



TRAVELLER: David Owen, headteacher at Allonby Primary School, shows pupils Jessica Twentyman, Shannon McGuirk, Daniel Hay and Tyler Hanley where he will visit in India

Picture: TOM KAY

Head to get a lesson in slums

A WEST Cumbrian headteacher will spend half-term with slum children in India.

David Owen, head of Allonby Primary School, will leave next Friday to visit the Anugrah Foundation school in the slum area of Vihar in Dwarka.

It is a school that children in Allonby have come to know through a British Council exchange programme which links schools to foster relationships and understanding between countries.

Mr Owen will spend his week with the family of Simmie Kher, a teacher from the foundation school. Ms Kher will visit Allonby in April when she will stay with the Owen family.

Mr Owen said the two schools had developed strong links.

He said: "Our pupils are in regular touch with theirs. They have done various projects to find out about each other."

He said he had intended taking gifts in his suitcase but the response to an appeal to the local community and businesses was so great that the goods will have to be posted.

Companies including E.On, Gen II Training, Iggesund Paperboard, Innovia Films, Pioneer Foods, Pirelli, Selafield, Tata Steel and Vestas have donated items.

Mr Owen added that he had room to take pencils, rubbers and other small items that could be used in the Indian school.

Anyone who would like to help can call the school on 01900 881324.