



KINDERWORLD KINDERGARTEN @ HANOI TOWERS

# NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Welcome back to another amazing school year. We had a wonderful summer school with our focus on literacy and then carried out renovations at the school – all ready to start yet another school year.

This year looks like being an exciting one. We have developed our maths curriculum for the younger pupils and now focus our learning on the three areas of counting and number sense / simple relationships, patterns and shapes as well as simple spatial concepts. For the Prep and K2 classes, we will be developing our coding programme with the introduction of Scratch Junior which will be accessed with our new iPads.

For parents and guardians, we are strengthening our partnership with the introduction of regular parental workshops starting with a “baby massage” workshop followed by workshops on art, yoga and interactive story time.

These will supplement our full series of events from baby boogie sessions, the lion dance and the Halloween parade, through the Christmas concert and charity fair as well as “stay and play” sessions all the way up to the grand finale of the end-of-year concert. We look forward to building up our school community with this series of events and enabling parents/guardians and teachers to all work together.

We look forward to a thrilling and eventful school year and thank you for joining us on this exciting journey.

Stephanie C. Mills  
Head of Kindergarten

## Upcoming Important Dates:

**Wednesday 27th September** – Baby boogie

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September** – Mid Autumn Festival

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October** – Baby massage workshop



# News around the Classrooms

## WATER PLAY IN K1 DUCKLING CLASS

Our time in the swimming pool is a most enjoyable and important time. At this age, children are naturally curious about the world around them, and water provides an exciting new element to explore.



It is very important that young children gain water confidence at the earliest possible age so that they will be eager to learn the skills of swimming techniques when they reach primary school as well as to ensure their safety in and around water.



Water play promotes physical development as it helps improve coordination, muscle strength, and balance as the children move against water resistance.

In addition, water play can boost a child's self-esteem and independence as achieving small goals in the water e.g.

collecting a series of water toys to put inside a hoop - builds confidence and a sense of accomplishment.

Our water play sessions are designed to involve interaction with others through team games and rhymes, fostering social skills as the children learn to share, take turns, and cooperate.



By introducing water play in a safe and controlled manner and being supportive, we are striving to help children build a lifelong love for water and ensure their well-being around it.

## STAFF TRAINING SESSIONS

As usual, we started our school year with a series of staff professional development sessions. These training sessions are very important as they enable staff to update their skills and expand their knowledge.



Discussions are an important part of sessions so that teachers have an opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas and learn from one another as well as the trainers.



One important part of the training was that of "retrieval practice" – which is a specific aspect dedicated to transferring information from the short-term memory to the

long-term memory - this is a practice that we will be utilising within our classrooms for the entire year.

STEM and coding is an aspect that we are continuing to develop and staff members had training from our STEM specialist – Mr Hoang on the interactive coding programme of Scratch Junior which will be utilised in the K2 and Prep classes.

With new mathematical areas to focus on within the pre-nursery / nursery and K1 classes, a training session on the key mathematical terms and new techniques to



systematically develop mathematical concepts was also carried out making a very productive and informative start to the year.

**PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS**

Our parent information meetings had a wonderful turnout – with parents/guardians eager to find out more about the workings of Hanoi Towers as well as getting to meet and work alongside each other.

Instead of the traditional one-way communication, our interactive sessions enabled parents and guardians to experience what it is like to learn through activities. This style also



allowed for open dialogue and genuine conversations between teachers and parents. This two-way exchange of ideas and concerns not only strengthened the relationship between both parties but also provided valuable insights into the way we value individual needs and learning styles.



This parent-teacher information session was followed up later in the week with a practical training session for Prep parents and guardians on the online literacy programme of Raz Kids.

We firmly believe in the importance of building a strong school and class community and look forward to building on this through our regular special events and workshops.



**ROLE PLAY IN CHICK CLASS**

For the first month of the new academic year, we focussed on the topic of “traditional tales” with one of the favourite story focuses being the story “The Enormous Turnip”.

In this story, the turnip (a Winter vegetable) grows so large that the farmer requires the assistance of various characters to help pull the giant turnip from the ground.



After reading and discussing the various characters, we carried out the process of pulling out the turnip through role play.

Using role-play hats so that each character was clearly designated, the children chose which of the characters they would like to play, with the main characteristics of each being emphasised.

When given the various roles, children were encouraged to move as their character e.g. moving slowly and a little bent if they were the old man or the old woman, with small scampering motions if they were the mouse etc.

They then worked together to pretend to pull the enormous turnip, learning that through working together as a team, we can achieve something we cannot do alone.



**NUMBER LINES IN PREP**



To start the school year, we wanted to ensure we remembered all the numbers from one to twenty before extending into larger numbers or starting to manipulate numbers.

We practised counting forwards and backwards using various games and mathematical manipulatives, however, the game students enjoyed the most was the gross motor skills game of

physically jumping using a giant number line.

To play this game, students threw a small bean bag onto the giant number line and were encouraged to name the numeral that it landed on. If the student was able to correctly identify the numeral they were able to jump in 1's to it – naming all the numerals on the way.



Other students were encouraged to listen to the student jumping and counting and assist them if they became confused about the number order, making sure that there was coordination between making one jump and calling out the next numeral in the sequence.



Having now been introduced to the giant number line, this material will be used to work later on in the school year with the introduction of other mathematical concepts such as addition and subtraction, counting backwards as well as counting along the number line in twos, fives, or tens.

**DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY IN PRE-NURSERY**

Kindergarten is not just a place for learning ABCs and 123s; it's also where young children begin to understand the value of community and teamwork.



Creating a sense of belonging and togetherness is crucial in these early years, and it can be achieved through various activities that promote unity and cooperation.

Encouraging students to tidy up their classroom together is a fantastic way to instil a sense of responsibility and teamwork. By assigning tasks and working collaboratively, they learn the importance of shared responsibilities and keeping their space clean. This activity also teaches them about organization and order.



Shared mealtimes are a wonderful opportunity for students to bond and build social skills. Eating together encourages conversation, table manners,

and the art of taking turns. It also helps create a sense of unity as they share meals and stories.

Understanding and following classroom rules is a vital aspect of building community spirit. Discussing rules, why they exist, and how they benefit everyone helps students grasp the concept of community serving as a firm foundation for the concepts of cooperation and collaboration.

