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Politics - Reuters - updated 12:39 PM ET Jun 27

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Wednesday June 20 1:21 PM ET

British Children Bemused by Latest Bush Gaffe

LONDON (Reuters) - A class of British 11-year-olds said President Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) should go back to school after he sent them a letter describing them as young Americans.

Pupils at Oakhill College in Lancashire, northwest England, were thrilled to get a signed letter from the president after they sent him congratulations on his inauguration, assistant bursar Cathryn Robbins said Wednesday.

But their awestruck silence was soon replaced by gales of laughter when their teacher read the letter out loud.

"As young Americans, you have an important responsibility, which is to become good citizens," the letter said.

"I hope you will continue to learn more about our wonderful country. School provides the right foundation so I urge you to study hard. Then you can be well-prepared for the future."

The children decided that although Bush was one of the most powerful men in the world, they could teach him something about geography, Robbins said.

Bush has hit the headlines on several occasions for his slap dash approach to the niceties of international affairs.

While on the campaign trail, he was tripped up by a surprise pop quiz during a television interview. When asked to name the leaders of four world hot spots -- Chechnya ([news](#) - [web sites](#)), Taiwan, India and Pakistan -- he could name only one.

During a visit to Europe last week, he mispronounced the name of Spain's prime minister.

But the president often laughs at his reputation for linguistic mix-ups and verbal gaffes.

"Some people think my mom took up the cause of literacy out of a sense of guilt over my own upbringing." Bush told the crowd at a fund-raising dinner in April.

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