Hi! The monsoon months were without much rain, but plenty happened at the nature school!

**Survey and Admission**
We welcomed 5 new students, after the survey was concluded for the 2016-17 academic year. These five were part of the 14 residential children that were newly admitted in the year and they were all introduced to Timbaktu residents with songs and dances.

**Studies**
Sayonika wrapped up assessments for the children of all classes by September. For classes 3, 4 and 5 flash card of birds, reptiles and mammals were used to learn about biodiversity. This was much fun!

Special classes were also held for slow learners. The children then read a dramitization called ‘Raithu Mithra’ in addition to the many poems and songs from their text books. Teresa Kelly and Esther - two visitors - gave their own rhymes along with action for those rhymes that the children attempted to do.

Finally, 13 students applied for the Navodaya entrance test which they will take in January 2017. This is a nation-wide test held by the central government to provide equal opportunities for rural children.

**Craft**
The children took up various activities such as origami, spray painting, drawing and painting, sticking glitters, clay work, paper mask work and made masks for dramatization with leaves etc.

**Gardening**
There are 3 gardens that the children have made their own. They do all the work of making plots, putting manure and planting seeds, for the produce to be later sold to the Mayasabha (community kitchen).
**Trainings**
The children participated in a variety of dance and musical trainings.

**Pandari Bhajana:** This was the longest session, held over ten days in September by master Sri Akkulappa. Classes 2 to 5 participated in this learning.

Others included:

**Kolatam:** Shri Nagappa, who is a master of the form, held this training for nine days from July 4th - 14th. Children successfully learnt 5 steps.

**Chekkabhajana:** On the occasion of Khrishnashtami, the children performed Chekkabhajana. They were trained from August 9th - 19th.

**Dappu:** 11 children took part in this form which uses a local drum. They learnt 3 types of beats.

**Flute:** Teresa Kelly who was a visitor from America, held a session on the musical instrument.

**Seed Dibbling**
As part of Timbaktu's conservation programme in Kalpavalli, the children visited the area on 18th July, and planted 8 types of seeds.
Festivals
We celebrated four different festivals in this period, beginning with:

**Ramzan**: Roja Khatun who is enrolled in the nature school brought her parents and they gave a small talk about the festival of Ramzan and its importance.

**Sports Day**: A Junior Sports Day was held on 7th August, 2016 at the Children’s Resource Centre (CRC) in Chennekothapalli. Prakruthi Badi children also participated, and in fact, 22 of them won prizes!

**Independence Day**: The national festival was celebrated on 15th August, 2016 with a flag hoisting ceremony, singing of patriotic songs, dances and Chekkebhajana.

**Vinayaka Chavithi**: Children made beautiful Vinayakas with clay, and celebrated this festival with songs, dances and games on the 3rd of September, 2016.

**Parents Meeting**
On the same day as the Independence Day celebrations, 27 parents attended a parents meeting in which discussions were held about learning, children savings, record sheets and other particulars.
One child, Harikrishna of class 2 picked up an injury to his eyebrow. He was also treated at Spandana Hospital.

**Health Camp**

A health camp was held at Spandana Hospital in the nearby town of Dharmavaram on 11th September, 2016. A general health check-up and blood tests were done for all children. Medicine was given to those children who required it.

All children were also given anti-malaria medicines in September.

**Social welfare**

2 pairs of cloths each were given to all 31 residential children, through Timbaktu staff’s social welfare fund.

**Finally,** a play ground was also created with sand and the children are having loads of fun playing there.

Vasthamu! 
See you again in the new year!