



KINDERWORLD KINDERGARTEN @ HANOI TOWERS

# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

Dear Parents/ Guardians

Welcome to another wonderful year at Hanoi Towers Kindergarten. We are very much looking forward to an exciting year ahead, with a wide range of activities and events designed to support each child's learning and development.

Recently, we enjoyed a very successful Creativity Week, during which the children explored important learning themes such as confidence, imagination, thinking, and self-expression through a range of curriculum-focused activities. By focusing on these areas within the busy school day, children were able to explore new ideas, express themselves creatively, and develop communication, problem-solving, and social skills in a meaningful and enjoyable way.

We also valued the opportunity to meet with parents and guardians to share report cards and discuss each child's progress. These conversations are very important, as they help teachers gain a deeper understanding of each child and support us in planning future learning strategies. Our regular six-weekly "next steps" updates will continue to be shared with parents and guardians so that we can work collaboratively to support children's learning at home and at school.

As we look ahead to the next academic year, we will begin a range of activities to help prepare children for their new classes and next stages of learning. From February, we will be launching our new "Speaking Steps" programme, alongside Prep Preview sessions, to support children's confidence, communication, and readiness for transition.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a very happy and healthy Tết holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back after the break.

Stephanie C. Mills  
Head of Kindergarten

## Upcoming Important Dates:

**9<sup>th</sup> February:** Launch of "Speaking Steps"

**16<sup>th</sup> February - 27<sup>th</sup> February:** Tet holiday – SCHOOL CLOSED

**Week of 2<sup>nd</sup> March:** Celebration of Book Week



# News around the Classrooms

## EXPLORING INSECTS IN K2 FROGLET CLASS

This month, K2 Froglet Class explored the fascinating world of insects through a hands-on, play-based activity using playdough. The children carefully constructed insects, paying attention to important details such as the three body parts, six legs, and antennae, and discovered why spiders are not insects. This activity helped children develop their early science skills by observing, comparing, and classifying living creatures.



In addition to learning about insects, the activity supported the development of fine motor control, which is essential for the writing process. As children rolled, shaped, and attached the playdough pieces, they strengthened their pencil grip, hand and finger strength, and hand-eye coordination. These skills also support letter formation, legibility, cognitive

automaticity, and confidence in writing.

The children also practised patience, focus, and attention to detail as they worked carefully to create their insects. They enjoyed sharing their creations with their classmates, explaining which features they had included and what they had learned.

Ms Meghan and Ms My encouraged the children to ask questions and make comparisons between different insects, extending their scientific thinking.



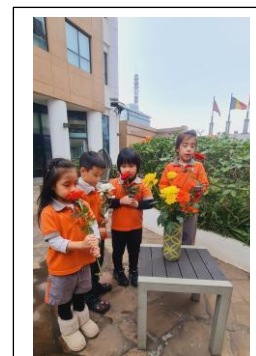
## MINDFUL SMELLING



Prep students explored their senses through a calm and enjoyable learning experience called *Mindful Smelling* this month. The children used their sense of smell to learn

more about the world around them while also practising focus and self-regulation.

Using safe, familiar items such as fruits, flowers, herbs, and spices, the students were encouraged to take slow, gentle breaths and notice each scent carefully. Before the activity began, we discussed how our sense of smell helps us understand our environment and how breathing slowly can help our bodies and minds feel calm and ready to learn.



Each child took turns smelling the items and sharing what the scents reminded them of. Some children connected the smells to food, nature, or special moments at home, while others described how the scents made them feel. This supported the development of language skills, as students practised using descriptive words to express their ideas.



Throughout the activity, the children demonstrated excellent listening skills, patience, and curiosity. *Mindful Smelling* helped strengthen their

sensory awareness, build vocabulary, and develop early mindfulness skills in a relaxed and positive way.

We are very proud of how thoughtfully our Prep students participated.

### CELEBRATING CREATIVITY WEEK



This year, Hanoi Towers proudly celebrated Creativity Week for the first time. Creativity Week is a global event involving more than 99,000 schools

across 122 countries and provides schools with a shared theme and curriculum focus that encourages creative thinking across all areas of learning. Each day of the week focused on a different aspect of creativity, linked to a specific learning area:

**Monday:** Confidence through Music

**Tuesday:** Exploration through STEM Engineering

**Wednesday:** Thinking through Art

**Thursday:** Moving Our Bodies through Physical Education

**Friday:** Imagination through STEM



The children eagerly anticipated each morning's welcome from our life-sized school mascot, Cinnamon the Bear. Cinnamon's themed costume offered a fun and engaging way to introduce the focus for the day and sparked excitement and curiosity before learning even began.



Throughout the week, the children participated in a wide range of hands-on activities designed to develop creative and critical thinking

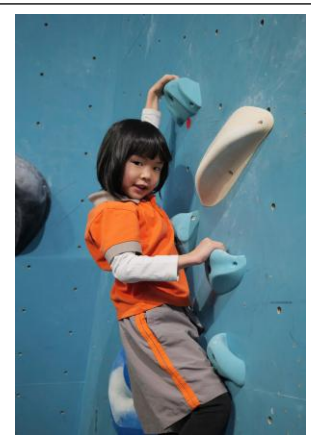
skills. They worked collaboratively to create music, explored rhythm and listening, and practised giving positive feedback on each other's performances. Through STEM and movement activities, students developed problem-solving skills, spatial awareness, and flexibility in their thinking as they adapted to new challenges and shared ideas.

### BEEFY BOULDERS FIELD TRIP



Beefy Boulders indoor climbing centre offered Prep a fun and active learning experience outside the classroom. This excursion gave the children the opportunity to develop physical skills while building confidence and independence in a supportive setting.

During the session, the children worked with experienced instructors who introduced them to the climbing equipment and explained how to climb safely. The students practised using their arms and legs together, planning their movements, and maintaining balance as they climbed. These



skills support the development of strength, coordination, and body awareness.



The children showed great determination as they challenged themselves on the climbing walls. Some children set personal goals, such as reaching a certain height or completing a climb independently, while others focused on improving their technique. The children demonstrated cooperation and encouragement by taking turns and supporting their peers. This hands-on experience helped strengthen gross motor skills, confidence, and resilience. The children returned to school feeling proud of their achievements.



### ART EXPLORATION IN PUPPY CLASS

This month, the children in the Pre-Nursery Puppy Class have been learning about different types of transportation, including vehicles that travel on land, water, rails, and in the air, through purposeful play-based experiences. Using paint, collage materials, and toy vehicles, the children explored cars, boats, trains, and aeroplanes in a hands-on and meaningful way.



Through these play experiences, the children were not “just playing” - they were developing important early learning skills. As they made marks, chose colours, and



explored different textures, they were strengthening their fine motor skills, building creativity, and beginning to use simple words to describe how vehicles move.

Playing together also supported early communication, listening, and shared attention.

At this age, play is how children learn best. These activities allowed the children to explore, experiment, and express themselves while



laying strong foundations for language, thinking, and confidence in a joyful and engaging environment. The children also practised turn-taking and social interaction as they played alongside their friends. Through gentle adult support, they were encouraged to use gestures, sounds, and early words to share their ideas and experiences.

### FROM FARM TO OCEAN IN DUCKLING CLASS

This month, the Duckling Class explored farm, jungle, and ocean animals through play-based learning. The children observed, sorted, and

classified animals by their habitats, compared sizes, and identified similarities and differences, including discovering the largest animals on land and in the ocean.

Sensory activities, such as water play with ocean animals, encouraged hands-on investigation and helped children make connections



between animals and their natural habitats. As part of this unit, the children were introduced to basic biological concepts, learning that fish breathe in water using gills, move using fins, and are protected by scales. The children also explored concepts such as carnivore, herbivore, and omnivore, and were encouraged to ask questions about what animals eat and how they survive in different environments.



These experiences supported the development of subject-specific vocabulary, early reasoning skills, and communication, as

children used new words to describe animals and share their understanding during guided discussions. Overall, the unit helped the Ducklings make meaningful connections between observation, play, and early scientific learning in an engaging and memorable way.