

May 2017



We ran, jumped, aimed, kicked, threw, bicycled, balanced, danced, and cheered on our friends during a full morning of fun physical activities at Sports Day 2017.

Well done to everyone for being great team players and good sports! Congratulations to Sky House for winning the Sports Award and Sun House for receiving the Good Spirit Award. Everyone's a winner when we work together!

## School Director's message

Dear parents and children,

The month of May made evident the value of providing a wide range of activities for Mills students – two wonderful school events this month, Book Week and Sports Day, gave the children opportunities to practise, develop, and improve their skills, knowledge, and understanding in many areas of the curriculum including literacy, communication, creativity, social interaction, and physical development.

We recently watched with pride as the students challenged their bodies, and approached the Sports Day games with determination and focused minds. Dealing with the disappointment of trying and failing is tough for young children, but an extremely important practical life skill. It was wonderful to see them work together, applaud and cheer for each other, and share in the joy when their friends won a game or medal. This kind of healthy outlook and attitude is what will truly assist the children as they manoeuvre their way through the tests of life.

Our annual Sports Day and regular PE lessons throughout the year are designed to be fun and rewarding, but the most beneficial outcome of these activities is that they can increase self-esteem and positive thinking. So let's work together and remind the children of the importance of being an effective team player and a good sport by respecting and following the rules of the game and congratulating opponents when they win!

Students also developed many skills during Book Week, as they listened to and discussed various stories, read to younger children around school, swapped books with their classmates, donated books to charity, and learned the importance of respecting and mending books that are damaged.

Well done to all of you who enthusiastically participated in both important events during May!



There's lots of fun and learning planned for June too! Please make a note in your diary of two more important events on our school calendar next month:

- International Day on Friday, 9 June
- Graduation Day on Friday, 16 June

Details of each event will be emailed to you soon.

June is a month for reflection and assessment and teachers are currently recording students' achievements to date in the Progress Records. End-of-Year Reports will also be issued by Wednesday, 7 June and you will then get to meet with your child's teachers during the parent-teacher consultations from 12 – 14 June. Please contact our administration staff if you wish to schedule a time to meet with your child's teacher to discuss results and feedback provided in the reports.

Kind regards,  
Ms Deirdre



## Playgroup

Dear Playgroup Junior and Playgroup parents,

This month has been dedicated to learning all about the wonders of springtime. Through songs, games, and artwork, we have explored various spring animals such as butterflies, ladybugs, bunnies, and ducks, as well as getting interactive with our sensory bins filled with flowers and fun little critters hiding within.

With a few new faces joining Playgroup this month (mine included!), it's a joy to see new friendships blossoming every day, as well as students helping one another out in getting to know the routines and transitioning between activities.

With Easter just around the corner, we look forward to bringing even more festive spirit into the classroom and making some extra special artworks to bring home for the holidays. Be sure to check out what we've been up to in March on our dedicated display board near the front desk!

Hugs and kisses,  
Ms Kate



## Pre-Nursery (PN)

Dear Pre-Nursery parents and children,

This month has been a busy one, participating in both Book Week and Sports Day. Both events were so much fun, and we were impressed and proud of all our students who took part. The Book Week costumes and posters were brilliantly made, and we had such a tough time choosing the winners of the competitions as we could see how much effort went into everyone's work. Sports Day was super exciting – everyone had so much energy and we were happy to see all of the children and parents having a good time together.

The term is going by so quickly and we love seeing how much our students are growing up. We would like to say a huge *well done* to all of the children who have made a transition from nappies to underwear.

We've recently been exploring *Out and About*. It's a fun and entertaining topic, as there are so many different places to learn about. Everyone enjoyed discovering more about the park and supermarket even though it made us hungry learning about food and picnics! We always have fun when looking at different types of transportation – one of the children's favourite topics, especially when looking at trains, buses, and cars. The family train artwork was especially lovely and the children were all happy to see their family's photos. They showed the photos to their friends and spoke about their families.

For our next theme we need your help to collect some recycled materials to make musical instruments. We are collecting empty tissue boxes and the tubes from the inside of cling film / aluminium / baking paper rolls. We would be very grateful if you could please bring them into school and pass them to your child's teacher. Thank you in advance for your help.

Lots of love,  
Ms Emma, Ms Sylvia, Ms Rhawnie, and Ms Michelle

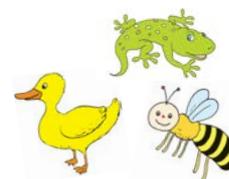


## K1

Dear K1 parents and children,

May has been another remarkable month! Sports Day is one of the most exciting events for the children, as they love being active and participating in the wide range of games in the big sports hall! The laughter and smiles on the children's faces were proof of how much they enjoyed the healthy competition and sporting spirit with their peers and families.

We had a fun-filled Book Week and extraordinary parade too recently! Your support and participation makes a big difference and it is greatly appreciated. We focused on the story *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*. Dr Seuss's books contain surreal and imaginative drawings and they are a good way to encourage the children to use their creativity and expand their minds. The children were able to memorise some of the rhymes while looking at the pictures and they created fish aquariums with phrases from the book. They have learned how to use opposite words, such as *new/old*, *happy/sad*, *thick/thin*, *slow/fast*, etc. Some of the children have impressed us recently as they can now spell out simple words, (eg *bus*, *hat*, *cat*, *pig*, *big*, *bed*) by blending the phonics sounds.



Our *Transportation* theme has brought lots of joy to the classroom. The children have loved playing with their favourite cars and trains, and making paper aeroplanes. They were greatly interested in experimenting with objects that sink or float too. With your help, they've created a lovely group project – their *Transportation Book*, and they love to flip the pages, look at the pictures, and tell everyone which mode of transportation they took and where they went! Thank you for participating in this activity.



Only one month left and then K1 will come to an end for our current students. We have been encouraging our big boys and girls to write their names on their work and most of them can do it. This is one of the main targets for the end of K1, so it's great to see many of the students achieving this goal.



Our last theme of the year will be *A Long Time Ago*, and we will be exploring the world of dinosaurs and briefly introducing the Stone Age to the children. Get ready for dinosaur stomps at home!



Hugs and kisses,  
Ms Jean, Ms Wanna, and Ms Kate

## K2

Dear K2 parents and children,

The academic year is almost coming to an end and it is clear that the children have grown into independent young learners. They show a lot of initiative and willingness to help their classmates and teachers. We are very proud of them.



The children had a wonderful Book Week and they have gained a lot of respect for books. They know that we need to take care of the books at school and at home. They also enjoyed the topic *People and the Past* and learned that people in the past lived very differently from how we live today.



In Literacy, the students have been focusing on sight words and revision of their phonics. They have also recently received new homework tasksheets. These tasksheets are to prepare them for K3 and primary school. They have been doing a wonderful job completing the homework and we can see a definite improvement in their writing skills. Well done, K2!



The next theme is *I Can Move* and the sub-topic is Olympics (team and individual sports). For the first two weeks the main focus will be learning about the Olympics and the type of team sports that are played during the Olympics, eg basketball, rugby, football, rowing, and hockey. The final two weeks will focus on individual sports, eg athletics, golf, tennis, and gymnastics.



The K2 students are currently learning the three graduation songs and the Mills School Song on their ukuleles. Please encourage your child to practise on their ukulele at home, as they have less than a month before the graduation ceremony.



Thank you once again for helping out and attending Book Week and Sports Day.

Please feel free to write in the Communication Book if you have any questions or concerns.

Ms Franziska and Ms Jasmine



## K3

Dear K3 parents and children,

What a busy start to the third and final term of K3!

The students have been very busy recently in Maths lessons and have learnt to measure in centimetres using a ruler. They have been learning how to tell the time, including *quarter past*, *half past*, and *quarter to*. We will soon be moving on to the topic of directions, the points of a compass, and the difference between clockwise and anti-clockwise.

In English, the children have been learning about capital letters and when to use them. The class have worked hard to pinpoint certain spelling mistakes in a passage that we have read as a class. Finally, they have been learning to use the pronoun *I* as a substitute for writing their name. The class continues to work hard when learning their new weekly spelling words. This shows in their tests every Friday.

During our current topic *Tropical Rainforests* the children have been learning about the different layers of the rainforest and what animals live there. They are able to now tell me what the animals look like and what they eat. They can now differentiate between carnivores, omnivores, and herbivores.

In Geography, they have been learning about Hong Kong population and climate. We will be moving on soon to learn about the Equator and the different hemispheres.

During Art lessons, students have been demonstrating their creativity by making different animals from the rainforest. They enjoyed painting their hands and stamping handprints onto paper to make the feathers of a colourful macaw parrot, which is found in the rainforest.

K3 students were also busy during Book Week. They went on a fun trip to the library, a few of them read to the younger classes, and they also assisted with Book Hospital. The class all looked wonderful dressed up as their favourite book characters too.

Sports Day was a great success and a lot of fun was had by all. Well done to our K3 students for leading by example and showing good team spirit!

Our final upcoming topic for the year is *Outer Space*, and we will learn about the different planets and their characteristics.

Thank you once again, parents, for assisting and encouraging your child with their homework.

Kind regards,  
Ms Tracy



### Playgroup Junior and Playgroup

During the theme of *Colours and Shapes*, the children learnt the relevant words for different colours including *red, yellow, green, blue, and purple* during classroom activities. Each child selected their favourite coloured bean bag and they sang the song *Balloons* together.

Sze Laoshi (Ms Yan)



### Pre-Nursery

The children have been studying the theme *Exploring Outside* and have learned about different places, such as the park and supermarket, and also various modes of transportation. They developed an understanding of items specific to each place, such as butterflies and flowers in the park. They have also learned about shopping. They chose their favourite food and also learned to name different foods.

Sze Laoshi (Ms Yan)



### K1

In this month's theme of *Transportation*, the K1 children learned the names of common types of transportation, such as *car, plane, minibus*, etc. During fun songs, games, and musical movement activities, they learned how to use the phrase *I took \_\_\_\_\_* to express travelling on different forms of transportation. They also learned about safety rules and how to cross the road correctly by watching an educational video. They now understand the meaning of *green light* and *red light*. We also incorporated some simple Chinese characters into the topic, such as *fire, car* and *water*. I am happy to see that the children are interested in Chinese characters. In addition to this, we also practised the antonyms of different words such as *up/down, long/short, and more/less* during Book Week activities.

Joice Laoshi (Ms Joice)



### K2

In the theme of *People and the Past*, the children learned about old Hong Kong buildings through films and pictures. They also worked together to build the Tsim Sha Tsui Clock Tower. By playing a game with hieroglyphics, the children learned about the origins of this form of text. They also read some classic Chinese storybooks about Nüwa mythology, Pangu mythology, four ancient Chinese inventions, and The Great Wall, and now understand more about Chinese history. During this theme, they were very eager to participate in the games, and learn through the visual art and writing activities. This has deepened their understanding of the past – what a wonderful way to learn about history!

Fan Laoshi (Ms Selina)



### K3

During the theme of *Transportation*, K3 children learned how to use different facilities to cross the road safely, such as *footbridge*, *pedestrian tunnel*, and *zebra crossing*. They also learned the words *traffic lights*, *flyover*, *zebra crossing*, and *pedestrian tunnel*. Now they can all use Mandarin to speak in full sentences, such as *We crossed the road*, *I can take the tunnel*, and *We look at the traffic lights*. The children also enjoyed role playing and demonstrating how to make use of these traffic safety facilities when crossing the road.

Sze Laoshi (Miss Yan)

