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Introduction

We would like to say a huge well done to all the children in Year 1 who bravely and successfully climbed and traversed the Bedok Forest Adventure course. In addition, a big thank you to the parent volunteers who kindly gave up their valuable time to accompany us on our field trip last week.

It was lovely to see so many parents come and support us in the Year 1 assembly. The children worked very hard on their performance and enjoyed having such a supportive audience to encourage them.

Unit of Inquiry

The assembly was a wonderful way to end our unit on how we organise ourselves and we are now looking forward to our new unit of inquiry called *Time Detectives*. This unit will investigate how aspects of the past still influence us today and how we can use artefacts to find out about the past.



English

In writing, we have been focusing on the correct use of capital letters, finger spaces and full stops when writing simple sentences. It is pleasing to see the children beginning to experiment with capital letters and punctuation in their independent writing, skills which will be reinforced and encouraged throughout the year. The children have shown great improvement in their range of reading strategies since the beginning of the term. Please continue to read daily with your child during the holidays to reinforce the progress they have made.



Mathematics

In Mathematics we have been learning to identify patterns seen in nature, shapes and numbers. The children are now able to identify patterns, repeat them and even create their own. We have also looked at naming patterns using letters such as AB, ABA etc. Patterns are all around us so please encourage the children to talk about what they see and how it could be a pattern.



Languages other than English

Chinese

Learners had a great experience celebrating one of our Chinese traditional festivals, the Mid-Autumn festival. They were introduced to its legend and some key words before they made their own lanterns and mooncakes.

For learners new to Chinese, they have also been introduced to basic body parts through a Chinese poem: <http://v.ku6.com/show/sm82yO8IM3hve-Do.html>

Learners with previous experience were introduced to the vocabulary associated to learning tools. They got very excited when using the interactive whiteboard to practise the vocabulary. We read the story entitled *What's in My School Bag?* Each learner has made his or her own story book and shared it with the class.

For the learners with significant experience of the Chinese language have been learning to sing songs about the Mid Autumn Festival as well as learning to sing the new poem 春晓.

French

The learners have been developing speaking skills through different sorts of activities such as role-play, games and songs. The focus has been on their pronunciation and fluidity. The learners had great fun learning the days of the week and became quite competitive and keen to show me each day how well they knew them. We also welcomed two new comers to our French group. Bonjour!



Music

Learners have continued exploring different percussion instruments and have tried to use them when composing in small groups and pairs. Action songs and music and movement exercises have been enjoyed as well.



Art

Year 1 completed their last unit by creating papier mâché portraits of themselves or their friends. They worked hard on taking time over their painting and creating accessories using varied material. They are gradually developing an understanding that art has a process that could stretch over a few days. Moving on to their next unit of inquiry they have gone back in time this week where they have looked at the painting of the caves at Lascaux, identifying and discussing the animals they saw and the colours used to create the art on the cave walls.



Health and Physical Education

The learners have continued to focus on cooperative games within Health and Physical Education. They have been taking part in activities such as 'Pattern Ball' and 'The Great Big Hop' to encourage them to work together and to raise the level of cooperative consciousness within the class.

Reminders

Magazines

Calling all magazine hoarders! If you have any old magazines lying around at home that need a good home, please drop them into the Year 1 classrooms as we would like to use them for craft and spelling activities next term. Thank you.

It has been a busy term and the upcoming October holiday is being eagerly anticipated. We encourage children to record or take photos during this time so they can share the news on their return to school. We hope you and your family have a safe and relaxing holiday and we look forward to seeing the children refreshed and eager to learn in Term 2.

