

From: Dr. Ramesh Bellamkonda, C/o Infant Jesus School
To: The Students / Children Of Infant Jesus School, Bangalore
Sub: My Gift Of "Six Best Friends" To Each One Of You.

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From: Dr. Ramesh Bellamkonda, C/o Infant Jesus School
To: Students / Children Of Infant Jesus School, Bangalore

Sub: My Gift Of "Six Best Friends" To Each One Of You, On The Occasion Of Your School Annual Day.

Your School Principal Ms. Elisabeth Madam, your teacher Shanthi Mary Madam, and your other teachers have asked me to attend your School Annual Day function on the 23rd December 2011, and share a few words with you. Unfortunately, due to personal reasons, I will not be able to attend, but I would definitely like to share a few words with you through this note. I am requesting your principal to kindly pass this note on to each one of you.

Through this note, I would like to gift to each one of you, "My Six Best Friends" – I call them "Q Friends", because each one of them is a "Question". They are some of my best friends, and I really love them. The beautiful thing about them is, I can gift them to each one of you, and still I will also have them with me to help me and work for me, all the time. Similarly, you can also gift them to every one you like, your family, your friends, and anybody else that you may like and care for, and yet you will also have them all the time with you, to serve you and to work for you when ever you want them. They will help you understand a lot of things in the world all around you. They are so good, they don't demand any money from you ever. They don't get hungry and you don't have to feed them. They can go with you where ever you go at no extra charge, and they don't take up any space. They can be with you when you are home and when you are in school and when you are anywhere else also. They don't need chairs or benches to sit on. They don't make any noise and you can study when you are with them. Actually, you can study much better when you put them to work for you. They help you learn and help you to become better all the time. They will help you get educated, and help you to get a good job when you grow up. If you want to do business, they will help you succeed in business. They can bring happiness to you and to your family and friends. They can make you successful in life. They can help you to become what ever you want to be. They can help you succeed in every aspect of your life! They don't cost any money, but they need a small help from you so that they can help you now and always. They need a little space in your heart and in your mind, not physical space. You have to be willing to accept them. Can you give them a little space in your heart and in your mind? I hope you will do. The more space you can give them in your heart and mind, the more they will help you to become highly successful in your life.

The six best friends are, "**Why**", "**What**", "**When**", "**Where**", "**How**", and "**Why Not**". You came to school to become educated. If you embrace them whole heartedly, they will allow you to become very highly educated!

Everything you see around you, whether it is in school, at home or anywhere else, always ask yourself in your mind, What is it? Why is it? How is it? Why not something better? Why not something different? There will be many times when it will also be appropriate to ask When is it? Where is it? Don't worry if you do not get all the answers right away. In fact, for most questions, the only answer most of us will have most of the time is "I don't know". And that is ok! Never be afraid to say "I don't know". The fact is, nobody knows all the answers. The first step however to finding out important answers, is to ask the right questions. If you are very good at asking the right questions, one day, you will become very good at finding the right answers to some of the most important questions. Nobody knows everything, and that is ok. Did you know that even your teachers don't know a lot of things? Actually, I also don't know a lot of things. It is ok to accept that we don't know a lot of things. For all important questions however, it is good to never give up asking all the relevant questions and searching for the correct answers.

Do you know that all successful people ask a lot of questions? They ask questions in their own minds, and work hard to try and find answers. Did you know that "**Science**" is all about asking a lot of questions, and working hard to find out as many answers as possible to as many important questions as possible? That is what good scientists do! Did you know that "Science" is behind most things that have made life better for human beings? In other words, it is "Asking Questions" and working hard to find the right answers, that has made life so much better for human beings.

STEM Specialties: If you have not already heard of **STEM** specialties, you will hear them one day. **STEM** stands for **Science**, **Technology**, **Engineering**, and **Mathematics**. Specialists in any one or more of these specialties can be referred to as "STEM Specialists". STEM specialists are highly sought after in advanced

countries like the United States, many European countries, Japan, China, Australia, Canada, etc. And, did you know that each of the STEM specialties involves asking a lot of questions and working to find answers to those questions. In other words, they require the STEM specialists to put the "Six Best Friends" to heavy use!

Ask Questions: Ask questions, lots of questions, in your own mind. There will be a lot of things for which you do not know the answers and you may not know how and where to find the answers by yourself. In such a case, ask questions to others around you who may know the answers, such as your parents, your teachers, senior students, or other educated and able people around you, if they will allow you to ask questions for the sake of your learning and understanding. Asking questions, first in your own mind, and then to others who may be able to help you find the appropriate answers, is a lot of fun. It is a great way to learn. In fact, it is the most important way to learn. It will also make you more knowledgeable and more capable in life.

Note of Caution: Some times you may come across people who may not like being asked questions. They may get annoyed or angry if you insist on asking them questions all the time. In such a case, back off. There is no point in unnecessarily making them angry, annoyed or unhappy. If some body does get angry or annoyed, tell them 'Sorry', and explain to them that you were only trying to understand and learn, and request them to please not take it in a wrong way, and then try not to bother them with such questions in the future. Find some one who likes being asked questions, and ask them, lots of questions.

You Can Ask Me Any Questions: If you do not find any one who can answer your questions and you need help in finding answers to them, you can write to me – "Dr. Ramesh Bellamkonda, C/o Your School (Infant Jesus School)". If I know the answers I will share them with you. If not, I might ask others and try to find ways of finding an answer. If that is also not successful, I will tell you that I don't know, and that is ok. May be some time in the future, you and I and others can together try to find the right answers. Does that sound ok?

Remember, There Are No Stupid Questions: Sometimes, people are afraid if their questions might sound "Stupid". Don't worry about that. If you genuinely do not know the answer to any question and you want to find out the answers, ask, always ask. No question that is genuinely asked, is ever stupid. The only stupid questions are those that are never asked. When you ask a question for which you do not know the answer, it gives you an opportunity to find out and to learn. If you don't ask a question due to fear of what others might think or say, then you will remain ignorant. That is not wise! That is not smart! Don't worry about what other people think of you, take every opportunity to become more knowledgeable, more learned, and to become wiser.

Some people can get angry and call you "stupid" or call your question "Stupid". If that happens, don't worry, you are not stupid and your question was not stupid. Only, the person who says that has either misunderstood, or does not like being asked questions even if they are genuine. Back off in that case, there is no point in quarreling with them. Find people who will understand you and help you to learn and to become better and to become more knowledgeable. Build friendships and closer relationships with such people. That will help you in the long term.

Finally, I have a question for each one of you – will you make "My Six Best Friends", Your Own Six Best Friends also? Will you accept this gift of mine to you? Please think about this, and let me know.

PLEASE KEEP THIS NOTE WITH YOU FOR EVER. THIS SHOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFE. IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT WELL TODAY, DON'T WORRY, ONE DAY YOU WILL UNDERSTAND IT MUCH BETTER. ALSO PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SHARE A COPY OF THIS WITH ANYONE YOU LIKE AND ANYONE YOU CARE FOR. MY LOVE TO ALL OF YOU! MAY GOD BLESS EACH ONE OF YOU!