

Hello
Parents!

News from the Blue Group!

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Welcome back to the second Newsletter of this 'school' year!

It is amazing to see that after 'just' two weeks Tet holiday all the children have grown taller! Not only that, they are starting to have real conversations with each other at for example Circle Time! The children are learning to take turns talking, they are listening and making comments to what they have heard! I just guided them along..

Friends leaving and friends coming to the Blue Group...

We were sad to see three of our friends go to their next adventure in their lives. But it was exciting for them as well as they could show it on our world map. We also welcomed some new friends from the Yellow and Green groups, see on the right who left and who joined the Blue group!



Marlon went to Qatar



Andrea went to Italy



Aditi went to Mexico



Welcome Jacques-Yves



Welcome Filip



Welcome Julius



Welcome Raphael



Welcome Sarah



Welcome Lara

Learning Responsibility

We are working with the children on learning to become responsible for themselves and their belongings. This means that we are helping children to look at the reactions of their friends to the behaviour they are showing. For example when a child says: "You're not my friend!" We tell this child to look at the other's face and see how it looks: does it look happy? No? Why? We then ask the child if he/she would like it if someone said it to them. Of course, the answer is 'no'. At this point we ask the child to think of something different to say. This depends on the situation, but often it has to do with not wanting that child to join in play. We help the child to say: "I don't want to play with you now, but I will play later". It's a long sentence but with repetition, the child will copy it and use it in different situations. When we hear that, we follow up by saying: "Well, that was a nice way to saying "no" to your friend". And we let the other friend know that he/she can do the same of course.

Other responsibilities involve looking after clothes, shoes and bags. We are working with the children to put things in their own bags and close them, put the bag in their own cubby and leave shoes and hats there too. We do this in preparation for when eventually your child will go to 'The Big School', where they are expected to do this on their own. Helping children become more independent and responsible helps to build self-confidence, independence and feeling 'big' like their elder brothers or sisters.

Of course, Santa came to visit, sat with us and answered a lot of questions from the kids. They were happy with the presents!

The buffet with all the delicious dishes that you made, was a huge success! Again! Everything was tried and almost everything finished!! A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL PARENTS!



Special days:

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The pony ride at St. 10!!

January was a very busy and short month! In anticipation of the Lunar New Year of the Horse, three ponies were brought to Smartkids St. 10 and the children learned about all the parts of a pony as well what to feed and how to brush it. But the best part of course was..... Yes: riding them!! children were very excited and not scared at all..



The Lion & Dragon dance at Tran Ngoc Dien!!

And then it was time to dress up in our Ao Dai's or special clothes and go see the Lion and Dragon do their yearly New Year's dance. The show was so interesting that some children started dancing on the beat of the drum! Other children wanted to touch the dragon and the lion! They are so brave! When we came back to class, suddenly we saw a replay of the dragon dance.. They were very observant and figured out how to hold a friend by the waist while walking around like a Lion.



Living and non living things:

February was the time to talk about and find out what living things are and non living things. The children are learning that living things do four things: 1. they eat & drink, 2. they move, 3. they grow, and 4. they can make more of themselves. We went around the compound on Wednesday 19th. To find living and non living things. The children were very excited and found lots of dead leaves: yes, they **were** alive. That was a tricky one as to them leaves live. Of course we made sure that everybody washed their hands with soap and had a real good scrub! You'll find the results on the wall in the hall upstairs!



In the next few weeks I am writing reports for your child, therefore I am not always able to write in the communication books, should there be something you want to share, please talk to me during bringing and pick up times. And of course I will reply back if you write in the books!

Parent - Teacher meetings are held: 10 - 14 March; Please sign up soon for the 'best spot'!

Ms. Monique and Ms. Thanh