

# Colombo International School

## Infant Section Newsletter



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October 2021



## Nursery & Pre-Reception

Age group: 2.5 years - 4.5 years

Early childhood education is the initial step of a holistic strategy that enables children of all ages to learn in a supportive and constructive environment. Young children, particularly those under the age of five, require early stimulation as well as the acquisition of life skills that will prepare them for school and everyday life.

A youngster who enjoys learning, discovery, and effectively performing age-appropriate tasks from an early age is more likely to love school later in life and perform well academically.

Children may not effectively gain cognitive, behavioural, or social skills at home without a good early childhood education. As a result, preschool education is critical for developing learning readiness and immersing children in inquiry-based learning.

Development of skills in Nursery and Pre-Reception:

- Fine motor skills - Working with markers/paintbrushes, scissors, sculpting items, and other dexterity-based creative activities develop children's fine motor skills.
- Social skills - Preschoolers learn how to appreciate and get along with others through collaborative play and learning alongside one another, which improves their language abilities, self-control, and overall social skills.
- Early literacy development - Children as young as three can begin to write their names and read simple words. The practice children receive in preschool prepares them for success in kindergarten and primary school when it comes to literacy development.
- Listening skills - The development of a child's listening abilities is critical to their social and academic development. This is developed through verbal instructions and story-telling activities.

The Colombo International School upholds a tradition of excellence, achieving high standards from a very young age and creating your child's future.

**A FOUNDATION FOR LIFE!**





## Reception, Year 1 & Year 2

Most children begin to gain greater independence, self-control, and inventiveness between the ages of four and five. At this stage, your inquisitive and curious child is better equipped to hold a conversation. Your child's vocabulary is also expanding, as is their thought process. Not only should your child be able to answer simple questions quickly and logically, but they should also be able to better express their emotions. Singing, rhyming, and making up words are all activities that most children love at this age. As a result, the **Reception** grade covers a wide range of subjects in order to increase these developmental skills, including learning other languages such as; Sinhala, Tamil and French.

Leaving Reception and entering **Year 1** may feel like a big transition for both students and their parents. Your child's Year 1 teacher is there to assist the students (and their parents!) in moving on to the next level of learning, making the transition easier for everyone. Your child's day may be a bit more structured than it was in Reception, and they may have to sit at a table for a little longer than they are used to, but they will still be learning in a variety of ways, including while moving, exploring outdoors, in groups, on the carpet, and strolling around!

In Year 1, students will be exposed to more structured comprehension answering techniques, as well as greater standards in grammatical accuracies and the use of a larger vocabulary. Students are also introduced to additional Math concepts such as ordinal numbers, number bonds, symmetry, estimate, and measurements.

**Year 2** students are highly independent and want to complete tasks on their own. They get increasingly immersed in all topics and aspects of school life, striving for the highest levels of achievement in all activities. Students in this grade should be exposed to additional social activities as they expand their awareness of working in groups and forming relationships among classmates. In Year 2, the emphasis is on strengthening writing skills through improved grammar and punctuation, as well as introducing pupils to new ideas such as prefixes, suffixes, colons, semi-colons, and even various parts of sentencing construction.

Students in all three year groups are exposed to science and arts courses, including learning about biological processes, relationships between biotic and abiotic environmental aspects, and even expanding their comprehension of basic Physics principles. Rainforests, weather, life cycles, and other themes are taught during the Topic subjects. These disciplines are enhanced with a variety of craft and STEAM activities, for which students are supported with craft packs. Enrichment period was another success in the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 grades, where students were provided with a challenging learning opportunity. They were given enjoyable and engaging tasks to participate in, allowing them to fully concentrate on following instructions.





The students in years 1 and 2 demonstrated their dramatic abilities by performing their favourite character from the stories 'Little Red Riding Hood' and 'The Jungle Book'. It was a creative outburst as they fashioned costumes from household objects. The students' employment of their own cosmetics was also a wonderful element to their presentation.

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A booklet with song lyrics, colouring pages, and worksheets was produced to supplement online instruction in order to provide an exciting, informed, and entertaining music session for students of all ages. The children were educated about several types of instruments using PowerPoint presentations and videos of how they are played, as well as having to listen to the sounds of those instruments, which helped them distinguish between instruments. Singing along with unmuted microphones, listening activities, interactive and fun games, activity papers, colouring sheets, and quizzes were done at the end of the lesson to test the students' knowledge, comprehension, and engagement. Spoons, boxes, containers, plates, plastic bottles, pencils, pens, and other common household items were used in place of traditional percussion instruments. For Children's Day, Year 2 students made their own shakers out of recycled materials and Year 1 children enjoyed a fun band time.

Art and craft lessons in Infant school assist students to conceive, organize, and conceptualize artistic ideas and work. Students are taught how to apply their knowledge of shapes, colours, and many themes to their drawings and craft projects. We as teachers may connect and guide students with their work using online platforms such as Zoom and Google Classroom, ensuring that they get the most out of the time spent. Our provides a safe place for children to let their imaginations run wild and themselves through art.





### Computer studies:

To improve mouse handling abilities, students are taught subject-related instructional online activities. The Tux paint application is used to showcase computer drawing lessons in the Reception level. Year 1 and 2 computer sessions use the Microsoft paint and Tux paint apps to encourage the children's creativity. The textbook is used to offer theoretical lessons to year 2 pupils. Children are given the opportunity to annotate on the teacher's computer screen in order to enhance their mouse control skills. Students are eager to take part in online classes and contribute their work to the Google Classroom. To increase their performance, weekly lesson videos and activity links are uploaded to the Google Classroom.



### Languages (Sinhala, Tamil, French):

Learning a language is never too early: it's enjoyable, it encourages healthy development, and the many cognitive and social benefits will last a lifetime. Children who learn a second language before the age of seven use the same region of the brain that they used to study their mother tongue to learn the second language.



### Physical Education:

We adapted the PE sessions to suit home-based online schooling with materials easily obtained at home due to a shortage of resources. Breathing exercises, warm-ups, balancing books, balancing a ball on a bottle, lime and spoon, pouring activities, pick-and-drop, soccer ball handling dribbling, crossover with basket ball, and passing the ball with a family member are some of the activities carried out this term. These exercises improve coordination, balance, and endurance while also allowing the youngsters to have fun and use all of their pent-up energy from being confined to their homes.



### Dance:

Warm-up exercises, dancing choreography, fun action tunes, and a soothing cool-down comprise the dance lesson. The students will be able to explore movement as a source of fun, relaxation, and coordination during this course. The lesson is delivered via Zoom, YouTube, and our Google Classroom, where the substance of the lesson as well as any assignments are provided. We're pleased to report that the pupils have responded positively and have greatly enjoyed their time at the dance lesson.

