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NEXUS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
SINGAPORE

Introduction

A warm welcome back to the parents and children who were at Nexus last year and a special welcome to the new families who have joined us. We are truly excited and feel privileged to be teaching your child this year. It is wonderful to see how quickly the children have settled into their new Year 1 classes. They are enjoying getting to know their new classmates and are having a lot of fun working together, as you can see from the photos.

A big thank you to [Gina Gridley \(Alaia's mum\)](#) and [Saba Iqbal \(Inaya's mum\)](#) for volunteering to be the class parents for 1G and 1B respectively.

Unit of Inquiry

The central idea of our first unit this semester is 'Schools are organised so we can work together'. The learners of Year 1 and Year 2 were given a problem of moving a pile of very heavy blocks from the Year 2G classroom to the playground, without any external assistance. After discussing this as a group, they came up with a solution that used their teamwork and organisational skills to solve the problem. The teachers were impressed with how the learners worked together on their solution. The learners are continuing their inquiry looking at the roles different people play in the school.



English

In English, we have been learning routines for independent and shared reading. Our home reading programme allows the children to practise these learned strategies. Home readers will be changed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and the children should be able to read the books they bring home with ease, as this allows them to focus on developing their fluency and expression whilst also building their confidence. Please discuss the story with your child as this will not only enhance their enjoyment of the story but will also strengthen their comprehension skills. This week the learners started working in their new phonics groups. We are learning the different phonetic sounds whilst playing interactive games, singing songs and performing actions to support our reading and writing development.



Mathematics

In Mathematics, the children have been consolidating their understanding of numbers up to 10 and 20. They have been using different strategies to find out how many objects are in a group and estimating accurately. The children are becoming confident in their counting skills and we would encourage you to give your child practice with this at home by encouraging them to count sets of items in the home.



Languages other than English

Chinese - Year 1 learners new to the Chinese language have been introduced to the numbers 1 to 10 and basic greetings through speaking and listening activities. Learners with prior experience have worked on identifying and writing numbers. The whole class has been learning and singing 'The number song' (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXXV-E1CB-E>). As part of the unit of inquiry they have been introduced to five learning tools through the story 'What do I have in my schoolbag?'. Learners were excited to find Chinese words to match the pictures of the learning tools.

French - Learners have been introduced to France, its shape and its capital as well as some cultural features. They have also learnt how to greet and introduce themselves, the numbers 1 to 10, some animal names and colours.



Music

Year 1 learners have been exploring how sounds are made on different percussion instruments. They have been doing music and movement exercises, and have begun to sing a number of songs.



Art

Year 1 learners have identified lines, shapes and colours in artwork created by Secondary School learners. They have used their imagination to transform a line made by an ice cream stick into slides, buildings, flowers, cars and helicopters. They have experimented with colour using oil pastels as well as paints. They have begun to work on a portrait using lines, shape and colour using the papier mâché technique and a variety of other materials. Please send in an apron or an old t-shirt to prevent pastel and paint on uniforms.



Health and Physical Education

Year 1 learners have been learning water confidence activities such floating and underwater swimming through fun aquatic games. Pool safety and familiarisation has also been covered. The learners have explored the water depth from 1.1M to 2.0M deep.

In land-based HPE we have been learning class routines that are important for our health and well-being in a practical setting. Learners have been taking part in team building activities to foster positive class dynamics.



Reminders

Please note the Library days for each class: 1B - Wednesday and 1G - Thursday. Learners are to return their library books on these days and exchange them for new books. Learners are also welcome to change their books more frequently and they can do this during lunch times.

Please make sure all clothes, water bottles and snack and lunch containers are clearly labelled with your child's name and class.

The Year 1 and 2 Learners' Assembly will take place on Friday, 20 September.



