



Overseas Family School Kindergarten

Master Policy:

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

Principal's Message

A warm welcome back to all our families as we begin the second semester of the academic year. We are also excited to welcome our new students and their families who joined us this January.

This semester, we are thrilled to have opened our fourth K2 class, the "K2 Robins," under the guidance of Ms. Edel McDonnell and Ms. Ella Scott. Our new students have quickly adjusted to school life, and it is wonderful to see how smoothly they have settled into their routines and new surroundings.

After the December break, we returned to some exciting updates around the Kindergarten playgrounds. The children have been particularly excited about the new tricycle track, which has quickly become a favourite spot.

After the Lunar New Year holiday, we will embark on our next IEYC Units of Learning.



- **Pre-K1 students will be diving into the theme "Ocean Treasures," exploring the wonders of the sea.**
- **Pre-K2 children will be embracing the magic of make-believe through beloved stories in the unit "Once Upon a Time".**
- **K1 students will be nurturing their creativity and imagination through open-ended play in the "Loose Parts" unit.**
- **K2 students will be learning about different types of journeys – by land, sea, and air – in the unit "From A to B".**

These rich units will help the children build both specific knowledge and essential skills, while also fostering the development of the IEYC Personal Goals and International Goals.

We aim to support each child to be:

The IEYC Personal Dimension		The IEYC International Dimension
• Adaptable	• a Collaborator	• Internationally Minded
• a Communicator	• Empathetic	• Globally Competent
• Ethical	• Resilient	
• Respectful	• a Thinker	

Looking ahead, we have an exciting and busy semester planned, filled with special events like Lunar New Year celebrations, the 100 Days of School for K2, Book Week, the Book Character Parade, Field Trips, Student-led Conferences, the Art Exhibition, Games Day, and the Kindergarten Concert. More details about each event will be shared as the dates approach.

We look forward to another wonderful, fun-filled semester ahead! If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at khue_ng@ofs.edu.sg or stop by the Kindergarten office at your convenience.

Da-Khue Ngo
Kindergarten Principal
khue_ng@ofs.edu.sg

Helping Your Child Develop Postural Control for Writing Success

Strong writing skills don't just hinge on pencil grip or neat handwriting—they start with a solid foundation of postural control and prewriting skills. If you want to know more about activities that improve your child's fine motor (use of the hands) and prewriting skills, please ask your teacher about the hand-strengthening handouts.

What is Postural Control?

Postural control is your child's ability to stay stable and upright while sitting, standing, or moving. A strong core allows their arms and hands to move freely, and without it, children may tire quickly or struggle with fine motor tasks. If your child sits with their legs in a "W" shape, encourage them to change position. "W" sitting can weaken core muscles, affecting postural control. Instead, promote other sitting and play positions to build strength.

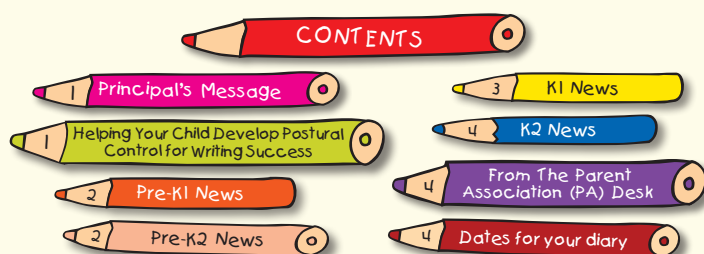
Play Positions to Try

Any play activity can be adapted to promote postural control development. For example, drawing, reading, or building blocks, you can incorporate these simple positions into playtime to support core development:

- **Tummy Time (Prone Lying):** It is not just important for babies. Encourage your child to play while lying on their tummy and weight-bearing through their elbows, for example, to do a puzzle. This strengthens the back, shoulders, and neck.
- **Side Sitting:** A seated position with both legs bent to one side. However, encourage both hands to be free to engage in an activity. This helps build side stability and core strength.
- **High Kneeling:** Have your child kneel upright while completing activities like stacking blocks on a low table, colouring on an easel or large sheet of paper taped to the wall, or playing a game of catch with a soft ball. These activities strengthen the hips and core muscles while keeping play fun and engaging.

I encourage you to try it yourself with your child! It is harder than it looks. By focusing on postural control during play, you are helping your child build the physical foundation they need for writing and other classroom tasks. Small changes in daily routines can make a big difference in their readiness for writing at school and beyond. Please let me know if you want to know more or have a question about your child.

(Rosa Devaney – Occupational Therapist)





Pre-K1 News



Happy New Year and welcome back to school! We are excited to see our class growing with more Bunnies joining us! We have been so impressed by how adaptable they are – their bright smiles and positive energy have truly set the tone for a wonderful start to the year.



The past few weeks have been filled with excitement as we celebrated both the new year and the Lunar New Year through a variety of activities. The children had a blast with firework painting, creating tangerine plant art, and planting flowers outdoors. They also had a fantastic time in our Chinese-style kitchen, enjoying 'steamboat' and 'Lo hei,' while dancing to lively music with the lion dance props.

Next, our journey through the International Early Years Curriculum (IEYC) will take us into the 'Ocean Treasures' Unit of Learning, where we will explore the theme of 'Beach and Sea Life.' We are excited to kick off this exploration with a Beach Party Entry Point! Dressed in their swimming suits, the children will enjoy water and sand play, along with other fun beach activities. Our classroom will transform into a 'beach' to spark their curiosity.

It is going to be a fantastic start to our ocean adventure! Stay tuned for more fun as we dive into the wonders of the sea!

(Pre-K1 Team)



Pre-K2 News

The Pre-K2 children were thrilled to return back to school to discover their new unit setup. They are excited about the new unit "Once Upon a Time" and are having fun exploring the theater set up in the classroom. The children will be visited by some mystery readers in the coming weeks and listening to the visitors' favourite stories. Our Pre-K2 are already becoming little actors and actresses, re-enacting stories we have read in class. They are really enjoying the stories so far and using puppets and the puppet theater to begin retelling them.



After listening to the story "The Enormous Turnip" the children will get to open up their own fruit and vegetable shop in the classroom, where they will sort the pretend produce and become shop keepers. They will also get to make vegetable soup in the cooking room. The children will be responsible for cutting the different vegetables and placing them in the pot to be cooked. They are very excited and we are sure it will be very yummy! During this unit we will be encouraging the children to become good audience members, while they listen and watch while their friends perform for them.

(Pre-K2 Team)



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K1 News – A focus on Mathematics

Welcome back to all of our returning families and a warm welcome to our new students and their families. The children are settling well as we begin the second semester and have enjoyed reconnecting with old friends and making new ones.

In K1 we cover five different strands in Mathematics – Number, Data Handling, Pattern and Function, Shape and Space and Measurement. These five strands are taught throughout the schools in OFS as the children move up the Grade levels. Last semester we focused on Number and Data Handling: the children learnt to recognize and write numbers to 10 and beyond; count objects with one-to-one correspondence, subitize and begin to understand simple addition to 10. They also learnt how to create simple pictographs and bar charts to record data, such as discovering which dinosaur was the class favourite. All of these concepts are taught through a variety of fun, hands-on activities and games. This semester we will be focusing more on Patterning, 2D and 3D Shapes and Measurement. We began the semester with a short review of Number and will be covering Patterning and 2D and 3D shapes as we move onto our next Unit of Learning, Loose Parts, after the Lunar New Year break. During the last Unit of Learning, 'Blast Off!', we will be focusing on Measurement and reviewing Numbers again.

(K1 Team)





K2 News – A focus on Reading



The K2 children have been busy practicing their reading skills in many different contexts. In our phonics lessons the children are becoming more confident to use and apply their knowledge of letter sounds. Most children are now able to identify the initial sounds of the alphabet, and we are now working on digraphs (two letters making one sound, e.g. sh, ai, ee). Whilst many children can use their phonic knowledge to blend and segment the sounds to read and write decodable words, such as, u-p, m-a-t, f-r-o-g, we will be focusing on using digraphs this semester, e.g. sh-ee-p, r-ai-n, b-oa-t.

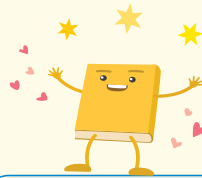


Another element of reading in K2 is 'Shared Reading', which we do with the whole class. This consists of us reading together, using a range of strategies, discussing the text, retelling the story, sometimes role playing as the different characters. In addition, the children sequence pictures from the 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 other 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. This semester, we will be focusing more on comprehension skills, asking the children more in-depth questions about what they have read to ascertain their understanding of the text. This is a very important skill and the children should be able to confidently discuss what they have read, retell the story, and answer questions.



(K2 Team)



From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

Exciting News! The OFS Parent Association is now on Instagram! Follow us at [ofsedu.pa](https://www.instagram.com/ofsedu.pa) for updates on our events and ways to get involved. Stay connected and be part of our school community online.



The Academic Calendar for the 2025-2026 school year is now available on our website. Stay informed about key dates, holidays, and important events. Please visit <https://www.ofs.edu.sg/calendar/> to view or download the calendar.

Dates for Your Diary

- 17 to 21 February 2025 – Book Week
- 21 February 2025 – Character Day Parade