

Ms Bhavana Nair



Introduction

The children have ended a very exciting unit on expressing themselves through music and they are now beginning a new unit on the living things in our garden. Last week, in celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival, the learners thoroughly enjoyed making their own mooncakes with the Chef.

Thank you for joining us at the Parent Teacher Conference on Wednesday. This was a great opportunity to share with you all the wonderful progress your child has made this term. If you have any further comments or questions please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the specialist teachers.



Unit of Inquiry

As the learners begin their new unit of inquiry they have been exploring the difference between living and non-living things. Towards the end of the week they planted their bean plants and will be observing these over the next few weeks. During this unit they will also be getting green fingers by planting a variety of fruit and vegetables in our garden area as well as getting to know some of the creatures that live there.



English

In keeping with their unit of inquiry the learners read the story *Planting a Rainbow* which explores different plants and shows their growth into a wonderful array of colourful blooms. The children have also been writing in their Bean Diaries and continue to practice reading and writing simple words. Please encourage your child to hunt for key words and sounds in their reading at home.

Mathematics

As well as practicing their colour recognition by creating rainbow collages, the learners have been adding and taking away 1. They have been singing number rhymes which encourage them to find 1 more and less and practised using their fingers and objects to do simple calculations.

Languages other than English

Learners in Kindergarten have discovered key words related to the Mid-Autumn Festival and they have recently made paper lanterns and mooncakes. They have also learnt basic colours and simple greetings. Here is the greeting video they have been practising in class. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYTPTqTQ1YI>



Music

Learners have continued to sing a variety of songs, some action songs, finger-plays and made-up songs too. The learners have also had opportunities to explore a number of percussion instruments, listen to music and even sing in a microphone.

Art

Linking into the last unit of inquiry our art sessions have been busy creating musical instruments using recyclables. Creating a harmonica using craft sticks had all our Kindergarten musicians trying to achieve different sounds by varying the length of their breath. The learners have begun to learn about an artist explorer Margaret Mee who they refer to as 'Granny'. They will be using their observational skills just like Granny and drawing as well as modelling flowers over the next week.

Health and Physical Education

Our dance unit linked to the unit of inquiry about expressing ourselves through music. We were inspired by Camille Saint-Saëns's, *The Carnival of the Animals*. Our learners bounced to the music as kangaroos; prowled, leaped and roared as lions and sprayed water, stomped and rolled as elephants. They have learnt to move to the music, use action words such as roll and leap and understand how our hearts beat faster with exercise. Our new unit will now develop ball and motor skills.



Home learning

We will continue to send home words every Friday for your child to practise with you. Please encourage them to say each sound and to then 'squash' the letters together to make the word. Over time the learners will be able to recognise the words without having to sound them out and this is already evident. These words can be identified in any books or reading material you have at home.

Word games: You can cut up the laminated words we have sent home and play word games with your child to make learning fun. You could also remind them of these words before they do their reading with you.

Websites: If you wish to do any further learning with your child at home please refer to the websites sent home previously.

Most importantly please remember to keep learning fun, as most of the learning that takes place at this age happens when out and about.

Reminders

Please bring in a labelled pair of flip flops for your child to keep in school for sand play outdoors. This will avoid the children getting wet feet and sand in shoes. Please keep these in your child's cubby. To ensure safe playing, we will be talking to the children about using these only when playing in the sand and not when running around.

Next week is the final week of Term 1 and school will be closed from 5th to 20th October . We begin Term 2 on Monday, 21st October.

