

# Progress Group

## Report for 2023-24 (First Term)

### Introduction

### Science

The children have completed the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of their course, following the 8th book of Living Science based on the CBSE syllabus. Each chapter has been thoroughly explained to them, and when necessary, experiments are conducted to clarify the concepts of that particular chapter. After the entire chapter is explained, they are given questions to solve at the end of each chapter. Once the question answers are corrected, a small test is given on that chapter. The topics covered include Force and Pressure, Friction, Sound, Natural Phenomena, Chemical Effects and Electric Current, Reflection of Light, Refraction, and Dispersion of Light.



**Force and Pressure:** In this chapter, the children have learned about different types of forces and their effects. The concept of pressure was introduced, and they can now define pressure and identify pressure differences with height and depth.

**Friction:** The children can explain the advantages and disadvantages of friction. They have conducted experiments related to friction, such as demonstrating that rolling friction requires less force compared to sliding friction. They can also identify ways to minimize friction.

**Sound:** The children were already familiar with this chapter, so there were no difficulties in explaining it. They learned new words in this chapter, like amplitude and time period of a wave. They were introduced to tuning forks with different frequencies and learned about the functioning of the human ear with the help of diagrams.

**Some Natural Phenomena:** The children have a clear understanding of different types of charges, including attraction and repulsion of charges. They also know safety measures during lightning and earthquakes and the causes of these natural phenomena.





**Chemical Effects of Electric Current:** The children can define electric current and



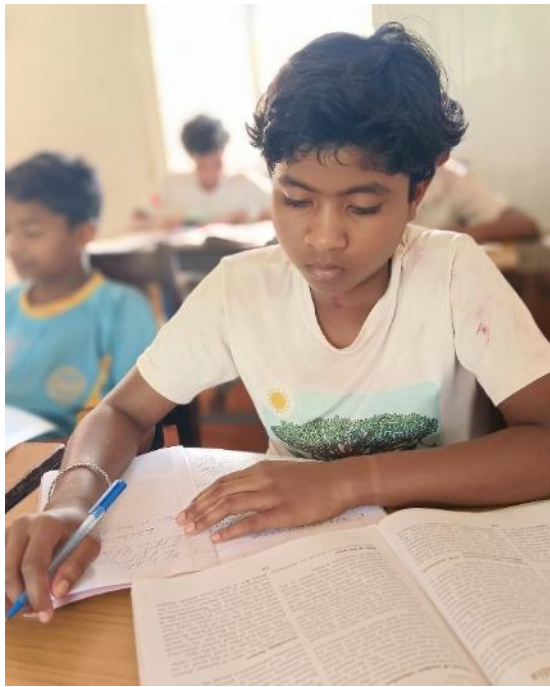
differentiate between conductors and insulators. They were asked to bring different objects from their surroundings and given a battery with wires and a bulb to check if the objects were conductors or insulators. They were able to separate conductors and insulators without difficulty. The children also conducted electroplating using Copper Sulphate, wires, a battery, and an iron spoon.

**Reflection of Light:** The children can define the laws of reflection and can prove them. They demonstrated that the angle of incidence is equal to the angle of reflection using a pin board, pins, a plane mirror, and a sheet of paper. Some children took a bit more time to perform the experiment as they had difficulty aligning the pins in a straight line while looking at the mirror. They also learned a new formula to determine the number of images formed between two plane mirrors when placed at different angles.



**Refraction and Dispersion of Light:** These concepts are entirely new to the students. They have engaged in various activities and experiments related to these concepts, such as refraction through a prism and a glass slab using a laser light. The children are learning to draw images formed by concave and convex lenses and their characteristics.

## Social Science



Progress Group has started doing the 8<sup>th</sup> class book of Ratna Sagar. History and Geography course is about to finish. We have covered 16 chapters in History and 9 chapters in geography. Within a month we will be starting civics. Some children have shown improvement in this academic and for others we are making more efforts. Many of them can understand the context better but when it comes to writing nobody likes it. They prefer oral test and question answers. As a break from the regular classes every Mondays they were shown some history based videos, we have completed Ramayana by Ramananda Sagar. The children still need to work on

writing skills. Sometime we read stories based on historical events.





## Mathematics

Maths is a natural way to organise and think. The laws of mathematics govern everything around us, and without a good understanding on them, one can encounter significant problems in life. The children of this group have a good understanding of Mathematics. They give value to it. They sit for maths class for two hours a day. Now the group has been divided into two sub-groups.



One group is following the pattern of free progress while the other is given classroom teaching. The second group is currently studying the 6<sup>th</sup> grade book. Each chapter is being thoroughly discussed with them. After the discussions, they do the exercises. They are given a time period to prepare for the test as well. Two days of practise session helps them to clear their doubts. The children who finish their work early help



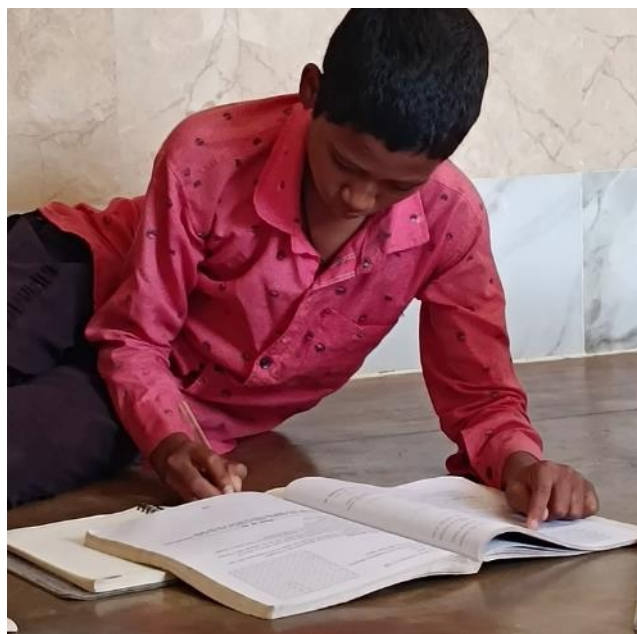
the others. Classroom tests on each chapter brings little more seriousness in them.



Each child has both shortcomings and strengths. Some children show passion for maths as they persevere till the end though their analytical and reasoning aptitude is at a difficult level. Some children have a lack of concentration and hesitate to clarify their doubts. Some children are fast learners. Most of the children prefer to clear their doubts from each other instead of learning from Didi. Once in a discussion they

said that they prefer blackboard teaching in a group rather than individual teaching on a notebook.

Five children i.e 3 girls and 2 boys follow the free progress pattern. Four of them are doing the 7<sup>th</sup> class book and one is doing the 8<sup>th</sup> class. All of them take interest in maths. They work hard and move ahead. Two of the girls Rohini and Parul who have their exams next year are really working very hard. Both of them have completed a book and have started the next class book around the same time towards the end of August. Rohini completed the 6<sup>th</sup> class book and started the 7<sup>th</sup> class book while Parul completed the 7<sup>th</sup> class book and started the 8<sup>th</sup> class book. All the children are doing different chapters at the same time according to their pace. They understand a chapter, solve the questions and then give a test once they complete a chapter. Each one of them try to give their best in the tests. Sometimes some of them score very good marks, sometimes average marks and sometimes have to give a retest.







Before they give a retest or a new test on the same chapter, they clear their doubts. When a chapter is explained to them, they understand it quite easily even if it is completely a new chapter. They are able to solve the questions with just numbers, but most of them get stuck when it comes to word problems as they face difficulty in understanding the questions. Therefore they need to improve their language for which they need to speak in English most of the time and read many books. They are always explained in English and they

are also encouraged to speak and answer in English. They need to learn to sit and do their own work with concentration as many a times they get distracted during the class and then start talking about other things. They are reminded every time to concentrate in their studies.

## Languages

### Hindi

In this group, the children are actively engaged in their studies. They are currently working on coursework from grades 6, 7, and 8. Three students, who will be taking their exams in October 2024, have also started studying the 10<sup>th</sup>-grade course material. In addition to regular coursework, they are working on grammar exercises.



As part of their learning process, the group discusses chapters from their textbooks and encourages students to solve related questions independently. Once they have completed a chapter, they take a test to assess their understanding. If they do not perform well on the test, they make an effort to take it again to improve their comprehension.

Group reading and dictation exercises are regularly conducted to enhance their reading and writing skills. Furthermore, the children visit the library once a week to explore self-reading, promoting independent learning and a love for books.



To improve their handwriting, the children also engage in copywriting activities.

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, the children celebrated Chacha Ji's birthday by performing skits written by Chacha Ji. This marked the first time the children actively participated in celebrating Chacha Ji's birthday, and they were enthusiastic about the opportunity.

Overall, these activities reflect the children's commitment to their studies and their enthusiasm for learning and participating in group activities.

## English

The Progress group of children is actively engaged in various English language activities. They are currently engrossed in reading "Swami and Friends" by R.K. Narayan, which is a notable literary work. In addition to





reading, the group focuses on grammar and comprehension exercises related to their textbooks.



As part of their routine, the Progress group dedicates time to learning English songs, reciting poems, and playing language-based games. They have learned songs like "Waving Flag" and "What a Wonderful World," as well as the Mira Bhajan "Pia Tose" for Janmashtami. Their participation in these activities not only enriches their vocabulary but also enhances their pronunciation and understanding of the language.

In preparation for special occasions, the children performed a drama titled "The Three Trees" for the school's birthday celebration. This dramatic endeavour likely provided them with valuable experience in expressing themselves in English and improving their public speaking skills.

To gauge their progress and reinforce their learning, the children take tests every Sunday, covering the topics studied throughout the week. It's worth noting that some children struggle with spelling, and this is an area that can benefit from additional attention and practice.



Furthermore, three children in the Progress group have embarked on the important journey of preparing for their board exams. This represents a significant milestone in their academic careers, and their commitment to this endeavour is commendable.

Overall, the Progress group appears to be actively and effectively engaged in various English language activities, and their focus on literature, grammar, comprehension, and performance arts is contributing to their language development.



## Odia

The Progress group has been actively engaging in Odia language classes, with sessions conducted twice a week, each lasting one hour. The children in this group exhibit a commendable level of focus and interest during these classes. They have made substantial progress in learning the "varnamala," which is the Odia alphabet. However, they face some challenges when it comes to "matras," which are vowel signs or diacritics. This area requires further improvement. The primary objective of the Odia class at the





moment is to enhance their speaking skills, as this aspect of the language presents a notable room for growth.

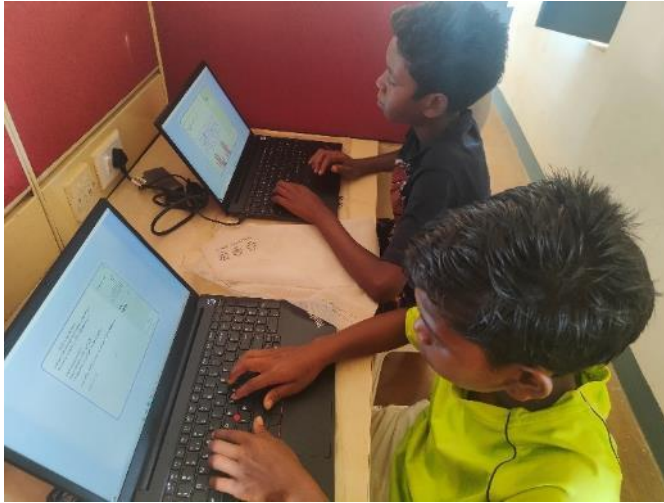


To foster their language development, various methods are employed. The children are exposed to storytelling sessions, where they attentively listen to stories with great enthusiasm. These stories are often accompanied by short cartoon films based on moral tales. This multimedia approach effectively captures their interest and encourages them to participate actively. The students are also introduced to small storybooks and taught songs in Odia.

Speaking in Odia during class is actively promoted, as this serves as a vital component of their language improvement efforts. Moreover, the children engage in copywriting exercises from books and dictation sessions. It is noteworthy that many of them require clarification in certain words, which is duly provided by correcting their errors and guiding them to rewrite the corrected words for additional practice. Gradually, these exercises are contributing to their language proficiency, enabling them to form words independently.

In addition to word formation, the children are making diligent efforts to construct simple sentences using a limited vocabulary. They either use words provided to them during the sessions or pick them from the books they read. These sentence-building activities are essential for strengthening their ability to communicate effectively in the Odia language. The Progress group demonstrates a strong commitment to enhancing their Odia language skills, steadily progressing in their learning journey.

## Computer



The Progress group has computer class on Mondays. Most of the children in this group are still working on establishing their finger placement on the keyboard. When they need to write reports or paragraphs from books, they attempt to type without looking at the keyboard. However, they occasionally revert to using just one hand when their hands become fatigued. Additionally, they are using

Typing Master to improve their finger dexterity.

## Co-curricular activities

### Dance

Fifteen children participate in the Progress group dance class, which is held once a week on Saturdays. Prior to their dance session, they engage in warm-up exercises. This group primarily enjoys folk dances and has less interest in classical and contemporary styles. Simple steps take time to learn, but they enthusiastically embrace dances they like.



Recently, they learned a Goan folk dance for the school's birthday celebration. It took them four to five days to prepare a dance for Ganesh Chaturthi. Some girls in this group independently practice and perform during programs. Progress is currently learning Bhangada



## Arts and Crafts

In the art class, the children have been acquiring stencil cutting skills. Initially, they encountered challenges in using the cutter correctly. To enhance their motor skills, they started creating their own designs. Their motivation to improve their stencil-making abilities was further boosted when they saw the work of one of the older students.



In addition to learning stencil cutting, the children have also been engaged in crafting props using cardboard, including items like fish, baskets, and boat paddles for use in dance performances. This not only nurtured their creativity but also honed their imagination as they created village scenes by cutting paper based on their own ideas. Furthermore, all the children crafted beautiful flower cards utilizing pistachio shells,

showcasing their artistic talents and resourcefulness.

## Music class

### Vocal

The Progress Group for Music, particularly in vocal, is making excellent strides in their learning journey. There are five enthusiastic children in this group who attend

vocal music class once a week on Mondays. Their dedication and interest in vocal music are evident through their active participation in the class.

The class typically commences with the chant "Yakundendu Tushara Hara Dhavala," setting a harmonious tone for their music session. They engage in various activities during the class, including practicing Sargams and learning songs. One noteworthy aspect is their eagerness to learn to play the harmonium. To ensure everyone gets a chance, they take turns to play the harmonium while practicing Sargams and Aalaps.



Most of the students have made commendable progress in playing simple Sargams with correct finger placement. Their confidence in performing these Sargams is growing, although they continue to practice to master different Sargam patterns. What's even more impressive is that each child possesses a sweet and melodious voice, which they skilfully employ to sing with rhythm.

Furthermore, the students have embarked on the journey of learning Raag Bhupali, and they have delved into it with dedication. They have also learnt a Ganesh bhajan, "Gaiye Ganapati," which is based on Raag Bhupali. This demonstrates their commitment to exploring the intricacies of Indian classical music.

The Progress Group for Vocal Music is making commendable progress,





and their love for music is evident in their consistent attendance, active participation, and the remarkable harmony they create in their music sessions.

## Games





## Celebrations

