



**Ellen Thompson**  
Principal

Dear Parents & Carers,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the 2015-2016 academic school year! I hope that the summer has provided you with some rest, relaxation and an opportunity to rejuvenate. The children all look happy, healthy, well rested, and eager to learn. We have really enjoyed hearing all the exciting stories about their holidays and hope to create a lot of new memories with them this year.

We would also like to extend an especially warm welcome to all the new families that have joined us this year, as well as our fantastic new teachers. Speaking of the new teachers, we welcome four new members to our teaching staff. Two of our new staff, Miss Rebecca and Miss Grace, both form a strong Reception team and have already developed a great rapport with that year group.

Additionally, we welcome Miss Stacey to Year 3. She has a wealth of experience and enthusiasm in abundance. Alongside these class teachers, we have Mr. Michael, joining us as our new PE, Sports and Swimming Teacher. He is incredibly excited at the prospect of providing a motivating and engaging Physical Education curriculum, as well as developing the opportu-

nities to compete against other schools, which Mr. James began last year.

A crucial aspect to any growing school is the existing staff and giving them the opportunities to develop and grow alongside the school itself. We have realised the potential of two such members and

-icipant in our school community through the Parent Teacher Group. We cannot stress enough that a good relationship between school and home helps to build a child's confidence and assists in their continuous development; We depend upon the co-operation, support and involvement of parents.

Over the summer, all of our staff have worked tirelessly to prepare for the first day of school. The building has been cleaned, walls have been broken down and painted, and furniture has been moved. Additionally, projectors and screens have been put in all the classrooms, as well as investment into our new Computing programme and internet capabilities. This has enabled us to embrace the 'digital age' and improve our breadth of provision to this regard.

As a result of all of our efforts, we were able to have a smooth opening to the school year. I am also very happy to announce that our enrollment continues to grow and we are quickly approaching our enrollment capacity. Thank you for all your support.

Saigon Star is all about happy, hardworking children having fun, trying to reach their own personal achievements in all areas of school life. We look forward to working with you and your child throughout the school year.

Kind Regards,

*Ellen Thompson*

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promoted both Mr. Brendan and Mr. James from within. Mr Brendan has been appointed Deputy Headteacher, following two successful years at Saigon Star. Mr. James assumes the position of Assistant Deputy Headteacher, after holding a similar position previously in the UK. Together, we form the Senior Leadership Team and I am convinced that we shall continue to strive for success and excellence at Saigon Star.

At Saigon Star, we welcome parents as partners, so that together, we can promote high standards of learning, behaviour and attitudes, which enable every child to be the best that they can be. We also welcome your involvement in all aspects of school life and would like to invite you to become an active par-



## Pre-School Ms. Sherley



Mit, Anh and Nhien producing craft.



A first piece of work from Duy and Nhien.

Ms Sherley is excited about this year's preschool class. She is delighted to see some old, familiar faces, as well as new children in her class. Their IPC theme for Term 1 is 'Family and Friends'. It is believed that children are curious about people and show interest in stories about themselves and their family. This has been hugely evident, with the class really eager to share stories about the important people in their lives. The children are particularly engaged when they 'Talk about the Bag'. This is undertaken during circle time. Pupils take the bag home and fill it full of different objects that are used around the home, like Mum's hairbrush, for instance. The child who has been responsible for the items that week identifies who owns them and describes the colours and shapes. Some have even shared family pictures from home to show to class.



Sushi and Sukem showing off their finished work.

## Nursery Ms. Ellen

The Nursery class have settled into their new routine and enjoyed getting to know more about their classmates. They have been learning about the different countries we all come from and their flags. With the IPC topic, 'My family and Me', the children have brought in family photos to share and help decorate our family tree display. During free choice time, the girls have particularly enjoyed dressing up in the various outfits in our 'dress up corner' and the boys have been using the new building blocks to build towers. The class has been reading Dr. Seuss' 'One fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish', and during expressive arts, making their own fish bowls which are on display in the classroom. They have also enjoyed their new PE lessons with Mr. Mike. Their favourite activities are doing the crazy walk and hopping like kangaroos.

Nursery enjoying the dress up corner.



It was clear to Ms Adrienne that many mer. Despite all the excitement brought friends to play with, children were sur- and they adapted to the new routine with different materials, while returning children couldn't get their hands off their usual favorites.

## Montessori Ms. Adrienne

children had grown up so much during the sum- by the new colours of the classroom and new prisingly calm during the Montessori sessions ease. New children were all busy exploring dif- ferent materials, while returning children couldn't get their hands off their usual favorites.

For the first week of school, Montessori were enjoying stories, songs and a few new activities and getting to know each other. For the next few weeks, they started their new IPC topic, 'Family and Friends'. Children practised doing key skills producing art and crafts related to their families. And thanks to Phi Lac's Mommy - Ms. Minh's help, we embarked on their 'Family and Friends' topic with an Australian kangaroo family story. Children were all thrilled.



All aboard the letter-finding train!



Reception enjoyed getting on with their own selected activities.



Coca from Nursery thoroughly enjoyed the big box of blocks.



## Reception Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Grace



Binni and Mian celebrate getting Star of the Week

Ms Rebecca and Ms Grace are thrilled to have such a fabulous group of children to work with this year. They have commented several times how all the children have made such a settled start to the school year. Due to the larger group of students this year, the children have enjoyed working and spending time in both Reception classrooms in smaller groups, on a variety of exciting and creative learning activities.



Reception showing what fantastic listeners they are.

During their first week, the children focused on becoming familiar with new routines and rules. Their Reception 'Super Star' rules helped them to make good choices at all times and ensure a happy, safe environment. Two children were chosen as 'Stars of the Week' to celebrate their consistent efforts to show 'Good Listening' to a high standard in class. This is an important skill for the children to practise early on,

linking closely to our IPC Personal Goals of – 'Respect' and 'Communication'. The children really enjoyed singing a song to help prepare them for 'listening' each time they sat on the carpet.

## Year 1 Mr. Brendan

Over the coming year, every child at Saigon Star will become increasingly familiar with the 8 'personal goals' listed below. These are the 'characteristics' that we, as a school, believe children need to equip them for our ever changing world. They are:

- **Resilience** - the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness
- **Cooperation** - the action or process of working together to the same end
- **Respect** - due regard for the feelings, wishes, or rights of others
- **Morality** - principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong, or good and bad behaviour
- **Communication** - the imparting or exchanging information by speaking, writing or using some other medium
- **Thoughtfulness** - absorbed in or involving thought - showing careful consideration or attention
- **Enquiry** - an act of asking for information
- **Adaptability** - being able to adjust to new conditions

Mr Brendan is a big believer that the personal skills children develop during their time in school, are equally important to children's academic achievements. For that reason, Year 1 have spent much of the first two weeks learning about these 8 goals and what we can do to achieve them.

Not only that, Year 1 have been learning about how these 8 goals actually help us to improve our own learning, for example, how being a resilient person, with a positive 'can do' attitude, will help us to improve our skills faster than someone who chooses to give up easily.

As an introduction to this learning, the children first revisited the IPC personal goals that the children were introduced to last year. They knew several of them really well already and can be seen in the photographs, choosing the one they think they already do well.

Can you guess which one they chose, based on the picture?





Miss Jo felt that her Year 2 class made a great start to the new school year!

After the first few days welcoming the four new students in their class and settling back into routine, Year 2 began a short IPC topic entitled 'Brainwave'. In this unit, the children will be finding out how the brain works and how, as individuals, we all learn in different ways and develop different skills and talents.

They will also be learning about how we can 'wake up' our brains and the different techniques we use to learn different skills. Our entry point involved the class being set a variety of challenges to demonstrate how different we all are as learners. Miss Jo showed the children a diagram of a brain which illustrated the different areas of the brain that are responsible for the different areas of learning such as memory, facts, senses and skills.

Then the children had to move from table to table to complete different challenges involving words, pictures, memory, imagination... and a very frustrating resilience challenge! The children worked well in their groups and enjoyed the afternoon using their different skills. Miss Jo now hopes that they demonstrate these Personal Learning Goals over the rest of the year.

## Year 2 Miss. Joanne



Jaron, Sunshine and Tao Anh test themselves with one of the challenges.



Sao and Bella attempt the picture challenge!

## Year 3 Miss. Stacey

Miss Conner's Year 3 Class has begun this year with the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) unit entitled 'Brainwave'. Students have been learning about...well, how we learn! Her class has been doing research on the many functions of the brain and how the biology behind it helps us transmit information along pathways to help us learn new things.

Students have had a lot of fun exploring our different senses and how they interpret unique information about things in our environment. Students had to identify flavours and scents of foods and spices, but they could not use their eyes. They could only use their senses of smell and taste!

Her class also enjoyed exploring their sense of touch by building model brains out of clay and their sense of hearing during a sound identification game. Lastly, they joined together with Mr. Huw's Year 4 class to utilise their sense of sight in a campus-wide scavenger hunt searching for clues about Knowledge, Skills, and Understanding.



Dat and Karen using the sense of touch.

After a well-deserved break, the children in Mr. Huw's class have returned refreshed and full of enthusiasm. They spent their first week carrying out 'getting to know you' activities and also getting to know their new teacher. The class also began to get to grips with their new topic, *Brainwave* – which looks at how we learn and the different types of learning that we encounter in our lives. They had great fun pretending to be a brain, with string to represent the neural pathways that are formed as we learn... although they ended up in a bit of a tangle! They also revised instruction texts, focusing on helping others to learn, and explored how vital our senses are in our learning by carrying out blindfolded taste and scent tests.

In literacy, they have begun their 'recounts' topic – with a particular emphasis on sentence starters and making their writing more interesting for the reader. In Maths, they have been revising number bonds to one hundred, as well as strengthening their knowledge of the four main operations.

They are a very fun, personable class and Mr. Huw is really looking forward to being their teacher this year!

## Year 4 Mr. Huw





**Year 5 & 6**  
**Mr. James**

Similarly, to the rest of Key Stage 2, Year 5 and 6 have also been studying the subject of 'Brainwaves' for their first IPC topic. Initially, they began by looking at the different teaching and learning methods that exist, and considered which ones work well for us. For the entry point, the children experienced how difficult it can be for a teacher, by attempting to teach another child a skill that they possess. This led to varying degrees of success! Some children grasped the objective immediately and used a variety of teaching styles to demonstrate their task, whilst others had to reconsider what may work best for their learner.



**Maya attempting to teach Chi Bao how to cartwheel!**

Since this Entry Point, the children have moved on to the biology of the brain. Each pair in the class was tasked with using a variety of sources and finding out about a specific aspect, be it the neurons, the frontal lobes or the cerebellum. Then, they put their tablets to good use by producing a documentary on the video editing software app, iMovie.



**Years 4, 5 and 6 running relays with Mr. Michael**

Our new PE and Swimming teacher, Mr. Michael, enjoyed meeting and interacting with his students to begin the new

**PE & Swimming**  
**Mr. Michael**

school year here at Saigon Star. He is pleased to report that the Physical Education classes got off to a great start and was very impressed with the athletic standards he witnessed! During the first week of school, his lessons focused on locomotion skills, fitness, and teamwork, in a fun and challenging environment. The students participated in a variety of games and relays with an introduction to motor skills to help them gain a foundation for further athletic development. Following the locomotion unit, students have continued to develop their athletic skills through an exploration of the sport of basketball. During

this three week unit, students will practice dribbling, passing, catching, and shooting the ball, as they progress towards more advanced levels of game play. Throughout the year, Mr. Michael will coach a variety of land-based and water-based sports that focus on developing strength, flexibility, and coordination. Students and their families are encouraged to exercise daily with at least 30 minutes of cardiovascular exercise, stretching, and strength building, especially on days when students do not have PE classes.

**Mission Statement**

Here at Saigon Star we are consistently reflecting on our provision and striving to improve. With this in mind, teaching staff and other key stakeholders met and finalised a new and improved Mission Statement that will underpin our key goals and philosophies going forward:

Our Mission is to provide a 21<sup>st</sup> century education that fully prepares children for life within our ever-changing, global society.

We strive to ensure that our learners become well-balanced individuals, where every child achieves their full academic potential, together with positive attitudes to learning, highly-developed interpersonal skills, a sense of fairness and a determined mindset to become the best they can be.

We inspire our children to lead healthy lifestyles, to have a curious mind, and to be mindful and respectful of the world we live in and every person in it.

We achieve this by offering diverse and engaging learning experiences within a safe, happy and stimulating environment, with a high-level of parental involvement and a strong sense of school community at its heart.