. To assure a smooth take over from the previous teacher it is important to keep these up. The children are taught to stand up when a teacher enters the room. They will ask you how you're doing and answer that they are fine. They will wait until you tell them to sit down.

2. Repetition of last lesson (15min): It is VERY important to do this. You will see if the children remember what you did with them and where there are still problems. It is a good way to involve all the students and make them come up to the board. You can also make one of the students become the teacher to repeat what they learned.
3. New things (20min): This is the time to introduce new vocabulary, a new part of your topic or developing new skills. Be aware that we have to teach them step by step. No one can learn more than 5 new vocabularies at once.
4. Summarize (5-10min): Summarize with the children what they have learnt today and what they can do already. It is important to show them what they have achieved in the lesson. It

can be done together on the board with a couple of examples, an exercise or even a game. They love to play competitive games with two or more teams. You can also form a role-play and make them present it to the rest of the class.

5. Ending the lesson (5-10min): It is the same as the beginning of the lesson, and it is important to end the lesson together. You are the teacher, no one goes out or packs their bag before you end the lesson. You can have a routine with singing a song or saying a rhyme (see you tomorrow/later alligator...).

We do follow their English book (which is very bad designed and boring) so feel free to pimp up the topics of the chapters with additional exercises or fun activities. In the office the cupboard on the left hand side is for public school and you will find the book as well as a folder with worksheets or activity ideas inside for every year. We also have notebooks for the children at public school that we bring there every day. Make sure to collect them afterwards and check if they understood the exercise. They like to keep the books but then they forget them the next day so make sure YOU take the books back to Cristina school and store them in the shelf. Also fill in the registration form as we need the attendance list for the reports we have to write.

LIVING AT CRISTINA SCHOOL

All the volunteers live together in the main building of Cristina School. The house has a big office on the ground floor as well as a small library. The big table in the house is used for eating, playing, chilling or planning the lessons. Please make sure that you take away your stuff as we all share this area and it can get messy very quickly. The communal bathroom is also on the ground floor, and we use the bucket in order to have a shower. All volunteers share this bathroom so we rely on each other to keep it clean. There is also a squat toilet in the communal bathroom. As the local prefer to use water you will have to bring your own toilet paper as our stock might run out of paper. There is a second shower outside as well as a separate toilet and it is clean and comfortable to use as well.

The first floor of the building consist of a big dorm room (Bed 1-12). All beds have curtains to assure privacy. And the big light will be turned out if some volunteers go to bed earlier. Each bed comes with a mosquito net, a blanket, a pillow, a clean sheet and a torch. Every leaving volunteer is required to wash their sheets before leaving, or to give Sok Nim 5\$ for the laundry. This way every new volunteer will get a clean sheet when arriving. There are small shelves upstairs where you can put some of your clothes. Every Tuesday is cleaning day and we expect you to do this together and thoroughly. Do not take food into the rooms as they attract mice and ants and we wish to stay clean from them! The kitchen offers some space in the fridge and the cupboard but please be lenient if someone takes your

stuff by accident. We all share this place which is an amazing experience if everyone is willing to participate and give their best. If you want some place to rest, we have hammocks outside as well as the communal areas.

The classrooms are four bamboo huts on the same property. Cristina School is more than just a school. For many of the children it is the only place where they can play and meet other children in a safe and guarded area. We have a small football pitch, a volleyball net and lots of toys and books for the children. Because most of the children's parents are working full time and have basically no time for their children, the school is a great opportunity for them to learn & play and just be children. From early in the morning on the children will be around and they will start coming soon after lunch again to play. Even on the weekends there will always be some children around playing, asking you to read with them or to play football. If this is a problem for you, consider going to Siem Reap for the weekend to relax and have a break from working. But anyways, staying at Cristina School is a great experience and you will see very soon these children will win your heart and you will become part of the Dream Big family. We can accommodate up to 12 volunteers at the same time. The bathroom is shared, we have a shower and a squat toilet. There is no hot water but there is free WIFI!

We provide three meals per day. The food is based on vegetables, rice, noodles, eggs and fruit. The food is cooked by Sok Nim but you are always welcome to help and suggest new dishes. We always have the meals together (breakfast between 7-8, lunch around 12pm and dinner at 8pm). After eating the volunteers take turns in doing the dishes. If you're hungry during the day feel free to purchase snacks at the surrounding markets or bring them from Siem Reap. If you fancy some specific sauces (apart from chili and soy) you can buy them in Makro (supermarket on the road) or in Siem Reap. You can put them in the fridge but don't forget to put your name on them. And as we might turn off the fridge during the weekend when no one is around please don't get mad if we throw half empty stuff away as it can get bad.

The main task for volunteers is teaching but other tasks might include organizing the school supplies (log books!!), cleaning or helping with the maintenance of the school. You will notice that teaching is very tiring so feel free to take a nap and relax during the day. Other activities can be done, contact our team if you would like to contribute in a different way. Proactive work can be done by talking about our project with family and friends, and reviewing us on Workaway (workaway.info/594699277722-en.html).

AROUND CRISTINA SCHOOL

You will get the chance to be part of the daily local routine while living in this area. The hours not teaching can be spent outside, playing with children, hanging around in hammocks, reading, talking, visiting local markets or playing cards. The famous Bakong Temples are nearby, and there are a few

markets in the area. The most popular one is Roluos market, which can easily be reached with the bicycles we provide for the volunteers.

WEEKENDS

On the weekend you can go to Siem Reap (hitchhiking or ask our driver to take you for a small contribution) to get a hot shower, do some shopping, and maybe hit Pub Street for a night out. It is also possible to stay at the school over the weekend, doing day trips to the nearby lake or temples or even organizing a school trip with the children on Sundays. Ask Rathana for further information. The school free days are Saturday and Sunday, so it is possible to do a weekend trip to nearby Battambang (4h) or even Phnom Penh (6h). It is probably not doable to reach the coast or the island in that time so save that for a different trip. Siem Reap has a lot to offer and it's a great place to relax. Apart from that it can be also very relaxing to just spend a weekend at the pool and relax.

ALCOHOL & SMOKING

Please remember that we are a school and as teachers you act as role models for the children. In recent years Cambodia developed a huge problem with drinking and it is not good to be seen around children while drinking. In Siem Reap you can get cheap beer so we ask you to not drink while staying at the school. Smoking however is allowed outside the school grounds when there are NO students around. We do not want them to see you smoking.

WHERE IS THE MONEY GOING?

Every volunteer pays a weekly contribution (no matter if you spend the weekend at Cristina School or not), which covers the expenses for accommodation, food and drinking water. We kindly ask you to pay the weekly charge on Monday to Rathana. She is in charge of the daily expenses and fills in our accounting documents. These are shared with Cristina to make sure we have enough savings for times with less volunteers. The finances of Cristina School are also shared with our international finance member to make sure donations are spent in the right place. We are a team of former volunteers keeping track of the money, and we are more than happy to share information about it with you or answer your questions about it. Since we don't receive any help from the government or any private institution, the weekly contribution is not only used for covering the volunteer's expenses, but also for school supplies, rent, electricity and all the costs involved in the daily life of our organization.

The people living around us are very poor, and there are some corrupt officers that try to get money out of the project, this is why we control the bigger donations from Europe to make sure the money

gets where it is needed. If you would like to contribute to the project or do a fundraising please contact our team: bakongenglishschool@gmail.com and we will provide you with information.

SUSTAINABILITY AT CRISTINA ENGLISH SCHOOL

As you might have noticed coming to Cambodia, the country is not only very poor but also very dirty. Plastic is used for everything, and after use thrown in the nature. We do not support that at Cristina School. It is a slow progress but we teach the children to throw their trash in the bin (please remind them from time to time). Say no to extra plastic in Siem Reap, and use one of the many refilling water stations of the town. In our TOPIC 06 we teach about the environment, feel free to add your own ideas. Tuesdays are cleaning days, and we try to use the old water bottles and trash for art projects and decoration. Any ideas to make Cristina School more sustainable are appreciated and feel free to start your own projects. Please turn off the fans and lights when you do not use them and make sure everything is turned off when you leave for the weekends! Thanks for supporting our values and have a great time at Cristina School!

THE QUARTERLY REPORT

Every four months we will have to do exams with all students at Cristina School and public School. The dates are as followed:

25th of March

24th of June

23rd of September

16th of December

If you happen to be around at that time you will experience a unique opportunity: Designing a test for your class and grading it. Don't worry, we have enough material you can use and if you are unsure about the grading you can always ask the other volunteers, Rathana or our international board. The kids will be tested on the exact date and the grades have to be send to Cristina for the report. It is a great opportunity to see how well the children understood the content and how they are doing in class. All data will be send to: bakongenglishschool@gmail.com !

FAQ: CRISTINA ENGLISH SCHOOL & VOLUNTEERING IN CAMBODIA

Who is Cristina? Cristina is the founder and president of Dream Big Association and its branch in Cambodia. She is also one of the first volunteers the school had. Since she came the first time in 2016 she's been in charge of all correspondence (all the way from Spain)! The school has since been named after her to honor her labor. She is not permanently at the school (but might be around at times).

Who will I find at the School? It really is a unique experience to live in the village of Bakong with the locals. There are often children around and at the moment we share the grounds with our two cats, several hens, and a dog named Paquito. Rathana comes every day to check on things and Sok Nim lives with the volunteers on the school ground. Also Sok Nim, Rathana's aunt, will be around to help with the cooking.

Where do the volunteers stay? At Cristina school in Bakong we have a big house for the volunteers to stay and live. We have a big open dorm with eight beds in total. The big shared open space has curtains around each bed, so you have your privacy. Therefore our maximum capacity at the moment is 12 volunteers. We have two bathrooms with squat toilets and a normal shower. There is still no hot water :). Sheets, mosquito nets, electric fans, and pillows are all provided, but you might want to bring a light sleeping bag or a blanket. There is electricity, and you can easily charge all electronic devices.

What will be my day like? Volunteers wake up around 7:30 to have breakfast altogether. The lessons at Cristina School start at 8AM and lasting until 10AM (with a 20 min break around 9). All classes start and end when the school bell is rung. At 10AM we do one hour of teaching at a nearby public school until 11. From 11 to 5:30 there is a long break, during which lunch is served and teachers generally plan their next classes, relax, and take a nap our help with maintenance of the school. The lessons in the afternoon are from 5:30 to 7:10 (with usually 20 min break in between). Dinner is served at 8 and we do all the dishes together taking turns. After dinner you can play cards, chat or just relax. We do have the rule to be quite at 10PM as some volunteers might want to sleep at that time. We do not turn on the big light in the dorm after that but everyone is welcome to use their torch for reading or else.

What if we run out of school material? Normally our closet is always full of books, pens and material. If something happens to run out, ask Rathana to buy new things or use your weekend trip to Siem Reap to get some more material. Of course you do not have to spend your own money but as we only live from the contributions every little help is appreciated. If anything big is missing feel free to contact Cristina as well and she will make sure it is replaced.

How do I teach, especially if I am not a teacher? It is actually rare that volunteers are teachers, few have actual experience in education, don't discourage yourself! Cristina School lessons follow a yearly lesson plan and each week has a topic plan that has to be followed. Of course you are free to create

your own teaching method as long as you follow our guidelines. You can use all your creativity and ideas and fill the lessons with your own activities and you may follow your own style or preferences. Every day around 3PM all teachers come together to plan their lessons with all the volunteers. That way you will not be left on your own with the teaching. Everyone is here to learn as well and to share their experiences with adapting to classes and teachers. Some classes might only have 3 students others up to 20 depending on level and time of the day.

I am unsure of my level of English, can I still apply? YES! As long as you can speak some English you are welcome here! There are different levels of teaching, the lowest (as ABC) doesn't require proficiency in English. Other than that there is so much more one can do to help the school. There are opportunities for those who would like to help with construction, fundraising, website content, photography, IT skills, and anything else, don't hesitate to ask (especially if you have ideas)! You can contact our board beforehand if you prefer to work in a different field, and they will make sure you'll be placed in a different area of work: bakongenglishschool@gmail.com

How to prepare the lessons? We do have a computer at Cristina School as well as printer. Feel free to use both of them but remember that paper is expensive and try to use scrap paper first as well as printing smaller sizes paper (DIN A5/A6). Every day at 3PM all volunteers come together to plan their lessons. If you are more than one teacher come together and plan it as a team. If you're alone feel free to ask the others for advice and help. Check the log book entries from last week's lessons and build the new lesson based on the previous. Check the TOPIC folders (shelve in the office) for worksheets, activities or ideas. For public school check the drive and the little shelf behind the door. We follow a book for each year that has different topics as well as folders with worksheets and topics.

LIVING AT CRISTINA SCHOOL

WIFI: We do have free wifi at Cristina School but due to power cuts it might not be available ALL the time. As many kids come here to you it as well the network might not be working if too many devices are connected at the same time. Turning the wifi off and on again can help establishing a new connection. As we as teachers rely on it for planning and teaching, feel free to tell the children to leave the network when you have to use it. Many children will stay longer as the lessons and continue using the wifi but we have a general rule that only the one's joining classes are allowed to be on the wifi. If you notice children hanging on their phones instead of joining the classes please tell Rathana or turn the wifi off. They know they are only allowed here if they are students but like everywhere else the mobile devices and games can be addictive and they are just children.

Presents for the children / private gateway to Siem Reap, Lake, Mountain, anywhere: We do not support or allow personal presents to the children or private gateway to Siem Reap, Lake, Mountain. It can be very frustrating to see the poorness of the children and you might feel the urge to help them

directly or give them extra special attention our favoritism. We can assure you from our long experience that the best way to support the children in a fair, equal and sustainable way is to teach them and to stay as long as possible at the school. Personal presents can start fights, make children feel better than the others or worse than others. Many will not be kept as the parents sell them as they desperately need the money. We are working on a project to support the disadvantage and most in need ones with their education so if you want to become a godfather/mother please contact us first: bakongenglishschool@gmail.com. Creating tight bonds towards the kids you are damaging their wellbeing since you won't be at the project forever, when leaving time comes, you are about to create an emotional GAP to the child that may be difficult for them to overcome. Remember, NO favorites, everyone EQUAL.

If you still want to help, fill up the closet in the office with material or get books/games/balls everyone can use at the school. We do not have ONE favorite student, ALL STUDENTS ARE OUR FAVORITES.

Laundry: We have a laundry area where you can do your laundry with soap and water like the locals. During the sunny days the cloths are dry in no time. However if you prefer to let it done, the prices for a kilo of laundry are usually 1\$ in Siem Reap as well as at the local market. The closest laundry place is located 10min by bike and it is normally ready within 24hours.

Medicine: If you start to feel sick please make sure to ask Rathana for our medicine box. We do also have a first aid kit for the children and teachers. Some kids might come and ask for plasters, please show them and help them to clean their wounds if they are hurt. Otherwise the heat and food might cause minor distractions: don't worry too much and just take a break, sleep and relax and hopefully you will feel better soon. If not, Siem Reap is known for very good hospitals and there are pharmacies around the school as well. But each volunteer is responsible to bring their own medicine box and make sure to visit your doctor before you travel.

Can I eat if I have intolerances? Intolerances can be an obstacle, while the meals aren't generally problematic (often rice vegetables and egg), it may be hard to find substitutes (even in Siem Reap). Be aware in case of more complicated intolerances as gluten or lactose; we encourage you to bring your special food/supplements from home.

In general do you recommend bringing food before coming? If you would like to have specific snacks during the day or special food that cannot be found on the markets nearby we kindly ask you to bring them from Siem Reap or even from home. If you are still hungry please purchase your own snacks as we cannot afford snacks for all volunteers. Also jam/honey/peanut butter for your breakfast must be

bought beforehand in Siem Reap. There is a big supermarket not too far away from the school (you can hitchhike there), full of different products. Local markets are reachable by bike and offer local food, drinks and vegetables.

What should I wear? In general remember that while the temperatures are high, you are here to teach, and once a day we go to public school where shoulders and knees are required to be covered! We recommend to pack (not just) light and covering cloths. Skirts might be convenient during the hot seasons. Flip flops and sandals to use at the school are also encouraged. All these are actually available both in Siem Reap and in other cities even at convenient prices, but you might not be able to go straight away, so PLEASE come prepared! Remember that you might want to take trips in the weekend, every hostel and hotel has a pool, so a swimsuit is never a bad idea. Also the area is very rural and traditional so that it might feel more comfortable for both the kids and you to dress more covered up than at home. At Cristina School you are welcome to wear whatever you want just remember it is a school and we do not sun bath on the area.

What else should I bring from home? Remember tropical mosquito spray (!!), sunscreen, vitamins (if needed), medicine (painkillers and especially medicine against food poisoning), wet wipes, shampoo and soap. It's also never a bad idea to bring toilet paper. For food read the specific paragraph.

Can I leave my stuff at the school? We kindly ask you to clean your sleeping area before leaving and to throw all your trash away. If you have some old broken clothes we can use them as cleaning towels or for the floor. Clothes you do not want to take can be given to Rathana as she will give them to the children that need them most. Please do not just leave the stuff in the shelves upstairs as it can get messy quite easily. Books are always welcome to support our little library.

**THANKS AND WE ARE LOOKING
FORWARD TO HAVING YOU AS PART
OF OUR FAMILY!**
