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Introduction

It has been a fantastic and busy start to the term in Year 5 with lots of new faces and old friends. The classes started the year by thinking about what makes a good learning classroom and, based on that, we came up with our class 'Essential Agreements'.

Unit of Inquiry

We began our year with a unit about feelings and emotions - 'People have unique ways to express their feelings'. The Year 5 learners explored amongst themselves the causes of different emotions and also analysed how they react to different emotions. As we move on to our next unit, each learner has come up with a personal goal, to deal with negative emotions in a better way. We will revisit this unit at the end of this semester.

English

In English, the learners have been thinking about characters' feelings, linking in with their UOI central idea. Learners in Class 5B read the book *The Boy Who Grew Flowers* and thought about how they would feel if they were in the same situation as the characters. Some of the learners had the opportunity to walk through a 'conscience alley' to find out what decision they would have made if they were the character in the story. Learners in Class 5G had a great time reading through some of their favourite books and working out how the different characters felt and why. We thought about times when we experienced similar feelings to the characters.

Mathematics

Year 5 learners started the term by looking at different types of graphs and charts and considered which chart would be best to use with different data sets. The learners each monitored their feelings and emotions over three days and used a line graph to help them track this. This week the classes have been using a range of addition and multiplication methods to solve problems. Learners in Class 5G used Google Earth to play a game involving addition and multiplication in order to collect resources from around the globe. We then set about creating our own versions of the game using our newly acquired addition and multiplication skills.

Languages other than English

French - Our first UOI allowed the French learners to become familiar with adjectives to describe emotions and feelings, such as happy, sad and angry. The learners had a brilliant idea to make up some paper dice covered with 6 of their own pictures expressing different emotions. Through some grammatical work they were also able to extend the noun phrases by adding modifiers such as 'very, sometimes', a 'little' and 'quite'. Mademoiselle est parfois bizarre! We had a grand plan to make a giant 'Guess Who' game and we will do our best to achieve it and to present it the the rest of the learners.

Chinese - Year 5 learners have been studying the names of different countries and talking about where they were born and where they have visited. The main focus in the first few weeks is to develop the confidence to ask and answer simple questions in Chinese. Learners new to the language have also been introduced to numbers, greetings and days of the week.

Art

Linking into the current UOI, 'People have unique ways to express their feelings', the Year 5 learners have looked at the Singaporean artist Cheong Soo Pieng and the factors that made his art unique. They are exploring figure drawing, emulating the artist's unique characteristics. Please send in an apron or an old t-shirt to prevent pastel and paint on uniforms.

Music

The Year 5 children have been learning about different musical instruments. They have discussed how they are played and decided on how best to categorise them into families. They have begun to design a brochure about a single instrument of their choice, and have listened to orchestral instruments in order to begin to recognise the sounds of the different families of instruments. The learners have also begun to sing a number of songs.

Health and Physical Education

The learners have been focussing on working together in teams; developing key skills such as communication and looking at the way we talk to each other during physical games. Working collaboratively and sharing our feelings and thoughts will continue as we start a game design unit called 'It's in the Game!'

In the pool, the children have been learning water confidence activities such as holding their breath, floating and underwater swimming. For safe water entry, slide-in entry at the shallow end and feet first entry at the deep end has been practised. Similarly, water familiarisation and safety procedures have been introduced. Learners have been exploring the water depth from 1.1M to 2.0M deep. We have started to focus on enhancing our front crawl technique over a longer distance.

Reminders

5B - Our swimming session is every Tuesdays. Please ensure the learners have their swimming costume, towel and goggles with them.

Land - based PE is on Wednesday and Friday and children should wear their PE kit to school on these days.

5G - Our swimming session is every Wednesday. Please ensure the learners have their swimming costume, towel and goggles with them.

Land - based PE is on Tuesday and Friday and children should wear their PE kit to school on these days.

