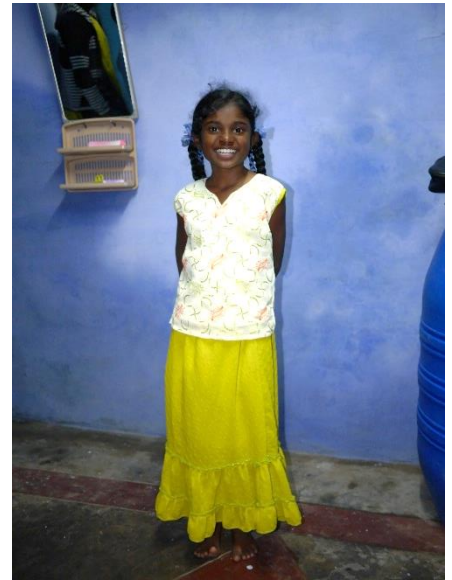




## LETTER FROM FLORA



Hello,

My name is Merlin Flora, I am 10 years old and I want to show you how one day in my life looks like!



I live in Kilkotagiri, a small village around 2 kilometers away from Havor, where I go to school.

Every morning, I get up at 6 o'clock. Then I have my breakfast. Today, I had rice with sambar. Sambar is a vegetable sauce, we eat in India with almost everything.





At 8.30, I leave home for school. Together with Kaviar Sri, one of my schoolmates who lives in the same road like me, I walk to the main road. There we are picked up by our small school bus. Sometimes, we are 15 to 20 children in one bus.

Since last year, I have been studying in 5th standard in P.U.P. School Havor. Before, I went to a nearby private school, but it closed. There, I was in an English Medium Class, where I had classes in English instead of in my mother tongue Tamil. In Havor, everything is taught in Tamil!



At 9:30, school starts. We have different subjects like science, social science, Tamil, English and mathematics. At 1 o'clock, lessons end for break time. Then, we first have our lunch which consists of rice and an egg. When we have finished, we can play on our playground until 2 o'clock. I like to play carrom board and skipping, and to do running races with my friends. The boys like to play cricket or football and the small children prefer to play on the swings and the slides.





After playtime, we go back to our classrooms. At 4pm school ends and together with the other children from Kilkotagiri, I wait for the school bus. At 5pm I usually come home. There, my mother and my 12-year-old brother Reginaaron are already waiting for me, while my father and grandfather are still at work.

Both my father and grandfather work as builders. You will ask, why my grandfather is still working and not retired. In India, most women get their first child at a very young age. My mother is 33 years old now, my father is 37 and my grandfather is only 66 years old.

My mother works as a link worker at Island Trust, but it is just a part-time job. Between coming home from school and dinner, I do my homework or play on the street in front of my house with my friends. We play catch and run, hide and seek, skipping or do running races.



At 6 o'clock, it already gets dark. Because I don't have any toys in my home, I'm lucky to have a cat I can play with, when I'm not allowed to play on the street anymore!

At 8.30pm, I'm having dinner. This evening, I ate dosa. That's something like a pancake, but made from rice flour. We usually eat it with sambar or chutney, some sort of sauce made of coconut, tomato and green chili. But my favourite food is Biryani. That's rice with vegetables and a lot of different spices.

After dinner, I go to bed. In my house, we have only one bedroom. I am sleeping with my father and my mother in one bed. My brother and my grandfather are sleeping in the entrance hall that is the living room at the same time. They also share one bed!

We are happy to have both a bedroom and a living room. Some of my classmates houses only have one room. There, the whole family has to share one bed! Today, I have to go to bed in time, because tomorrow, a Saturday, we do exams!!!!

