

# HARBOURFRONT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

November Newsletter



HARBOURFRONT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL – MONTHLY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2025 EDITION

## Highlights at Harbourfront International School



### Sports Day 2025

**Dear Harbourfront Families and Team,**

A heartfelt thank you to all our Harbourfront families for joining us and supporting your children at Sports Day! Your cheers, encouragement, and presence made the event truly special.

The children were so excited to show their teamwork, perseverance, and growing confidence, and your support played a big role in making the day joyful and memorable. Watching families celebrate each child's effort and success reminds us how strong and connected our school community is.

Thank you for helping create a positive, energetic, and unforgettable Sports Day for our learners! 🌟💙



### 📖 Exciting News from the Library! 📖

Harbourfront International School is thrilled to launch our first-ever SmartReads Book Club, an exciting opportunity for students, families, and staff to explore a wide range of English books matched to individual reading levels. From December 1-13, 2025, you can browse and order books through the SmartReads platform using our **School Code HF842**.

Every purchase helps grow our library! Each order earns points that HFIS can use to buy new books, making this a meaningful fundraising opportunity to support our school's literacy resources.

Join us in building a richer reading community—your participation brings us closer to expanding our HFIS library for all learners!



Mana, Nozomu, Lynn, Miyavi, Nina, Reo & Yuka

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### ☀️ Classroom Spotlight: K3/G1 Sky Class ☀️ Inquiry Wall

In our K3/G1 class, students have been exploring “The World Works” through their Unit of Inquiry. Starting with a provocation table, the children engaged their curiosity and began asking questions about the world around them. They explored the different states of matter—solid, liquid, and gas—through hands-on activities that encouraged observation, experimentation, and discussion. Our inquiry wall provides rich, evidence-based insights into their learning journey, showcasing how students engage with activities, sort their findings, and go further in their experiments. The activities also highlight student agency, as children have the choice to select various materials for their crafts and experiments, making decisions that guide their own learning. This learning will culminate in the Materials Expo, a mini-science fair where students will share their discoveries and celebrate the knowledge they have built throughout this unit.



### December Events

This month also brings some fun and meaningful school-wide events:

- **5**- Dr. Praying Mantis (Guest Speaker)
- **10** - School Assembly (Birthday Celebrations)
- **17** - Safety Drill with the Police Officers
- **15-19** - Cooking Class Week
- **23** - Christmas Party
- **24-26** - Winter School
- **27/Jan 5**- Winter Break
- **Jan 6**-Class resumes

Learner Profile: Knowledgeable & Balanced

ATL Skills focus: Thinking Skills



# HARBOURFRONT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



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### STARFISH CLASS

## November's Theme - Routines and Transitions

### LEARNING

#### Theme Activity:

This month, we focused on our daily routines and transitions. We visited the school library for the first time and practiced how to handle and read books nicely.

#### English:

We will continue to learn useful English vocabulary and phrases through play and song.

#### Japanese:

11月はお天気も晴れの日が多く、心地よい気候の中お外遊びをたくさん楽しむことができました。日本語のレッスンでも季節に関する言葉をたくさん学びました。なしをりんごと言ったり、柿をみかんと言っていたりしましたが、一度伝えると次は遊びでわざと違う言葉を言っていたり言葉あそびを楽しみました。季節も移り変わろうとしています。冬は感染症など流行りやすくなります。手洗いの仕方などもしっかり伝えていきたいと思います。

#### Centers:

We used different types of play and toys to practice fine motor skills and build hand strength.

#### Social and Emotional Learning (SEL):

We practiced making different facial expressions and tried to guess our teachers' and friends' feelings by looking at their faces.

### WHAT'S ON

On November 5th, we had our school-wide Sports Day. Starfish did a great job showing their parents and families all of the activities they practiced throughout the month. Thank you so much for sharing the day with us!

This month, we have been discussing our routines at school. The children were asked to think ahead and predict what comes next in the routine, as well as think back on what we have already done. The Starfish class knows the school day well and is very comfortable with the daily activities and transitioning between them.

We added a new routine to our schedule: Library Time. The children were so excited to visit the library just like their Kindergarten friends. Of course, we heard stories from the teacher, but we also learned about how to treat books nicely. We received many new books for our classroom and can't wait to hear them read during lesson time.



### COMING UP

### December - Sharing

This month, we will be practicing sharing with our friends. For the theme activity, we will play games that involve sharing, passing toys, and working together. We will practice how to ask our friends to share. It is also important for us to practice using kind words like "thank you" and "you're welcome."

The Christmas season is a time of giving and spending time with our loved ones. This ties in nicely with our theme of sharing. We will prepare for our Christmas Party by making gifts for our friends and decorating our school Christmas tree.

To wrap up the month, we will have our Christmas Party and, for those who decide to join, Winter School.



### REMINDERS

Dec 10<sup>th</sup> - Birthday Party  
Dec 17<sup>th</sup> - Emergency Drill  
Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> - Christmas Party  
Dec 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> - Winter School  
Dec 24<sup>th</sup> - Jan 5<sup>th</sup> - Winter Holiday



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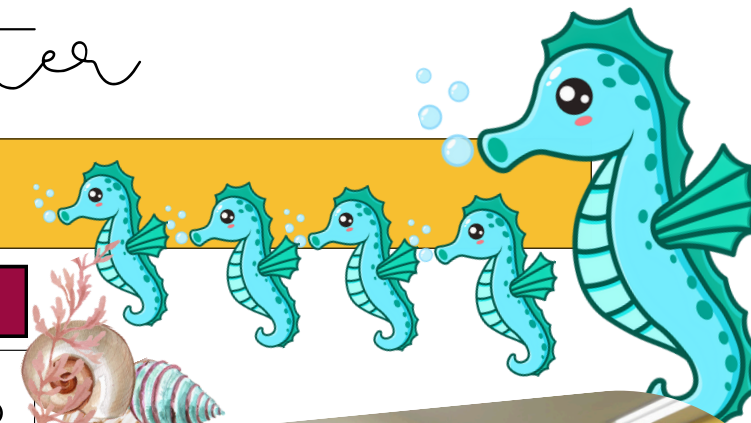


NOVEMBER'S  
THEME:

WHO WE ARE:  
HELPING FRIENDS/  
CELEBRATING ME

### SEAHORSE CLASS

### LEARNING



For the month of November, the Seahorses explored autumn, seasonal foods, and Thanksgiving. The children had a wonderful time during our cooking activity. We talked about the ingredients and steps, and we made delicious turkey sandwiches together. We also learned a lot about Thanksgiving and the tasty foods that families prepare and enjoy on this special day.

We began practicing for our Performance Day show as well, and the children have been having so much fun learning their lines, movements, and songs.

It was another wonderful month filled with energy, excitement, and joy.

#### **Fine Motor Skill Stations & Physical Education:**

The children continued practicing grasping small objects, threading, and cutting both straight and curved lines. We focused on using crayons and colored pencils with the correct grip, using their helper hand, and maintaining good posture while working. They have also begun tracing dotted lines, curves, and uppercase alphabet letters.

For our physical activities, we have been enjoying running and chasing friends at the park, as well as throwing small pebbles and leaves with accuracy. We have also been working hard on perfecting our Performance Day dance, which includes movements that help the children develop strong body coordination.

#### **Social and Emotional Learning (SEL):**

We have been encouraging the children to continue sharing kindly and speaking politely with their friends. It's wonderful to see how much progress they've made – often using gentle reminders such as "Be nice, please" or "Sit down and drink, please." These small but thoughtful actions show how caring and considerate they've become. The children are getting along beautifully, helping one another, and creating a warm and positive classroom atmosphere every day.

#### **Japanese:**

今月は「やきいもグーチーパー」や「山の音楽家」を歌いました。最初の頃は、「じゃんけん」の遊び方がわからない様子の子もたちでしたが、少しずつ理解できるようになり歌に合わせてじゃんけんを楽しむ姿が見られました。パーはグーより強い! でもチョキには負けるよ! と教えてくれていました。また、踊りの振り付けをすぐに覚えられるようになり、「バナナくん体操」も上手に踊っていました。

This month, we sang "Yakiimo Guchipa" and "Yamano Ongakuka." At first, the children didn't seem to know how to play "rock-paper-scissors," but they were able to understand it little by little. By the end, they enjoyed playing rock-paper-scissors while singing the song. They told me that paper is stronger than rock but weaker than scissors. In addition, the children quickly learned the choreography for the dance and performed "Banana-kun Taiso" very well.



### NOVEMBER'S THEME: SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS / AUTUMN

HOW WE EXPRESS OURSELVES

### WHAT'S ON

#### **Vocabulary:**

Seasonal Words

winter, Christmas, Santa, reindeer, presents, sleigh, elf, Christmas tree, ornaments, decorations, wreath, holly, mistletoe, North Pole, chimney, stocking, fireplace, turkey, letter, snow, snowman, candy cane, bells, gingerbread, ribbon, wrapping paper

### REMINDERS

#### **Note to Families: \* (PLEASE READ) \***

- Please regularly check both **Lookmee** and **Class Dojo** for important updates to help ensure a smooth school experience for your child.
- We kindly ask that you bring your child to school **before 9:15**, as that is when we begin our Circle Time lesson. Arriving on time helps your child start the day smoothly and join in all the fun and learning with friends.

In December, we will continue exploring our Unit of Inquiry theme, "How the World Works." The children will investigate how things move, change, and work around us through hands-on activities and simple experiments. We will also continue our study of places and occupations, going a little deeper into understanding what people do in our community and how their jobs help the world function every day.

This month, the children will enjoy making Christmas crafts such as trees, presents, and ornaments. Through these creative projects, they will practice fine motor skills, color recognition, and following multi-step instructions. We will also learn seasonal vocabulary and discuss winter traditions celebrated around the world.

As Performance Day approaches, the children will begin practicing more regularly. We will focus on building confidence, speaking clearly on stage, and remembering movements and positions. The class is very excited, and we look forward to sharing their hard work with you soon.

December promises to be a joyful month filled with curiosity, creativity, and the excitement of the upcoming holiday season.

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### K1 HARBOUR CLASS



#### WE ARE LEARNING...

#### SHARING THE PLANET: CONNECTING

This month, Harbour Class explored how people, plants, and animals need each other. We learned that when we take care of living things, they grow and stay healthy. The children began to understand that we are all connected – nature, animals, and people.

We continued caring for our cat grass, acorn plants, and broccoli sprouts, and the children were excited to see how much they have grown. We also set up our Medaka fish tank. The Harbours helped add water, gravel, and plants, and learned that fish need clean water and gentle care.

Children said things like:

"Fish need clean water!" 🐟

"Plants need sun and water!" ☀️💧

"The fish is happy!" 😊

We also finished watching The Lorax, a movie about helping nature and taking care of the Earth. The children talked about how we can protect trees, plants, and animals – even small actions make a big difference. 🌍

#### Japanese

11月は、『山の音楽家』や『もみじ』などの季節のお歌を歌いました。今月は、たくさんお絵描きをしました。4月当初は頭から手が生えていたり、足が伸びていたりしていたのですが、頭、首、胴体、足、腕など体のパーツを描けるようになってきました! クレヨンや色鉛筆を使って洋服や背景を上手に描いている姿があります。

また言葉あそびでは、"猛獣狩りに行こうよ"で先生が言った言葉の数を数えてルールを理解しながらゲームを楽しんでいる様子があります。

読み書きでは、濁音や半濁音にもチャレンジしています。少しずつ読めるひらがなが増えてきています。

#### REMINDERS:

- Please check ClassDojo for daily photos and updates 📷
- As the weather gets colder, please send jackets, hats, and spare warm clothes labeled with your child's name 🧥❄️
- Don't forget: Dec 11th - Sakuya Konohana Kan Excursion (botanical garden) 🌸 More details will be sent soon.



#### DECEMBER SNEAK PEAK

#### CHRISTMAS AND CHANGE

- 🌱 Watching our plants grow and change
- ❄️ Learning about winter season and weather
- 🧥 Talking about warm clothes and how seasons change
- 🖐️ Making handprint art to see how we are growing
- 🎄 Winter crafts and holiday fun

*'tis the season  
TO BE JOLLY*

#### BIRTHDAY WISHES



# HARBOURFRONT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



## K2 OCEAN CLASS

### LEARNING ...

UOI THEME : HOW THE WORLD WORKS  
PATTERNS AND CYCLES THAT AFFECT LIVING THINGS

As our learners continue to grow as inquirers, we have seen great improvement in their ability to ask meaningful questions and reflect on their learning and actions. To support self-regulation and emotional wellbeing, we have introduced short wellness activities such as yoga, breathing exercises, and simple meditation. Research shows that calm, quiet moments are just as valuable as exciting learning experiences, and these practices help students stay balanced throughout the school day. This month, we also strengthened our cultural awareness by learning about Thanksgiving. 🦃

#### Inquiry

We deepened our understanding of how living things grow and change by connecting this to our own development. Learners explored how food supports growth (food groups), where food comes from, and how living things are connected through food chains and habitats. We also discussed growth as both a physical and personal journey.

#### Mathematics

Students strengthened foundational number skills while reviewing measurement, size comparison, and 3D shapes. They also practiced representing numbers in different ways for future applications.

#### Literacy

To nurture a love of reading, we explored more books and stories in class. As their phonics knowledge grows, more learners are beginning to read with increasing confidence and independence. Support from families at home remains an important part of this journey. In writing, learners have started forming simple sentences in addition to their picture diaries. Our Show and Tell sessions have been a highlight, and we are grateful for all the photos families have shared. The children truly enjoy presenting them to their learning community. ❤️

### JAPANESE ...

11月は「こぎつね」の歌を歌いました。歌詞から情景を思い浮かべて、秋からどんどん冬に変わっていく様子を楽しみましたよ。また、歌に合わせて木琴やマラカスを使って簡単な合奏もしてみました。「ドレミファソ・ソ♪」とメロディを叩くとみんな嬉しそう！お友だちが合わせて歌ってくれるのも、楽しい雰囲気でした♪カタカナの練習も引き続きがんばっていますよ。時々ひらがなとマッチングしながら、覚えているかな？と復習しています。



### COMING UP

UOI THEME : HOW THE WORLD WORKS  
HOW WE CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND PEOPLE

In December, we will conclude our current Unit of Inquiry by exploring how our actions affect the environment and how these impacts influence our own wellbeing and livelihood. Building on our work with food chains and habitats, learners will inquire into the scarcity of natural resources and consider why responsible consumption is essential. We will also reflect on how past human actions have shaped the world we live in today and discuss ways we can be more caring, responsible, and principled in our interactions with the environment.

As we close this Unit of Inquiry on How the World Works, we will continue supporting students' personal growth. Learners will further develop their social and interpersonal skills, work towards becoming more independent and responsible decision-makers, and strengthen their relationships, resilience, and self-regulation.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas in advance — may your holiday season be joyful and bright! ❄️

### IMPORTANT DATES

- Dec 11<sup>rd</sup> - Birthday Party
- Dec 4<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Praying mantis
- Dec 17<sup>th</sup> - Emergency Drill
- Dec 17<sup>th</sup> - Cooking Class
- Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> - Christmas Party
- Dec 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> - Winter School
- Dec 24<sup>th</sup>- 1/5<sup>th</sup>- Winter Break



### REMINDERS

- Please **check ClassDojo every day** for updates, messages, and reminders from the Ocean Class teachers, as well as important school notices.
- Please **continue practicing reading** at home to support your child's learning.
- Show & Tell** will continue running through December please send your photos to Ms. Adi via ClassDojo.

#### WHAT'S ON

##### Wrapping Up Our UOI: How the World Works - Materials

This month, we concluded our Materials inquiry with hands-on experiments exploring how things change when they are bent, heated, mixed, or combined. Students compared reversible and irreversible changes, recorded "before/after" observations, and used what they learned to design simple creations with recycled and classroom materials. Curiosity (and a few fizzy reactions!) made for a lively finish.

At the end of the inquiry, the Sky and G1 class held their very own mini Materials Expo at the park. There, they showed the Harbour and Ocean classes all that they had learned throughout the month and concluded with a fun boat-making competition, racing their creations down the stream at the park.

##### Our New UOI: Where We Are in Place and Time - Places

We're now tuning in to Places: how spaces are organized, how people use them, and our responsibility when sharing them. Children will explore:

- Characteristics and arrangement of physical spaces (classroom, park, neighborhood)
- How people use spaces for different purposes
- Caring for shared spaces (rules, safety, respect)

Look forward to neighborhood walks, simple map-making, and building mini-places in class as we connect our spaces to the wider community.

##### English

Grammar: Verbs and Letter G sounds /g/ + /j/.

Writing: Journal writing using verbs from the grammar lessons to describe past events.

##### Mathematics

This month we finished the Math in Focus book 1 and moved on to book 2: chapter 1, numbers to 20.

#### COMING UP: WHERE WE ARE IN PLACE AND TIME

Next month, we begin a new inquiry all about Places. Children will explore what makes places special (shape, size, landmarks), how spaces are arranged (maps, routes, zones), and how people use them for living, learning, and play. We'll also practice sharing spaces respectfully and making safe, responsible choices. Through neighborhood walks, simple mapping, and role-play, students will observe, compare, and design spaces—discovering how the way we organize places helps communities function.



#### REMINDERS

iPads are charged and brought to school.



# HARBOURFRONT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



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K3 SKY CLASS AND GRADE 1

We are scientists!

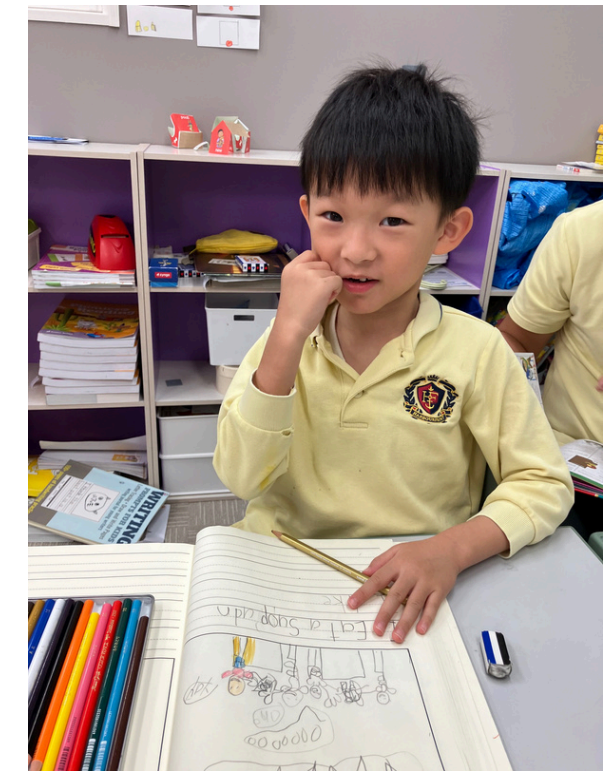
K3/G1 UNIT OF INQUIRY

HOW WE ORGANIZE OURSELVES

Exploring materials!

Discovering solid, liquid and gas!

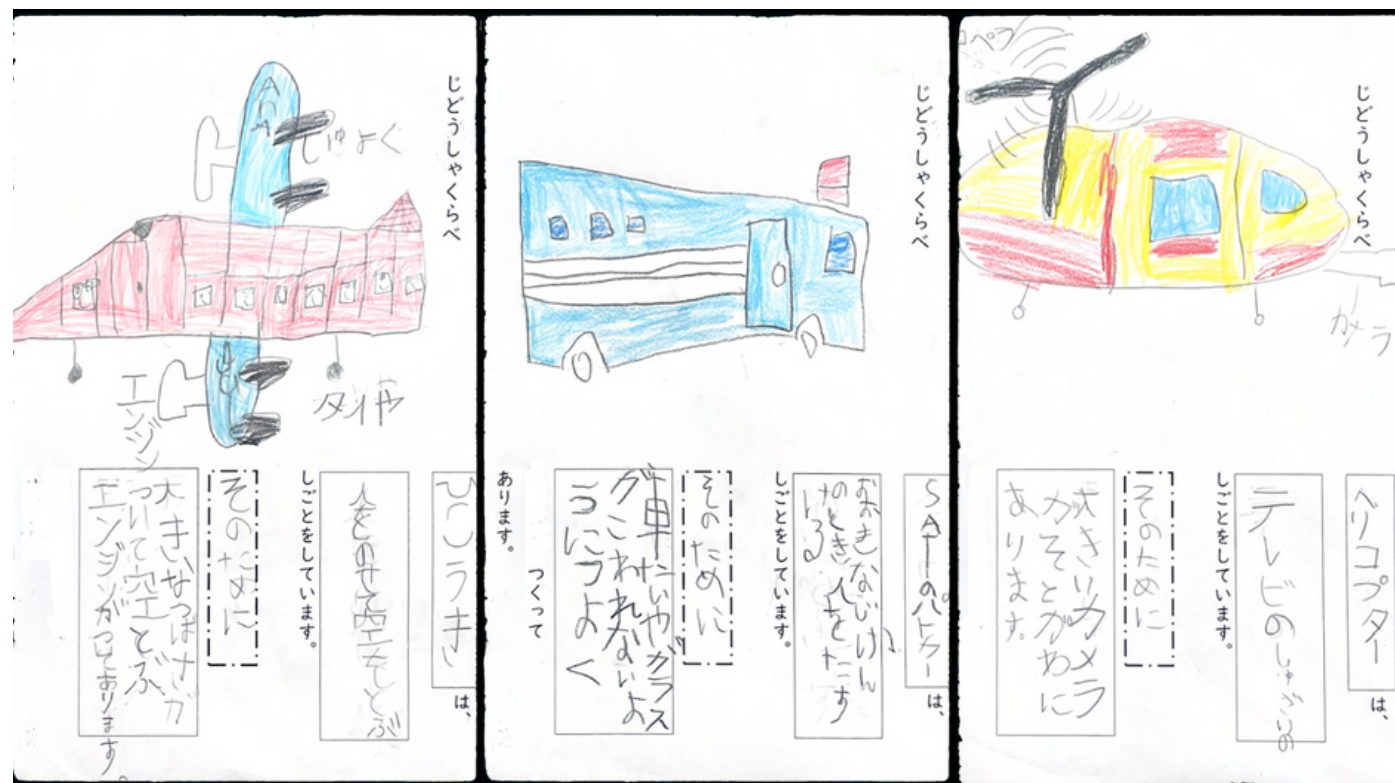
Experimenting!  
Measuring,  
Learning....  
Having fun!





#### GRADE 1

### じどう車ずかん



### Japanese

11月は、G1クラスの「じどう車図鑑」を作りました♪「どんなしごとをしているか?」「そのためにどんなつくりになっているか?」それぞれ図鑑やインターネットで調べながら、書きました。できあがったものを本にすると、友達が書いたページも真剣に読んでいましたよ。物語では、「たぬきの糸車」を読みました。昔話だったので、知らない単語やみたことのない道具なども登場しましたが、写真や動画をみながらイメージして読みました。たぬきになって動いてみたり、おかみさんの気持ちを想像したりしながら、楽しく読み進めていきましたよ。先月に引き続き、漢字の練習もがんばっています。漢字の形はよく覚えています。文章を書こうとすると送り仮名を忘れてしまうことも・・・単語や文章など、いろいろな使い方を知りながら、新しい漢字も覚えていってほしいと思います!

#### ★日づけとよう日★

なかなか難しい日付の読み方。これまでも音では聞いたことがあるものの、漢字で書かれていると「なんだったけ・・・!？」と戸惑う様子も見られました。普段の生活の中でも、子どもたちに聞いてみてください。



障子の穴からのぞいたぬきはどんな気持ちで見てたのかな?



#### Make an Addition Story

2 boys are wearing yellow long sleeves.

1 boy is wearing blue long sleeves.

There are 3 boys wearing long sleeves in all.

$$2+1=3$$

### Mathematics

Our Grade 1 learners have moved on to Chapter 2: Addition and Subtraction within 10. They are using thinking skills to solve real-world problems, like sharing snacks, combining groups, and finding differences. Through hands-on activities and visual models, the children are developing strong problem-solving skills and confidence in using addition and subtraction.

Next, they will explore fact families, learning how addition and subtraction are connected to solve problems more efficiently.