



# *The Gera School Newsletter*

## *8<sup>th</sup> July 2022*

### *(Nursery - Grade 5)*

Dear everyone,

*"Clouds come floating into my life, no longer to carry rain or usher storm, but to add colour to my sunset sky." - Rabindranath Tagore*

When the sky is covered with dark clouds and it starts raining, I often listen to the patter of soft rain on the roof of my house. This melody of nature brings to my mind the carefree days of my childhood, when I enjoyed playing in the rain with my friends. As little girls, we used to put on some old clothes and go outside and play. Using newspapers, we would make some of the best rainy day sailing ships, find a puddle and set sail.

Today's rain has no grandeur of the past: it is as if the monsoon season is focused on economy and a bit of inconvenience. I don't see the revelry of the yesteryear's thunder, lightning, rain and breeze. Rains of the past had a song and dance, a rhythm and a beat. These days the monsoon seems to be gripped by the jaws of ageing, by ideas of calculation and bookkeeping, by concerns of catching a cold. Parents are scared, anxious and extra careful. They stop the kids from getting drenched or jumping in muddy puddles and so on. But I really feel we should let them be. What's childhood without some fun? A few extra dirty clothes to be washed is totally worth all the priceless childhood memories created.

Let the child in everyone come out for a while. Is it crazy? Let's collect water in our palm and think that we saved the Earth! But, this craziness is needed for a smile in this judgmental world. Let's all be a little imperfect and enjoy rain without bothering that our hair is getting wet.

"When Benjamin Franklin, the famous inventor and publisher, was serving as the American ambassador to France, he often impressed French intellectuals with the wisdom of his remarks. At one dinner, the question was raised, "What human condition deserves the most pity?" Each of the guests responded, but the answer that is still remembered is Benjamin Franklin's: "A lonesome man on a rainy day who does not know how to read."

So, after we've had some good fun in the rain and dried ourselves, let's sit near the window with our favourite book and a cup of hot chocolate, coffee or tea; then, as a family, let's sit together to have the rainy day special snacks and read this edition of the Newsletter.

HAPPY READING!

**Ms Suparna Das**

COORDINATOR: PRIMARY SECTION

# NEWS FROM THE EARLY YEARS SECTION

## EVENTS

### I. *Blue Day*

The Early Years celebrated 'Blue Day' to emphasize the significance of the colour blue.

The students of Early Years came dressed in different shades of Blue; they carried their favourite blue coloured objects and spoke a few sentences about each.



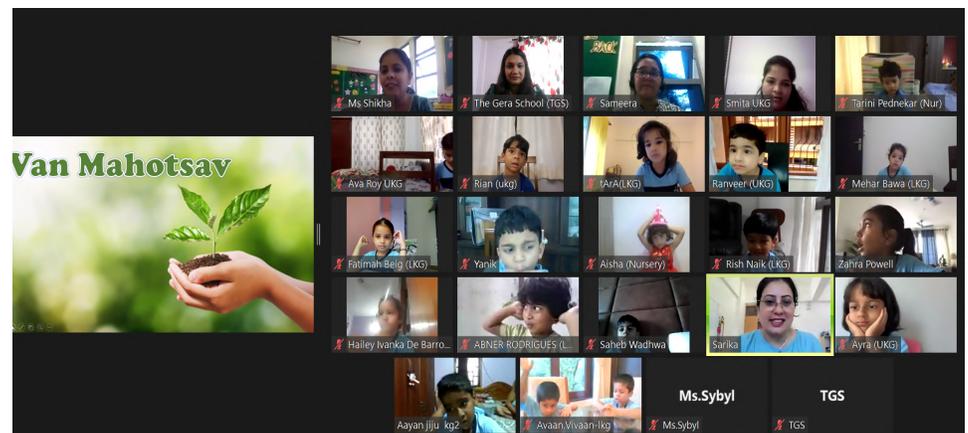
## II. Forgiveness Day

On July 7, 2022, "The World Forgiveness Day" was observed in the Early Years. Through the reading of the narrative, "The Angry Bee," the Nursery, LKG, and UKG children were made aware of the value of forgiving others. The students shared a couple of instances in which they had been furious while we were talking about forgiveness.



## III. Van Mahotsav

The Early Years observed Van Mahotsav Day on 8th July. The students were made aware of the importance of trees in our lives. The students watched an informative video about 'Jadav Molai Payeng - The Forest Man' to learn how he planted a forest all by himself. A discussion was held to ascertain the importance of trees and what they give us. The students also pledged to plant trees and take care of the trees around them. The session ended with the song 'In the Heart of a Seed'.



## NEWS FROM THE SPECIALISTS

### ***I. DANCE***

Students in the Nursery class participated in imaginative dance moves. The students imitated the motions of several mammals and were asked to consider how they might move if they were grooving to the music. It is fascinating to observe how young children use their movements to indicate their deep preoccupations with the unfamiliar environment around them.



The LKG and UKG students, on the other hand, took part in a Hula Hoop activity during their dance class that also required them to use their imaginations to perform dance movements to the music while also growing more aware of their surroundings and how to best navigate through the situations I would call out. Students were instructed to think of the hoop as their home and move within its confines until further instructions were given. It seemed to be a lesson in self-control in addition to a lesson in dance.

### ***II. DRAMA***

The little ones in the Nursery class enjoy making me feel welcome by being humorous. It's adorable to observe the young students' enthusiasm for the theatre exercises. They enjoyed imitating animals and their sounds in order to express their emotions and experiences. The students enjoyed imitating various expressions and showing them to their classmates. Later, they relaxed and admired the stunning illustrations from the storybook 'Breathe' by Scott Magoon.



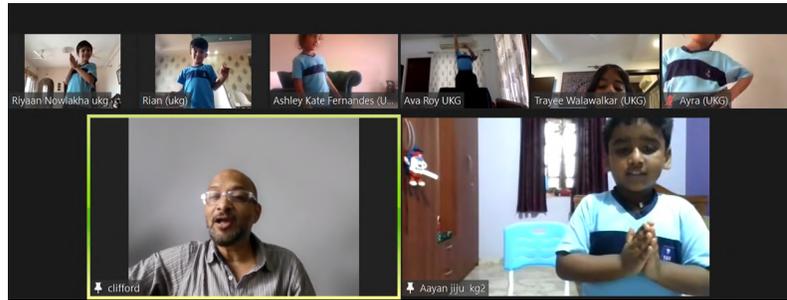
The students of LKG and UKG look forward to the drama warm-ups. Every student has the opportunity to lead and instruct their classmates in a theatre warm-up of their choice. With dramatic activities like *Just Imagine*, *Complete the Narrative*, and *What Next?*, young students explore their creative thinking, imagination, and use of body language. They are also becoming more intrigued by new words. A dramatized story read aloud is also enjoyed by the kindergarten learners. It's incredible to watch how well each child comprehends, interprets, shares, and expresses what they see in the narrative and illustrations. The story is then dramatized by we performing the dialogue.

## Music

Learners of the Early Years were introduced to some hand drumming on the occasion of Music Day. The students found it beneficial to practise playing percussion instruments first-hand. Naturally, since everything takes time and since this was their first encounter, the excitement was evident.

The LKG and UKG learners could hold some kind of steady beat, and they did enjoy themselves.

The Nursery students were incredibly enthusiastic merely to see the percussion instruments and wanted to play them all. We tried some movement with the songs in the last class we had with the Nursery. They enjoyed dancing!

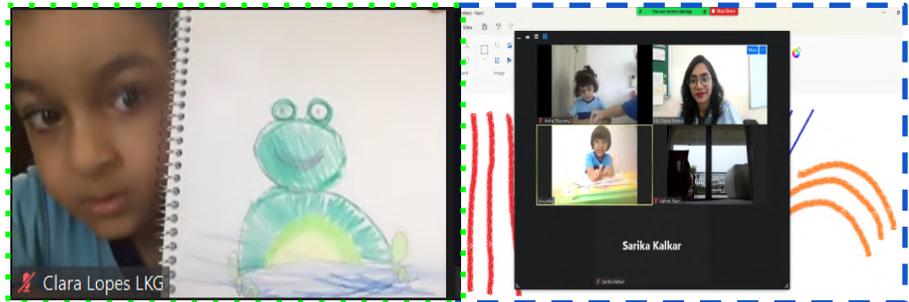


## III. ART

### NURSERY

Students drew several kinds of lines, watched humorous films about straight lines and imitated lines with their hands.

Some people gave lines new names, such as Aisha, who dubbed a curving line a rainbow line and a slanting line a rainy line. Learners danced to a line song, creating steps that displayed lines.



### LKG

Since most people enjoy the monsoon season, LKG students learned about frogs and how to draw a cute tiny frog step by step. They also learned some interesting facts like what a group of frogs is called and that some have webbed feet. The goal was to educate children how to draw, colour, and croak like a frog while also teaching them about the characteristics of frogs.

## NEWS FROM EACH GRADE



## NURSERY

### Numeracy

Children start learning numeracy skills very early. The students of the Nursery were introduced to number 1 in the class. The tiny tots were amused to spot number 1 in the class easily. They went hunting for objects with numeral 1 written on them. Tracing helped little ones refine their pre-writing skills, and builds the foundation for drawing and writing letters and numbers. Our little munchkins traced the number in the sand, grains and using paints – something that they look forward to in every class.

### Literacy

In Nursery, the students were introduced to the letter 'S' using alliteration. The story consisted of

words beginning with the /s/ sound. Little ones are in the process of associating the letter sound /s/ with vocabulary words. They indulged in various activities such as making Strawberries and recalling the letter 'S' sound /s/, pasting stars on the letter 's' template and hunting for spiders using tongs. These activities have helped the learners to fine-tune their fine motor skills as well.

## Understanding the World

The little munchkins of the Nursery are beginning to identify different parts of their face and body. They are learning about the functions of their external body parts and enjoyed creating parts of the face using play dough. The students look forward to dancing to the song 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes' and having fun doing the actions.

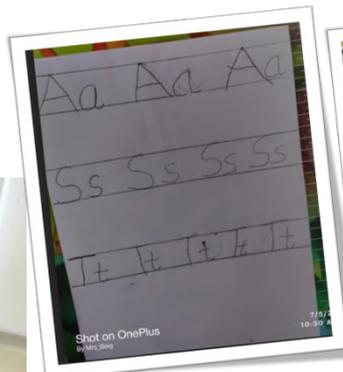
## LKG

### Numeracy

The LKG students continue to learn about numbers. They have learnt to recognise, represent and write numbers 1-7 through various fun activities. The student had fun learning songs like '7 colours' and 'There are 7 days.' The students are now able to count and order numbers 1-10 in the correct order.

### Literacy

The students have been learning to write



letters s, a, and t in the correct formation by holding a steady grip of the pencil. The new letter they are learning this week is the letter 'I'.

## Understanding the World

The students are learning about the formation of clouds'and 'The water cycle' with experiments

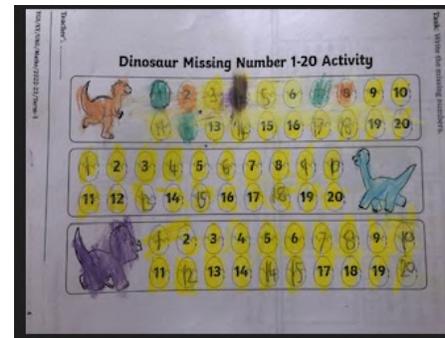
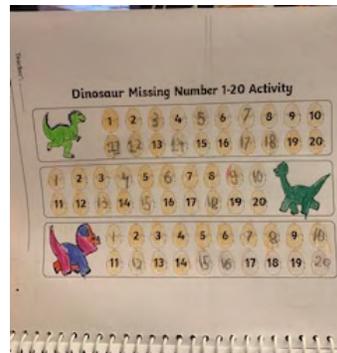


for better understanding. Each of them made a presentation in class to explain the same. During this week the students also learnt about the winter season and hibernating animals.



## UKG

**Numeracy** Counting is the first skill children learn and it sets a base for many other mathematical concepts. The children learned to count backwards from 10 to 0 through a fun rocket launching game. This activity gave the learners the confidence to count aloud in a sequence. The children were introduced to a number line and they used the number line to fill in

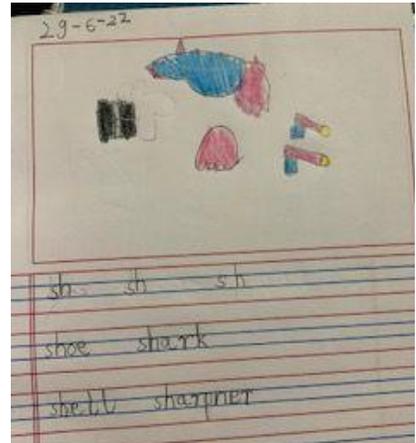
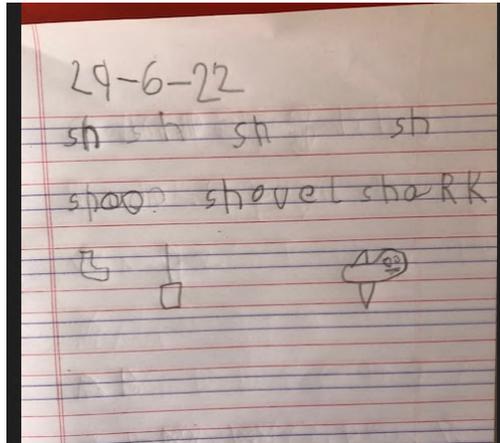


missing numbers and what comes before and after. They had fun solving the Dino worksheets. This week the children were introduced to skip counting in fives. They played games to learn the concept of counting in fives. They also watched a story video 'Lots of ladybugs counting by fives' to reinforce their understanding of skip counting.

## Literacy

The foundation years are best to build reading and language skills in a child. Building literacy skills through Phonics is one of the best ways among the others. This week the children were introduced to the digraph /sh/ through a story. 'A Ship and Shells', They learned the digraph /sh/ and associated the sound with things around them. New words like cash, shed, shovel, brush, and paintbrush were added to their vocabulary. The children played a game where they had to look for objects around their house with the /sh/ sound. The children thoroughly enjoyed the activity

and learned the /sh/ sound. They also recapitulated the /ch/ sound through a colouring



worksheet.

## Understanding the World

The last two weeks have been online learning for UKG students. In the unit 'Farm to fork', the children made flatbread to understand how bread is made out of wheat flour. This activity helped the learners develop their fine motor skills, and respect for food and for people who cook.

Further in the unit, they learned to differentiate between whole foods and processed foods.



They watched videos and discussed unhealthy and processed food. The little ones had fun as they became food inspectors and raided their refrigerators and kitchens to find processed and whole foods. This gave them a better understanding of food, where it comes from and in turn, will help them make better food choices.

## PRIMARY UPDATES

### EVENTS

#### I. English Elocution Competition -

*The best way to conquer the stage is to know what you are talking about.* The finalists of the Primary Elocution Contest sure did know what they were talking about. Confidence, preparedness, fluency and knowledge were displayed well by these growing minds as they got on stage to speak in the presence of the judges, their teachers and peers.



## II. Hindi Elocution Competition -

*Hindi is the language of the heart, said the Mahatma himself.* Grades 1 to 5 enthusiastically participated to get to the finals of the Hindi Elocution Competition. Reciting a range of poems, the little ones showcased their language prowess and stage presence leaving the judges, teachers and their peers very impressed with their performance.



## NEWS FROM THE SPECIALISTS

### I. CIRCLE TIME/ LEADERSHIP CURRICULUM

This fortnight, the learners of **Grade 1** had some 'Feeling Fun', online and offline. They danced their blues away to the feeling song and were very vocal about how they felt being back online. Once back in school, we had a Circle Time class where the learners spoke about how their behaviour could affect the feelings of others. As we build self-awareness, we realise that empathy is a feeling that needs to be nurtured right from an early age.

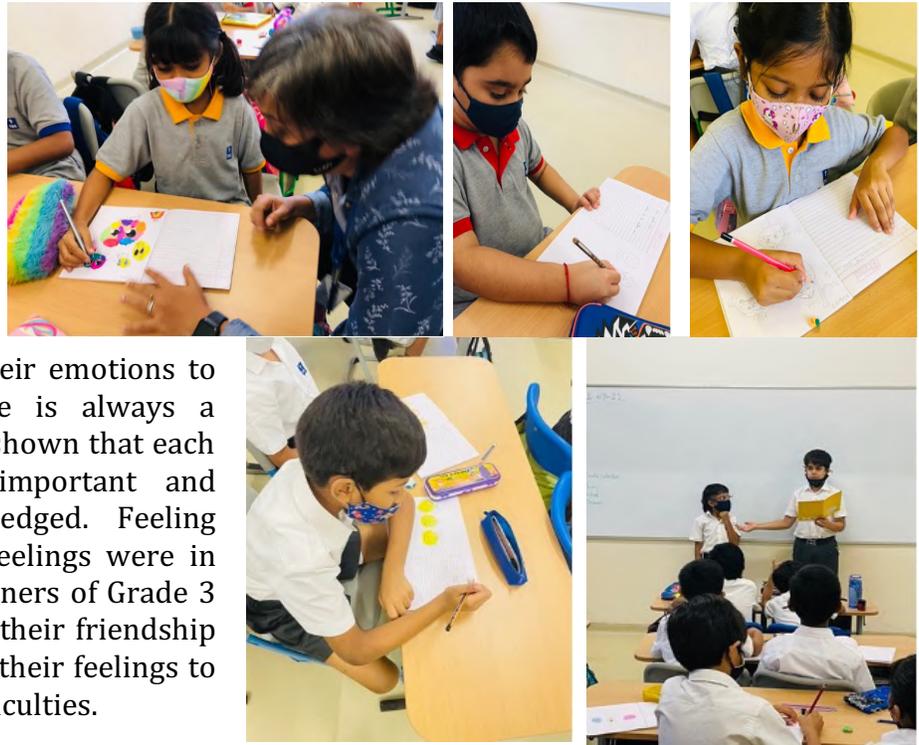


The learners of **Grade 2** have been getting in touch with their feelings over the last two

weeks. Being back offline for a short while gave them the perfect opportunity to reflect on their feelings and to express them as well. Back in class was a relief for them and each one was able to express as much as they could. In our Circle Time class, the learners were able to articulate how their behaviour affected others in both a positive and a negative way. As we slowly inch towards the topic 'Empathy', our learners are getting more fluent in learning vocabulary associated with feelings.

### Grade 3

Having the learners online again for a week helped them express gratitude for the privilege of school. Once back we delved into activities that had them sharing their feelings with their partners and having their partners introduce their emotions to the class. This experience is always a different one as they were shown that each of their feelings were important and deserved to be acknowledged. Feeling words and expression of feelings were in action this week as the learners of Grade 3 spoke about disruptions in their friendship and went about expressing their feelings to help them sort out their difficulties.



### Grade 4:

The learners of Grade four spent their week online coming up with synonyms for basic feelings

of anger, happiness and sadness. As they increased their feeling vocabulary, many of them



came to the realisation that feelings are also experienced in varying degrees. This is a very important realisation as we embark on a new journey of understanding “Empathy”. Learners were then better equipped to share their feelings with their classmates about how certain situations affected them. Circle time always brings up complex feelings and their acknowledgment itself is a lesson worth experiencing

## Grade 5:

The learners of Grade Five experienced first hand how emotions and feelings differ. When their class was split, some were happy about the change and others were not. Being able to use this experience as a learning tool was wonderful and it is great to now see them all settling well. Once the learners were online, we worked on our feeling vocabulary and this gave them the opportunity to express their feelings more elaborately when they got back to class. In an activity where they were to speak about a friend’s emotional experience, the learners were able to go much deeper than they had before. Some also expressed how the activity allowed them the opportunity to bond on a deeper level with their peers.

## II. ICT

### GRADE 1

The learners of grade 1 enjoyed solving activity sheets which included identifying and writing names of parts of a computer. Some of the learners painted the picture of the computer system very beautifully. They were also exposed to a software MS Paint which is used to draw and paint pictures on computers. They enjoyed working with MS Paint.



### GRADE 2

Though one of the classes was online, learners of Grade 2 enjoyed learning how to insert images and shapes in the word document.

The learners of Grade 2 created beautiful posters representing their hobbies by using various functionalities present in



Microsoft Word. They made use of textboxes, shapes and images to make their poster attractive.

### GRADE 3

The learners of Grade 3 were introduced to the concept of word processors. They shared their views on the benefits of using word processors. They were introduced to the most commonly used word processor software i.e. Microsoft Word. They learned the importance of setting the paper size of an MS word document. They were also taught to make the text in Microsoft Word more attractive and readable by using formatting techniques. Learners also enjoyed typing in MS Word document

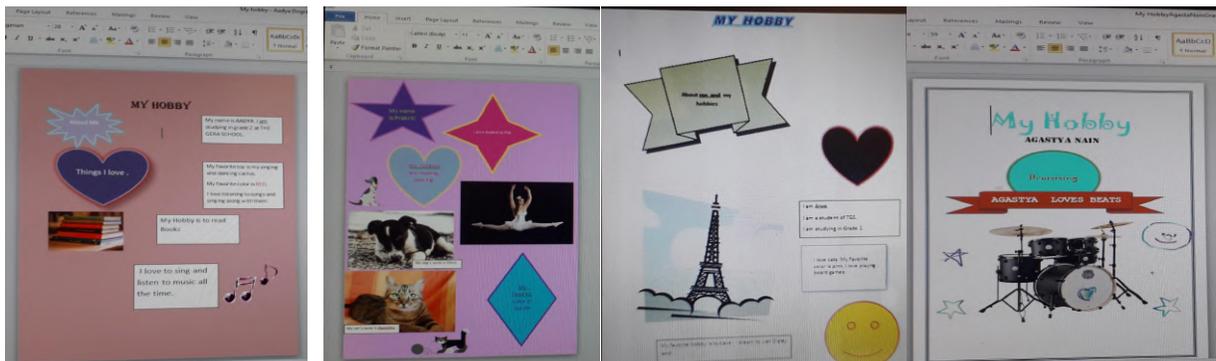


### GRADE 4

At some point we all are interested in capturing the beauty of nature or events into our cameras. The learners of Grade 4 were exposed to how a professional photographer gets the idea for a particular photoshoot, how he makes a plan for a professional photoshoot and captures perfect photographs using digital cameras.



They also learnt to crop the images and apply filters to give the best look to their image.



### **GRADE 5**

The World Wide Web is a great source of information and how to make use of it in the right way depends on us. The learners of Grade 5 learned to differentiate between web page and website. They were shown the first website as well as a modern website and the learners were able to figure out what makes a modern website attractive.

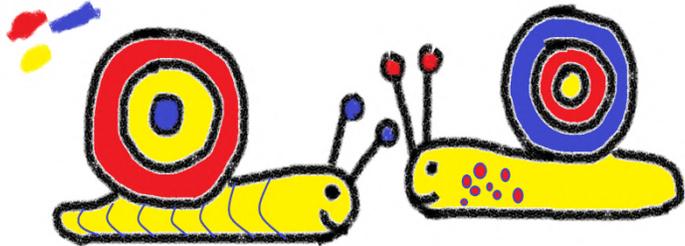
They also learned to design a Web Page layout.

Learners were also exposed to the reality that they should follow certain ethics while working online otherwise they could land in trouble. Some of the learners shared their view by giving examples on the ways in which online communication technology can harm us.

## **III. ART**

### **GRADE 1**

Grade 1 learners revised the primary colours and learnt to draw a snail and an umbrella which they then rendered using only the primary colours. Learners decorated their drawings with detail and creativity. The artwork created by learners depict their understanding of primary colours as well as the steps to draw snails and umbrellas.



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### **GRADE 2**

Learners have been engrossed in drawing insects. They have learnt the steps to draw intricate insects namely ladybird, honey bee, dragon fly, beetle, butterfly and caterpillar. Their artworks are full of details which visually describe the learners' creativity in colour and precision in drawing.

### **GRADE 3**

Learners have been learning how to draw a Rooster and an Owl. They have created very original renditions of these birds, depicting them visually using lots of details and intricate lines. The learners are also working on a 'Gratitude Mandala' design which depicts visually the things they feel grateful for. This activity helps them express their gratitude through images, texts and colourful patterns.

## GRADE 4

The Grade 4 learners have been busy drawing City or Townscapes. They have applied their understanding of decorative lines in these drawings. Their



drawings are full of architectural details which visually describe the building and cities that they have drawn.

## GRADE 5

Learners dived underwater to learn and draw the underwater animals and elements. Using the pen sketching technique, learners did impressively well. These sketches were then given a twist, where learners added a saying that speaks of the ocean. Learners did some lettering work and added these underwater elements to the quote. This allowed learners to learn how to think analytically and creatively in the field of art.

## IV. DANCE

Grades 1, 2 and 3 have progressed from learning basic upper body moves to basic lower body moves like 'Bend'(Plie), Jump (Sauter)and Kick (example: Battement). Learners enjoyed



warming up to a "cha-cha slide" choreography where the music told them what to do.

Grades 4 and 5 were taught basic Jazz dance moves like the Lindy Hop, Jazzwalks, The Jazz Square and Pivot Turns. We are also learning to dance to a set choreography to “Wake me up, before you go” by George Michael, which is fast paced and energetic. Learners have learned how to perform a Dance Canon (which is a dance technique that requires dancers to take turns to perform a movement.)



## V. DRAMA



Grade 1: We were back online for a session where the children expressed themselves in the Warm Up Activity and while reading rhymes.

Grades 2 and 3 had fun with an Imagination exercise called WHAT IF, where they chose a fairy tale and were given a twist in the tale.



Grade 4, 5A & 5B too started with a warm-up activity followed by an Imagination exercise and were assigned to write scenes based on the characters they chose. Some of the scenarios were as follows:

**WHAT IF:** Cinderella were the villain, Rapunzel had a hair loss problem, The three little pigs came to Goa, and so on... We had great fun!

## VI. MUSIC

**Grade 1&2:** The new song, 'Que Sera Sera' by Doris Day was introduced. The learners were encouraged to sing solo. During online sessions, learners played their instruments while others were singing.



**Grades 3, 4 & 5:** The new song, 'Have you ever seen the rain' by CCR was introduced. The learners were encouraged to sing their favourite song and also play the instruments.



## VII. P.E.

**Grade- 1:** Physical fitness is an important marker of health that enables learners to carry out activities of daily living with vigour and alertness but without undue fatigue and with sufficient reserve to enjoy active leisure pursuits and to meet unforeseen emergencies.

In P.E., learners of Grades 4 and 5 continue to work on their Cardiovascular Endurance while practising PACER. They have been engaged in team PACER activity to enable them to achieve higher levels in the test and to work with other team members to set higher goals and give their best thus fostering teamwork as one of the important life skills.



## VIII. HINDI:

Grade 1 and Grade 2 learners revised Hindi Matras, Hindi letters, colour activity and sentence making activity with correct pronunciation in class as well. This in turn built their vocabulary.



Grade 3: Reading is important because it makes you more empathetic, knowledgeable and stimulates your imagination. Grade 3 learners read chapters with correct pronunciation. They improved their vocabulary and also practised for the Hindi recitation competition.

Grade 4: Asking and answering questions is not only a part of how we learn, but it is also a part of our social skills. We ask and answer questions to be polite, build and maintain relationships. Grade 4 learners had an exercise on questions and their answers in class and practised how to recite a poem.

Grade 5: Using correct grammar makes listening and reading easier for others to understand and can make the communication process more enjoyable. Keeping this in mind Grade 5 learners learnt grammar and also practised how to recite a poem.

## NEWS FROM EACH GRADE

### GRADE 1

#### English:

“Exciting”, “Thrilling”, “Scary”, “Eerie”, “Unusual” are a few words the little ones of Grade 1 could associate with the word “Adventure”. With stories about Show and Tell, Day and Power Cut, learners are being introduced to a sequence in a story. Getting familiar with the highpoint in a story and then being challenged to think about how they would react in place of a particular character is surely making reading stories a fun learning! With a progression in understanding about a range of vocabulary, the learners learnt about syllables and nouns. Reading, comprehending and answering the questions based on the text are what Grade 1 is all intrigued about now!



## Mathematics:

Numbers speak for themselves, especially when we talk about Ordinal Numbers! The little ones of Grade 1 are learning life lessons in sync with this topic. Weaving stories with Ordinal Numbers, the bright minds came up with a range of interesting stories about Sport races, Fun Games with family and arranging toys! With group and individual activities, the learners are finding their feet in dealing with numbers, be it learning about how the crocodile loves the bigger number to being challenged in using the Skip Counting techniques for a difficult sequence of numbers.

## Science:

Dark is beautiful! And Grade 1 learners vouch for this statement. Learning about light and dark, the learners' curiosity about shadows and how we can see in the dark is satiated with a range of fun activities that enhances the learning process. Delving deeper into the topic, learners were exposed to activities like the "Dark Box" to understand which colours are clearly visible in the dark as well as their own lantern to keep the darkness at bay. The learners will end this topic of Light with their very own Grade 1- Book of Light.

## GRADE 2

## English:

*"It is a dark night, a creepy bat is lurking around. The house looks scary, I am lonely and scared. My face was freezing, I could hear wolves howling in the distance."*

This was the description given by one of the learners to set a scene looking at the picture. If you start your story with vivid descriptions, it definitely piques the



interest of the readers and creates enormous interest. Learners of grade 2 have done a fantastic job at setting a scene and now have moved to the second element of story writing, character description. They started the concept by attending a monologue by Ms. Lizelle, our grade 10 English teacher, on 'Gruffalo'. Learners wrote a character description of the monster by intricately describing his physical appearance and gave their take on his personality. They comprehended that character description entails physical description, personality, background, and likes and quirks to create well-rounded interesting characters in a story. Learners are also focussing on enriching their vocabulary by understanding the concept of synonyms and antonyms.

*"This is a colossal house." "She is a petite girl." "My teacher baffled me with Math sums,"* were a few of the sentences created by the learners while learning synonyms.



## Mathematics:

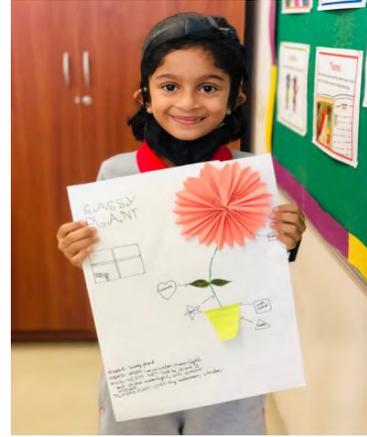
In everyday life, estimation and rounding off figures helps facilitate quick mathematical calculations and gives people a general idea of what to expect in a project, a transaction or an event.

Rounding and estimation are important mathematical skills that learners continue to use throughout their lives. Both rounding and estimation have many important practical purposes. Instead of just adding or subtracting columns, they actually have to analyze each number in the problem and make a determination as to round up or down depending on

that “magic number” [which is 5].

This fortnight, the learners participated in group activities where they worked with manipulatives to estimate the number of blocks, beads etc. Using a number of real-life objects like a road and a bell, the learners were able to visualize how numbers can be rounded up, thus giving them the opportunity to analyse and apply.

They paired up with a friend and rounded three-digit numbers to the nearest 10 and 100. With this subtopic, the learners have ended the unit on numbers to a 1000 with an end-unit test.



## Science:

Every living organism goes through a life cycle. Life begins, the organism grows, it reproduces, it consumes energy, it produces waste and it eventually dies. Coming to the end of the topic, the learners have got a better understanding of how plants function. To help them understand functions and processes of a plant, the learners participated in a number of hands-on activities. While learning about germination the learners grew mustard seeds and closely monitored the stages of the plant. Understanding the importance and the function of the stem, the learners conducted an experiment where they left flower stems in different coloured water and monitored the change in the colour of the flower, which shows how the stem transports water to the different parts of the plant. Our little botanists also created their own plants and made models of their imagined species which they presented in class. Who says learning and science can't allow the child's imagination to run free?!



## GRADE 3

### English:

Finding the right book was the focus of the week as the learners were encouraged to choose a book for their friends according to their reading levels with support from their teachers. They are encouraged to keep a reading log which will help them to read different genres. Children learn from their peers. To see them open a book and read in their spare time is something they have learnt watching the other.

While reading about Anne's first day at school they were able to look at text and the associated pictures to explain why the extract is a historical fiction. In connection to historical fiction they

were able to make reference to how characters behaved, dressed or thought during a given period of time, making a real life connection to how their grandparents think, dress or act.

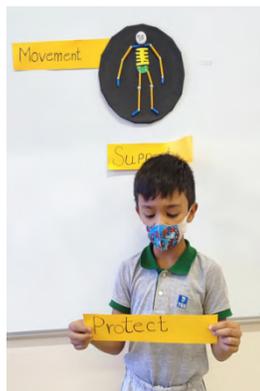
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Writing is a key skill and therefore learners were introduced to phrasing sentences using proper sentence structures.

It was an amazing experience to listen to learners speak on varied topics for the intra class elocution. The winner made it to the inter class competition. Below are the winners.



## Mathematics:

Place value perhaps is one of the most important areas of the Primary Math curriculum. It is very important because it provides the foundation for regrouping, multiple-digit multiplication, and more in the decimal system, as well as a starting point for the understanding of other base systems. Thus, this fortnight the main focus was to explain what place value is, what it means, and to provide the learners with some questions they can use to test their own skills. Apart from this, learners revised linear and non-linear

sequences and identified and analysed arithmetic patterns in numbers. This in turn helped them to construct simple number patterns.

## Science

When our body works as a unit we know how the different systems in the body work to keep us alive and active. Looking at the skeletal system, learners were able to explain the importance of the skeleton and use an identification key to classify animals as vertebrates and invertebrates. A few learners accepted the challenge to make a model of a skeleton and were at their creative best.

They were questioned as to why movement is important and explain with reasons to show that our bones grow. A third grader can now name the 3 types of muscles, and why the heart is called a smooth muscle.

## G.P.

Grade 3 has learnt about a few Explorers and Travellers under the topic “People who Changed the World.” Not only have we learnt about what Marco Polo, Christopher Columbus and Vasco Da Gama achieved, but we also learnt about some Goan history and how the Portuguese brought chorizo, cafreal and pav (bread) to India. It has been very exciting for us to also start a new adventure by learning about entrepreneurs, and how they also have the potential to change the world. We started by learning about Larry Page and Sergey Brin; we are sure your learners will be able to tell you all about how these two friends were able to change the world.

## GRADE 4

### English:



Why do we use language? A question that has many answers, no doubt. One fundamental reason is to communicate. This is one of the things we focused on in the past two weeks. The English Elocution practices began in full swing. The learners were trained on the manner to speak in an elocution. After that, they were given a choice of topics and had to present a short speech. This was the preliminary round. The learners communicated and shared their thoughts on the topic. Keeping in mind the criteria, finalists were chosen. The

training continued for the finalists as they geared up for the finals.

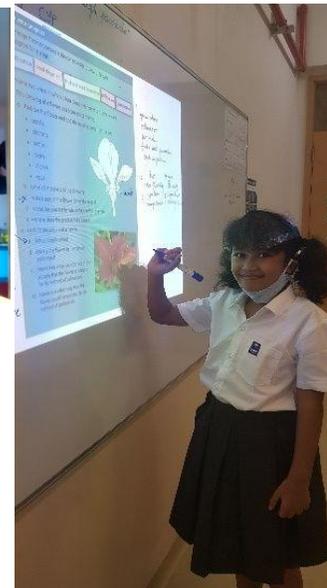
In the world of literature, we delved further into Greek myths as students were introduced to popular characters and elements of this mythology. A significant lesson we had was one on storytelling. The class had a discussion on the importance of storytelling and its relevance today. We then sat in a circle and had a story reading session of various myths and discussed the same. We read the story of King Midas and the quest for Medusa's head. The discussions focused on what we can take away from these stories and apply in our own lives. Through this activity, the learners were not just exposed to different mythical stories but also to the wonderful world of storytelling.

## Mathematics:

“Being a square keeps you from going around in circles.” ~ J. Vernon McGee. The learners have been working on Triangular and Square numbers and made isosceles triangles which could be put together to make larger triangles. They explored how patterns could be made with these and how square and triangular numbers are related.



**Science:** The tiny seed knew that in order to grow, it needed to be dropped in dirt, covered in darkness and struggle to reach the light. The learners of Grade 4 learnt this as they wrapped up the unit on 'Life Cycle of Flowering Plants.' They soaked and observed a variety of seeds to test for conditions that are needed for germination. They observed tables of data and plotted bar graphs as well as interpreted the information. They concluded that for a seed to achieve its greatest expression, it must be completely undone – the shell cracks, its insides come out and everything changes. This, they learnt, is growth in the true sense.





## G.P.

Grade 4 has been learning to do research and communicate findings as we learn about constructing a diet plan for a particular age group. Our learners designed a diet plan based on what we learned about macronutrients. Apart from this, we have also been developing our group work skills, where each island came up with their ideas on how they would make the world a healthier place if they were leading The World Health



Organisation. We have been able to collaborate together to come up with some interesting ideas like: “Making Herbal Sanitisers”, “Exporting Masks”, “Making More Hospitals In Remote Areas”, and “Free Vaccinations”.

## GRADES 5 A and 5B

**English:** If you were the Prime Minister for a day, what would you do? Not a very easy question to answer is it? But, our Grade 5 learners took up the challenge wrote a short speech and shared their thoughts on this with us. This was one of the topics for the English Elocution, preparation for which began in the past two weeks. Not only did the learners put thoughts into words but also focused on their public speaking skills.

We also continued with our fiction unit, delving deeper into prologues and chapters, characters and comprehension skills. The learners were introduced to non-fiction embedded in fiction stories and made fact files on the same. They put to practice the skills of scanning texts for relevant information while simultaneously working on layout and presentation. Since the story is set in Norway and based on a Norwegian folktale, the learners were introduced to the area of Scandinavia, its wildlife and landscapes. This will set the scene for the descriptive writing tasks that are to follow in the coming week.



**Mathematics:**

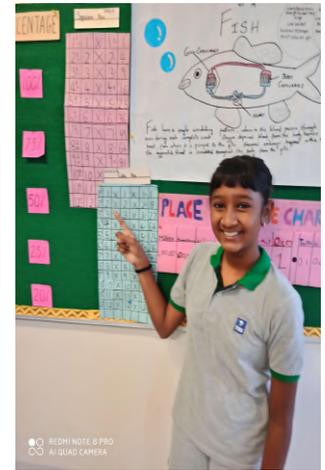
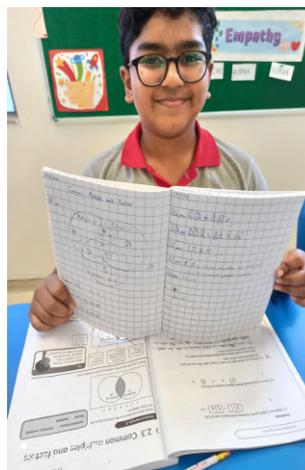
**Grade 5A**

Factors & multiples are commonly used in our everyday lives. We use factors when we want to arrange things in different ways. For example, arranging books in rows & columns, making groups of children in different ways etc.



A key time you use factors is when you must divide something into equal pieces. For example, if 6 people worked together to make brownies, and the pan of brownies yields 24 brownies, it would only be fair if everyone received the same number of brownies, so each person gets 4 brownies.

Factors are also useful when travelling. If you travel 720 miles on a vacation, you need to know how many hours you must drive so you can plan your trip. At an average speed of 60 mph, it would take 12 hours to get to your destination ( $60 \times 12 = 720$ ). Understanding factors and multiples allows you to easily navigate number relationships



in the real world without relying on your calculator or phone to do the work for you. Learners played the table game in class to recall and understand what multiples are. Then we drew factor bugs to understand factors. After writing the multiples for a few tables, learners found it easy to recognize the common multiples for different tables. Similarly, they also learned to find the common factors for different numbers.

Learners also understood and learned to recognize and find square numbers up to 100. They made a list of all the square numbers up to 100 in their notebooks. They then used their knowledge of multiplication and square numbers to recognise cube numbers and wrote these down in their notebooks too.

## Grade 5B

Arranging books in rows and columns? Making groups of children in different ways? Factors to the rescue! Factoring is a basic Math concept that reverses multiplication. It is finding the numbers that multiply together to create a larger number. Factoring is a useful skill in real life. Learners of 5B, bring the Math skill of factoring to life by making flashcards of numbers and subsequently attaching their factors to it. The learners learnt and developed more efficient strategies for multiplying numbers which would enhance their capability of memorizing multiplication facts. They also showed us how this great skill can be applied in real life like dividing something into equal pieces, exchanging money, comparing prices, understanding time and making calculations during travel.



## Science:

### Grade 5A

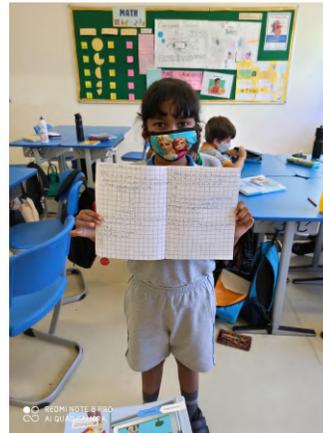
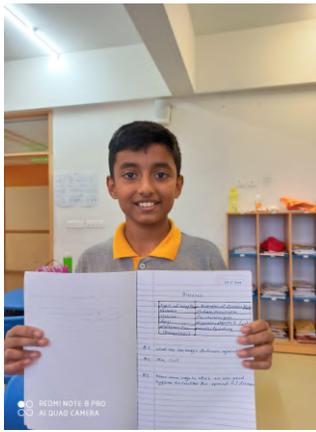
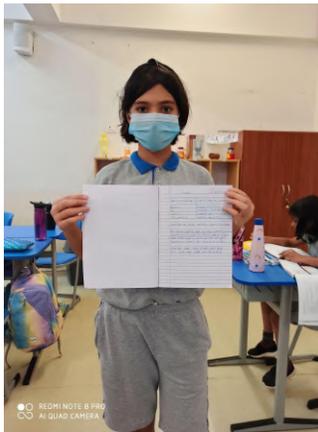


Are you taking precautions to ensure you are safe from getting Covid? Can we try and make sure that we do not contribute to the spread of Covid? These are real life situations these days. Learners learned about different infectious diseases and how they are spread among humans. They also learned about the precautions we can take to avoid these diseases, the most

important being to build up our immune system by eating well and practising personal hygiene. They also learned about the human body's defence mechanism which prevents and kills pathogens. Natural barriers and the immune system defend the body against organisms that cause infection. Natural barriers include the skin, mucous membranes, tears, ear wax, mucus and stomach acid.

## Grade 5B

Wash your hands a little bit more! Our 5B learners realised the fact that hand washing is the most effective way to keep germs at bay. Our primary learners dwelled deep into the subject to bring out some amazing facts. They comprehended the fact that bacteria are very resilient forms of life that can live almost anywhere on earth-from boiling water to the deepest ocean, rocks and ice too. They can be good as well as bad. They learnt the various diseases caused by these microbes. They also gathered information on how microbiome plays a very significant role in keeping our immune system strong and healthy. The learners also vowed to eat more fermented food like yogurt, idli, dhokla, kombucha, etc. for better health.



## G.P. : Grade 5A & 5B

Who wouldn't like to move to a different country to improve their way of life? But in order to do that, one has to consider many factors. Learners of Grade 5 took great interest and worked independently to make and present their research on a country of their liking which they thought they would like to migrate to. They included the pros and cons of shifting to their chosen country and tried to convince their peers as to why it was the best place to move to.

**With that, we end this edition. We will be back soon.**

**Regards,**

**The Gera School**