



## GENERAL NEWS AND INFORMATION

### **Health and Well-being at School**

From time to time, some children will develop common childhood illnesses.

We are aware that recently some parents have been keeping children away from school based on information circulating in parent WhatsApp groups. We are aware that on a number of occasions the information circulating in these groups has been based on personal opinion and has been incorrect. Please be assured that our school does everything required to ensure children are kept safe and healthy while at school. This includes personal hygiene routines, cleaning and the required reporting of infections to the HK Centre for Health Protection. When advised to do so, we will always inform parents about any serious outbreaks of infection, however it would not be practical or fair for us to report on every isolated instance.

As we begin to enter the season for common cold and flu please support us in promoting health and well-being in school. Please ensure your child regularly washes his/her hands thoroughly with soap, and dries them well. Please monitor your child's temperature on a daily basis and keep him/her home from school if there is a fever, symptoms of a respiratory tract infection or if your child generally seems unwell. If your child is off school for any reason, please call the school office to let us know why.

### **Shared Learning Day**

Many thanks to children, parents and teachers who came together for our Shared Learning Day. The children enjoyed sharing their learning with their parents and showing them around the school. It was wonderful that so many parents were able to take time to participate in this important event. Please ensure that you complete the feedback form so that we may improve the Shared Learning experience in the future.

### **Promoting Independence**

As part of our school ethos to promote independence and encourage children to think of others we ask that they carry their own school bags to and from school.

Also, to support your child's gross motor development and physical strength it is important that they are encouraged to walk and climb stairs for themselves. It is essential that all children are encouraged to walk into school and not be carried by adults as this sets appropriate expectations and ensures your child is physically prepared for independent learning.

### **Parent Volunteers**

Working in partnership with parents is essential part of supporting children's learning and development and are always delighted with high level of support parents are offering to the school. This year over 40 parents have volunteered their time as classroom helpers and will begin visiting classes regularly over the coming months.



### **Primary School Visits to K2**

Over the next few weeks, K2 classes will receive visitors from our associated ESF Primary Schools. The purpose of these visits is to allow primary school staff and children to become familiar with each other prior to the Y1 interviews taking place. As the visits are informal, we do not communicate dates and times to parents. Please note that the children are not formally assessed during the visit and there is no need for any specific preparation.

### **Parent Workshops**

As part of our partnership with parents ethos, Wu Kai Sha offers a number of workshops over the year to parents. These are delivered by teaching staff and sometimes outside providers, to allow parents to develop further understanding of our programme and relevant issues. The school has recently held workshops for parents on:

- The Importance of early Years Education (Fiona Zinn)
- Behaviour Management (Marie Marchand in association with the PSA)
- Storytelling (Neil Griffiths)
- Outdoor Learning (Helen Thomson)
- Developing Speaking and Listening (Helen Thomson)

### **Coming up...**

- **Early Reading Development (Ines Topps)**

This session will introduce you to how children begin to read, a short insight into phonics and the importance of showing stories.

*Date: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December*

*Time: 5.00 – 6.00pm*

- **PYP: Primary Years Programme (Helen Thomson)**

This session will present an overview of the PYP curriculum and include information on the essential elements of the children's learning within the PYP.

*Date: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December*

*Time: 5.00 – 6.00pm*

To register for these workshops, please contact the school office. We do hope you find these useful. If there are areas of the curriculum or other subjects that you would welcome a workshop or information session on, please do let us know.

### **Outdoor Learning Week**

For the first time, Wu Kai Sha has held an Outdoor Learning Week. Outdoor Learning Week was an



opportunity to raise awareness with our school community of the importance of being outdoors for children's health and wellbeing. This is a much researched area and a number of countries around the world now hold an event focused on outdoor learning.

During the week, children participated in a range of learning activities in school and each class planned a trip to Ma On Shan park or the woods at United World College to engage in learning outdoors. The visits were a great success; it is the first time K1 classes have been out of school without all parents in attendance, and also the first time children have used the MTR for a school trip.

Outdoor Learning workshops were delivered to staff and parents, with our parents participating enthusiastically. Learning in our local outdoor areas is something we hope to be able to continue to do to enrich our provision at Wu Kai Sha.

#### **Terry Fox Run**

Donations for Terry Fox Run 2015 raised HK\$19,210 and the T-shirt orders raised HK\$4380 making a total of HK\$23,590. Well done and thank you to everyone who took part!

#### **Student Progress Reports**

Student progress reports will be available from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon and can be accessed by logging on to the Gateway ([www.wks.esf.org.hk](http://www.wks.esf.org.hk)). Once logged in, you will find the report by clicking on the 'ARR' link and choosing 'ARR Report'.

## **OUR LEARNING IN K1**

The K1s have continued to develop their understanding of how they use light in many ways and what impact light has on their daily lives. They enjoyed experiencing the dark classrooms with artificial light and exploring a variety of light sources and their function. We realised that we need light to see, play, find something or read stories in the dark.

The children started to inquire into the relationship between light and time. Through the use of stories and activities such as creating a day and night scene poster, sorting different objects into daytime and nighttime or sequencing a day, the children will develop their understanding of daytime and nighttime in the next few weeks. We will be looking at the differences between daytime and nighttime and developing our awareness of different features at these times of the day.

#### **This is what our K1 classes have focussed on...**

In **Eagle** class, we started to read books about day and night and talked about how darkness affects us. Based on the story 'Can't you sleep little bear?', we decided to make a bear cave in order to create a dark space in our bright classroom. We first discussed what we needed in our bear cave. Suggestions of



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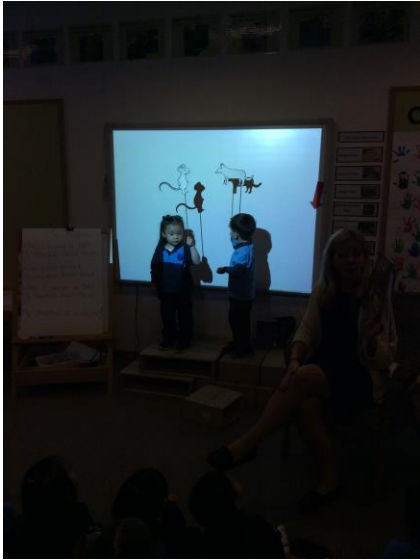


children included lanterns, fire, pillows, blankets and torches. The children then started to create their own bear cave using pipes for the framework. We are now in the process of developing our bear cave further where the children will be encouraged to act out activities they do during the day and night such as bedtime routines.

In **Peacock PM** class, the children were beginning to show curiosity with shadows. To develop this we created a large shadow board so the children could explore this further. We asked them questions such as 'Where does the shadow come from? What does the shadow look like? Can you make your shadow larger or smaller? Are shadows always black?' to promote inquiry. We also introduced telling stories using shadow puppets; the children are now enjoying recreating their own stories.



**Owl** class have been exploring shadows using different materials and a range of shadow puppets. They particularly enjoyed the shadow puppets of the Gruffalo story and started to act out parts of the story.



The children are now suggesting more characters to be added. Based on their interest in shadows, we will take the children on a shadow hunt around the school where they will be able to inquire into how shadows are formed and what light sources they can use to produce a shadow.

**Peacock AM** class have been thinking about how people see. The children have considered what our eyes are for, the necessity for light in order to see and have discussed their knowledge about eyes.

The children have explored different effects with light and colour including the way the world appears



different when using coloured filters, and the way in which light travels using torches and other sources of light. We have begun to learn about reflection. Peacock AM children are using mirrors to reflect things in the environment and to think about how reflection is different from transparency.

In maths, we have reviewed number and counting, and continue to identify naturally occurring patterns and practice making a 2 part pattern.



## OUR LEARNING IN K2

In K2 we have continued to develop our understanding of how stories can be communicated and shared in different ways. The children have enjoyed using the stage in our classrooms to reenact well known traditional tales such as *The Three Little Pigs*, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. We have been using the props and costumes set up in our classrooms to take on the role of different characters and to tell our own stories.

It was so lovely to see so many of you during the Shared Learning Day. The children took great pride in sharing their learning with you.



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**This is what our K2 classes have focused on...**

In **Crane** Class, the children have been exploring the Christmas Story and we have talked about our Christmas Show; 'A Wiggly Nativity.' The children have continued to explore the story and have chosen their roles within it. They have been enjoying practising and preparing for the show. We discussed how parents will know when to come and see the show and we will be making invitations with details to send home. We talked about how stars play an important role in the story of Christmas and the children have been learning to draw five point stars on their own. They have been transferring this new knowledge to create silver shiny stars for the backdrop of our Nativity.



In **Magpie** Class we have been describing and organising shapes according to their properties. We have been focusing on the names and properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We learnt that 2D shapes have sides and 3D shapes have faces. We have been talking about more complex 2D shapes such as hexagons and octagons. The children were introduced to the famous artist Kandinsky who uses many different shapes in his paintings. They were encouraged to explore the shapes used in his paintings and we created our own paintings using a variety of shapes.







The **Emu** Class children have been learning about how stories can be told through a variety of mediums. We learnt that stories can be told through song and shared the singing story of 'A Princess Long Ago' as a class with actions. The children have been using their imagination to make carefully cut out shadow puppets in the shared area and have been engaging in puppet story telling using the props they have made. We have learnt that stories can be told through music, drama, ballet and puppet shows.



In **Robin** class the children have been engaging with the structure of stories. We have been talking about different story openers such as 'Once upon a time' and we have been using question words such as Who? When? Where? What? To consolidate our understanding of character and plot. We have developed our understanding of the structure of stories through making and using 'story stones.' We discussed the events taking place at the beginning, middle and end of the stories. We then created our own books in class and shared these with our friends.





## PARENT / STAFF ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Renaissance College Fair

The Renaissance College Fair takes place on Saturday 28th November. Our very own Wu Kai Sha Parent Staff Association will have it's own stall selling a range of....

Please support the PSA and our Colleagues from RCHK by attending the Fair this coming Saturday!

## KEY DATES AND EVENTS

- Saturday, 28 November: RCHK School Fair
- Tuesday, 1 December: PARENT WORKSHOP: Reading Development at 5pm
- Tuesday, 8 December: Parent workshop: introduction to the PYP
- Monday, 14 December: K1 Christmas Performance and Student Progress Reports
- Tuesday, 15 December: K2 Christmas Performance (Crane & Robin)
- Wednesday, 16 December: K2 Christmas Performance (Emu & Magpie)
- Thursday, 17 December: Class Christmas Parties
- Friday, 18 December: Staff Meeting (School Closed)
- Monday, 21 December - 3 January 2016: ESF Term Holiday (School Closed)
- Friday, 25 December: Public Holiday (School Closed)
- Saturday, 26 December: Public Holiday (School Closed)
- Friday, 1 January 2016: Public Holiday (School Closed)
- Monday, 4 January 2016: Term Begins