



# Overseas Family School Kindergarten

## Master Policy:

To maintain a happy, safe and effective school for overseas families living in Singapore

## Principal's Message

With the culturally diverse make-up of our OFS community, the Internationalism Celebration held on Friday 6 October, was an important and significant event for the Kindergarten. Dressed in their national costumes or colours of their country/flag, the children performed songs and dances from around the world. For many of our little ones, it was their first time on a big stage, in front of a large audience. We were extremely proud to see the children participate with confidence and enthusiasm. The celebration ended with a multi-cultural potluck lunch in the classrooms. Thank you to all the parents for bringing in such delicious dishes for the children to taste and for helping to make our Internationalism Celebration an enriching and special experience for all.

We had our second Parent Teacher Conference on 27 October. The conference provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen our Home-School link as teachers shared with parents their child's strengths and areas in need of strengthening; and working together to set goals for the rest of the academic year.

We also celebrated Deepavali (or "Diwali"), the Festival of lights, on Friday, 10 November. The children learnt about the significance of the celebration through a Deepavali story and learnt an Indian dance. To make it a fun and exciting day for the children, they were invited to come to school dressed in Indian attire. Children got to participate in a range of activities such as making diya and rangoli crafts, and getting mehndi tattoos. A huge thank you to the wonderful mums who have volunteered their time to help us with this celebration.

We will continue to celebrate the cultural diversity of our students and their families by focusing on the different festivals celebrated in the months of November and December. The children across the Kindergarten will be involved in a variety of Art & Craft activities, linked to the celebrations of Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, St Lucia and Christmas.

We look forward to seeing parents at our next event which will be Christmas Caroling on Wednesday, 13 December 2023. More details will be sent out at a later date.

Da-Khue Ngo  
Kindergarten Principal  
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OFS is again teaming up with Food from the Heart, which is an organization that helps provide consistent and sustainable food support to the less fortunate through their food distribution programs here in Singapore. The collection period will begin on Tuesday 14 November 2023. A parent letter has been shared with all families.



## From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

November is the time to celebrate Deepavali (or 'Diwali'). The PA along with parent volunteers have come together to organise a Deepavali themed Coffee Morning where all OFS parents can join in and have fun. Looking forward to seeing all of you.

**Event:** Deepavali Themed Coffee Morning

**Date:** Thursday, 16 November 2023

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Venue:** Parent Lounge  
(Level 4 of Administration Building)

Please register your attendance by signing up on the OFS webpage.

<https://www.ofs.edu.sg/events/2023/deepavali-themed-coffee-morning/>

## Internationalism Celebration



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## Pre-K1 News



Our new unit, "Little Movers Make Giant Strides," encourages children to develop their physicality. Focusing on their physical well-being is one of the key strands of learning for the unit. Movement is believed to be at the core of a child's physical development, underpinning and feeding into all other areas of learning.

For this Unit's Entry Point, the children participated in a range of fine and gross motor activities. Various fine motor activities were set up to challenge the children, helping to strengthen their hands, build coordination, lengthen focus and repetition, and provide opportunities for them to practice crossing the midline. Another highlight of the learning environment is the "Bunnies' Veterinary Clinic," where they role-play as pet owners and veterinarians to care for some domestic animals. During Circle Time, we began by assessing their prior knowledge of understanding movements, and the teachers demonstrated a range of actions for them to label accordingly.

They also challenged their gross motor skills by painting on the large Perspex outdoors, throwing bean bags into loops, and walking along while dodging water bottles in the outdoor area. At the end of the session, the children enjoyed a fun 'animal yoga' session, where they learned to coordinate their body parts to imitate the postures of different animals. We concluded with a calming Rainbow breathing technique to focus on inhaling and exhaling. We look forward to introducing more engaging and meaningful learning experiences throughout this unit.

(The Pre-K1 Bunnies)



## Pre-K2 News

The Koalas are loving our new unit all about Toys. They have already become excellent toy makers having made many creations in our different learning centres. The children were excited to make their own sock puppet and have enjoyed role playing with it. We opened up our very own toy shop in the classroom and the children are learning how to be the shop keeper and customer. They are having fun browsing the shelves, filling out their shopping list and counting coins to pay for their purchases. The children will soon be introduced to a very large robot who will visit our classroom. The robot will be checking that the children are good at cooperating together and that they are being ethical. The robot will explain in his letter that he is very lonely and hope that the new toy makers can make him some friends. We hope that the children in the Koalas' class will agree to this request!

(The Pre-K2 Koalas)





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## K1 News

After our midterm break, the K1 children started a new and engaging Unit of Learning, "Dinosaur Detectives!" During this Unit's exciting Entry Point, the children were perplexed to arrive at school to find several strange footprints leading around the Kindergarten. Determined to solve this puzzle, they set off to track down the owners of the footprints, with the help of investigative equipment such as torches, binoculars and magnifying glasses. The footprints led our young explorers to a nest of hatching dinosaur eggs!

The children discussed this amazing find with their teachers, speculating why the dinosaur eggs may have been left there and using descriptive language such as "scales", "fan", "horns", "spikes" and "wings" to describe their baby hatchlings.

(The K1 Team)



## Internationalism Celebration







## K2 News



The K2 children have been busy practicing their reading skills in many different contexts. In our phonic lessons the children are growing in confidence with their knowledge of letter sounds. Many are now able to identify the initial sound in words, and some are now also using their phonic knowledge to blend the sounds to read decodable words, such as, u-p, m-a-t, f-r-o-g. As part of the phonics program, the children are also taught high frequency or sight words, which we sometimes call 'tricky' words as the children have to learn them by sight, rather than sounding them out.

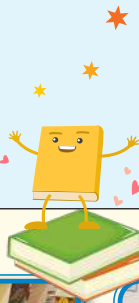
Another element of reading in K2 is 'Shared Reading', which we do with the whole class. This will consist of us reading together, using a range of strategies, discussing the text, retelling the story, sometimes role playing as the different characters. In addition, the children sequence pictures from the story so they understand what happens at the beginning, middle and end of the story and can discuss the events in the story.

The children also participate in weekly 'Guided Reading' sessions. During this time they read in a small group, with children that are reading at the same level. Every week we will focus on different reading skills e.g. discussing the pictures and characters, predicting what will happen next, identifying sight words, blending the sounds in words, retelling the story, comprehension, fluency and expression. Each group will focus on different skills, depending on their reading level and competency.

Here are some ideas of reading activities you could do with your child at home.

- Say, build and write sight words or decodable words using magnetic letters, blocks or foam letters.
- Go on a 'word hunt', hide various sight or decodable words around your home.
- Write sight words on lolly/ popsicle sticks or pieces of card, ask your child to choose a word, read it and use the word in a sentence.
- Sight word bingo or memory pairs game.
- Matching decodable words to picture cards.
- Count and find sight words in the weekly home reading or library books.
- Password entry to different rooms of your home – children have to touch and say the word to enter/exit the room.

(The K2 Team)



## Date for Your Diary

- Friday, 24 November 2023 – K2 Doves Field Trip to Singapore Zoo
- Tuesday, 28 November 2023 – K2 Swans/K2 Robins/K2 Macaws Field Trip to Singapore Zoo
- Wednesday, 29 November 2023 – Pre-K1 Field Trip to Smigy Indoor Playground
- Thursday, 30 November 2023 – Pre-K2 Field Trip to Tiara Society
- Wednesday, 13 December 2023 – Kindergarten Christmas Caroling Event