

Educators as Catalysts

I am delighted to share my thoughts through this newsletter on the work that Birla Open Minds has done and intends to do as a team of educators. Since time immemorial, educators have been instrumental in shaping the personality of learners and thereby a community, a nation and (an) entire generation(s).

The age that we live in is the so-called Information Age and Data Age, wherein information is available in plenty but the focus, determination, and perseverance to imbibe the information, assimilate them and to them to good use, is the need of the hour.

This generation of learners at school now, popularly known as Generation Alpha, is not just technology friendly; they also have technology integrated in their daily routine: they have memories of COVID pandemic, are anxious about climate change and are pragmatic in their approaches. They thrive in a collaborative environment of learning where ideas are exchanged during group discussions, and they seek to understand the real-time relevance of what they learn.



Notably, teaching techniques that are implemented in classrooms must foster these traits of this generation of learners by including:

a. Interactive Learning Techniques like quizzes, polls, etc. that allow immediate feedback is appealing to the learner's desire for quick information consumption.

b. Collaborative Learning Environments like group projects and online forums allow the learners to share ideas and to what they learn from one another, thereby fostering an ecosystem of community engagement, through which learners feel connected to their peers and the subject matter too.

c. Gamification of the learning experience that includes points, rewards, leaderboards, and badges encourage the learners to stay motivated and competitive. They find them both engaging and enjoyable and it also makes complex topics more approachable.

d. Erstwhile Storytelling through short visual content brings together the best of traditional and modern ways of learning.

e. Personalized and Inclusive learning Techniques with AI driven techniques that provide learners with content according to their learning speed, style, and preference.

Although as educators, we believe in re-modelling the learning techniques according to the learner requirements and the ecosystem that they thrive in, it is also our moral responsibility to engage them with long term solutions to lead a fulfilled life by introducing them to

“This generation of learners at school now, popularly known as Generation Alpha, is not just technology friendly; they also have technology integrated in their daily routine”

- a. **Focus on Breath Work** and encourage them to focus inward for some part of the day.
- b. **Delayed Gratification** games wherein they learn to be patient under stressful situations, having the confidence to pass through them
- c. **Intermittent Digital Fasting** schedules whereby the learners know how a day passes by without swiping through social media or any technological device
- d. **Community Service** engagements that would inculcate in them the ability to empathise with others who are not in a similar environment to theirs.

As educators, we aspire to be the CATALYST that propels the learner to reach for higher realms in their professional and personal life and along with your support make Birla Open Minds alumni a force to reckon with in the New World!

Warm Regards,

SARADA MURALI
CFO



"The purpose of education is to replace an empty mind with an open one."

- Malcolm S. Forbes

Birla Open Minds Preschool aims to be a foundational institution for holistic child development, connecting classroom learning to the modern world. My experience drives the implementation of the Birla Curriculum to open young minds through new experiences. Our strength lies in excellent teachers, methods, infrastructure, and curriculum, fostering critical thinking, creativity, and essential 21st-century skills beyond rote learning through engaging activities. Strong parent partnerships ensure shared understanding of each child's progress. Our goal is to cultivate responsible, sensitive, and open-minded global citizens.

DR. SMITA SHARAN

Principal,
Birla Open Minds Preschool,
Vikas Vihar, Patna

Our goal is to provide a nurturing, safe, and engaging environment where your child can explore, learn, and grow. At our preschool, we are proud to nurture a generation of children who will grow up knowing that all people, regardless of gender, are capable of achieving greatness by arranging a Free Medical health checkup and a talk show with a gynecologist and a dietician.

We believe that every child is unique, and we're excited to partner with the parent in their early learning journey.

PAYEL ROY

Principal,
Birla Open Minds Preschool,
New Town, Kolkata

We are delighted to share that our students are thriving in school, actively working towards excellence in academics and beyond. At BOMIS Dewas, we are committed to the holistic development of every child, ensuring they grow into confident, skilled, and well-rounded individuals.

With each passing day, we strive to enhance our efforts, adding greater value to the learning journey of our students. Together, let us continue to nurture their potential and create a bright future

Warm regards,

DR. NEHA K SHARMA,

Principal,
Birla Open Minds International School,
Dewas



We are very glad to be a part of this wonderful organisation that is working tirelessly towards giving our young minds the perfect opportunity to learn and grow, both physically and mentally. The Soul Science Project '*Walk in the Nature*' had a profound impact on the students, and they came up with the idea of planting more trees in the school premises to make the environment more calm and serene. A tree plantation drive was organised in the school where each student planted a tree and took care of it for a few months, so that they could understand the patience required to nurture something and help it achieve its full potential.

Direct contact with natural environments positively and significantly improves children's cognitive, affective, and moral development. Nature, whether in a city park, walking in the woods, or strolling down a tree-lined street, has the capacity to help develop and restore children and that simply playing in nature can develop cognition, independence and team-building attributes. Children, today, encounter an assortment of indoor play venues to choose from, including television, indoor play gardens, videogames, and even indoor playground equipment. Opportunities for naturally safe outdoor play have been increasingly reduced by urbanization; often extending into surrounding suburban areas.

Many parents actively discourage their children from going outdoors in order to protect them from harm. This disconnection from nature is having important consequences for children's overall well-being and development directly impacting cognitive development, independence, and creativity. Research on children's preferences has reported that spaces in the outdoors that might be designed by children would not be asphalt or dirt playgrounds with scattered pieces of playground equipment but rather areas that are full of trees, flowers, plants, dirt, water, mud, dirt, sand, insects and animals. Most educators and parents agree that outdoor play is an important and natural part of a child's healthy development.

This natural development through free play fosters many skills that are necessary for adults. We are grateful to the R&D team of Birla Open Minds for coming up with such activities which helps us shape the overall personalities of our young minds.

RUCHI SINHA

Principal,
Birla Open Minds International School,
Purnea

Birla Open Minds effectively embodies NEP's vision by prioritising foundational literacy, numeracy, and socio-emotional development. Their support, resources, and well-researched curriculum significantly benefit educators and children, fostering a love for learning. Implementing this age-appropriate program, aligned with NEP's ECCE focus on creativity and experiential learning, has been enriching and impactful. We appreciate their commitment to excellence and look forward to continued collaboration in nurturing future leaders.

MANSI SHARMA

Branch Head
Birla Open Minds Preschool,
Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad



Avinya



Launch of We Care



Pitstop



Birla Open Minds Preschool has immensely helped in Aarifah's overall development. It not only provides academic education but also caters to the social and emotional development of a child.

By providing vast exposure in various aspects, it has helped in boosting her confidence level.

Thankyou BOMPS for grooming my daughter to face the world in a better way.

Thank you Birla Open Minds Preschool, Alipore

JASMINE

MOTHER OF AARIFAH



Adyaan Hashmi's journey at BOMPS has been nothing short extraordinary. Over the past year we have seen him transform from a curious toddler into a confident, cheerful little learner. BOMPS has nurtured his creativity, social skills and love of learning in ways we could've imagined. From art and play to friendships and laughter, every moment has been special.

As this chapter closes we are deeply grateful for the memories and the beautiful foundation BOMPS has provided for Adyaan's bright future.

Thank you Birla Open Minds Preschool, Alipore

NISHAT ANJUM

MOTHER OF ADYAAN HASHMI

My (Kiran Jaiswal) experience at Birla Open Minds Preschool, Alipore has been exceptional. The teachers have truly invested in my child Samaira Singh educated and her growth as learners.

I am quite amazed to see the teachers, passion and the way they put in their effort to mould my child.

It gives me great satisfaction and confidence to see that my child is being guided by such mentors.

Thanks to the school, principal teachers and staff.

Thank you Birla Open Minds Preschool, Alipore

MR AND MRS. SINGH

PARENT OF SAMAIRA SINGH



Birla Open Minds School has been an excellent abode for my daughter, Haniya Aman. I would like to extend my thanks to the principal of the organization - Mrs. Vani Kapoor who, since day one has made me feel that my daughter will blossom in safe and nurturing hands. The teachers at the school have been like best friends to my daughter and have done their utmost best in enhancing Haniya's social and interpersonal skills. BOMPS has been one of the best choices I have made for my daughter's growth and wellbeing, and has provided her with a strong foundation.

Thank you Birla Open Minds Preschool, Alipore

SABIHA LODHI

PARENT OF HANIYA AMAN



We extend our deepest gratitude for the exceptional care and wonderful learning experience BOMPS has provided to our child, Aaryansh. Joining the school at just 1.6 years old, we were apprehensive as parents, but your nurturing environment and innovative teaching methods made this journey truly enriching. The thoughtful blend of care, creativity, and structured learning laid the perfect foundation for his academic journey. Choosing Birla Open Minds Preschool has been one of the best decisions we have made as parents. We will always cherish the positive impact you have had on Aaryansh's life and remain forever grateful for your unwavering support and dedication.

Thank you Birla Open Minds Preschool, Alipore

DEVANSH KHEMKA & PAVANI PATHANGE KHEMKA

PARENTS OF AARYANSH

Hello, we, the parents of Zidan Rahman class nursery of Birla Open minds Preschool, Alipore are grateful for being a part of the school. It's a second home to my child.

We thank the teachers and all the staff for the commendable efforts in nurturing a child with utmost love and care. It was an amazing two years journey of playful learning for Zidan.

Happy and proud parents.

Thank you Birla Open Minds Preschool, Alipore

TAUSEEF RAHMAN AND MUNAZZA SHAOOR

PARENTS OF ZIDAN



1. Kalabharti Child Art development Institute, Pune – a Social Institute for the development and welfare of children organised a National Level Coloring Competition for the year 2024-25.

Our students participated with great enthusiasm and Siddharth Kishore of K1 and Rachel Grace Suresh of K2 were chosen as Best Artists from their respective classes.



2. In collaboration with ISKCON Bangalore another state-level colouring competition was conducted promoting cultural diversity, unity in diversity and promoting our values and practices.

(Results of this are not yet announced).



3. A unique programme to encourage mindfulness, movement and diving back to our roots right from our prenursery is a huge success. It helps enhancing balance to flexibility, endurance and encouraging eating habits; fostering a love for yoga and promoting long-term health.



By practicing breathing techniques and focusing exercises children learn how to navigate challenges with a positive outlook. Amongst older children this also enhances their academic performances and is an overall grounding experience.



Birla Open Minds Preschool
YELLAHANKA



We are beaming with pride as our little Mishika excels, not only in academics but also thrives in sports, arts and various competitions!

Her curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm are testament to the nurturing environment and holistic curriculum provided by Birla Open Minds.

Keep shining bright we can't wait to see what the future holds for you!



Her ability to embrace challenges with confidence and a joyful spirit makes her a true all-rounder.

Participating in extracurriculars helps students to have an all-round development, teaching them soft skills, instilling confidence, and developing an interest in the workings of the world- all of this which we observe in Mishika!

We are excited to see her continue blossoming into a confident, compassionate, and capable individual and we hope that she keeps shining bright!

We are delighted to see Anant shine in various school activities.

Whether it's as simple as Ram-Sam or as difficult as performing the role of Bali in a Ramayan skit.

His enthusiasm and participation in different events showcased his energy and brilliance!



His positive spirit, eagerness to learn, and dedication to every task were truly commendable, reflecting a bright and promising future.

We wish him continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors- may he always shine just as brightly!



Birla Open Minds Preschool
GHAZIABAD



At Birla Open Minds Preschool, Vikas Vihar, we have many students with the potential to shine in diverse fields. However, the name that stands out as one who excels in most areas is Ritambhra from K2. She is the kind of student every teacher dreams of having in his/her class.

She shows remarkable development in most domains, especially in cognitive, social and creative fields. Her potential, which was hidden beneath her quiet façade earlier, was spotted by her teacher who began giving her responsible tasks with positive reinforcement. It did not take long before she came out of her shell and began to display her all-round and vivacious personality.

Ritambhra's sharp intellect is evident in her academics. She grasps the concepts very well and always submits her assignments on time, setting a benchmark for her peers. But what sets her apart is her ability to shine beyond books.

She is a very friendly, considerate and caring person. She is always there to help her classmates who are struggling to complete the work. She is a team player. Her smile, helping nature and active personality have earned her many friends in the class.

During playtime, she involves everyone in the games she plays. She is full of ideas and enjoys sharing them during circle time.



When it comes to dancing, Ritambhra's energy is unmatched. Be it a school event or a cultural fest, she is the first to step forward, mesmerizing everyone with her graceful moves and passion.

Her love for arts and crafts adds another feather to her cap. Whether it's a drawing or a craft project, Ritambhra pours her creativity into every detail.

Her unique ability to balance academics with her creative pursuits makes her a role model, proving that brilliance isn't confined to one field—it thrives where passion and dedication meet.



Birla Open Minds Preschool
VIKAS VIHAR



A DAY OF COLOUR, JOY, AND TOGETHERNESS

The Holi celebration at school was a vibrant explosion of colour, laughter, and happiness that filled the air. Students in their bright clothes eagerly participated in the fun, throwing colours and playing in joyful groups.

The essence of Holi was captured through group activities, where children worked together in creating colourful artwork and sharing laughter in the spirit of togetherness.



Teachers encouraged teamwork and cooperation, allowing students to experience the joy of sharing the colourful festival. The sense of unity, joy, and freedom was palpable as children bonded over the fun of the celebration. Overall, the experience was one of pure happiness, fostering inclusivity, creativity, and friendship amongst the young learners.



Celebrating the spirit of unity, joy, and togetherness, this vibrant festival not only sparks creativity and excitement in young hearts but also teaches the timeless values of harmony and acceptance — as they say, “Colours are the smiles of nature, and Holi is its happiest day.” Holi truly brought everyone closer, making it a day filled with laughter, love, and memories that will last a lifetime.

Birla Open Minds Preschool
BOOTHNATH and DOMBIVLI



ALL WORK, PLAY, AND STUDIES MAKE CHILDREN SMART!



Our much-anticipated Preschool Sports Day was a joyful celebration of fun, fitness, and early development. With colourful decorations and cheerful energy, children took part in age-appropriate races like the Egg-and-Spoon and relays — all with smiles, enthusiasm, and a spirit of participation.



Parents cheered proudly, witnessing not just the physical activity, but the growth in confidence, teamwork, and joy among their little ones. For many, it was a heartwarming reminder of how play fosters social, emotional, and physical development.

Sports Day wasn't just about winning — it was about learning, bonding, and celebrating every small victory along the way.

Birla Open Minds Preschool
KALYAN and KUKATPALLY



GOOD TOUCH AND BAD TOUCH

The Good Touch and Bad Touch workshop for early learners was an empowering and essential experience.



Through simple, age-appropriate language and interactive activities, children learnt the difference between safe and unsafe touches. Teachers used storytelling, role-playing, and visuals to help children understand personal boundaries and the importance of consent.



The workshop also emphasised speaking up if they ever felt uncomfortable. It effectively sensitised the learners, empowering them to recognize and communicate their feelings in a safe environment. Overall, the experience was positive, offering valuable lessons on safety, respect, and self-awareness, while fostering a sense of security among the children.

Birla Open Minds Preschool
BOOTHNATH

MAKING SOUL SCIENCE THE WAY OF LIFE

In today's fast-paced world, children are increasingly facing stress and pressure from various aspects of life — school, parental expectations, peer pressure and the ever-present influence of social media. To help them navigate this turbulent journey, a holistic approach called Soul Science offers valuable insights and practices that can foster a balanced life and help children develop essential life skills.

At its core, Soul Science integrates mental, emotional, and physical well-being through mindfulness, yoga, meditation, and people management skills. These practices not only help children deal with stress but also guide them towards understanding the deeper aspects of life.



Yoga and Meditation:

Central to Soul Science, these practices help children manage stress, improve focus, and build emotional resilience. Yoga grounds them physically and mentally, while meditation cultivates inner peace and self-awareness.

People Skills and Emotional Intelligence:

Learning to communicate and connect with others helps children build empathy, resolve conflicts, and form meaningful relationships—key components of emotional intelligence and future success.

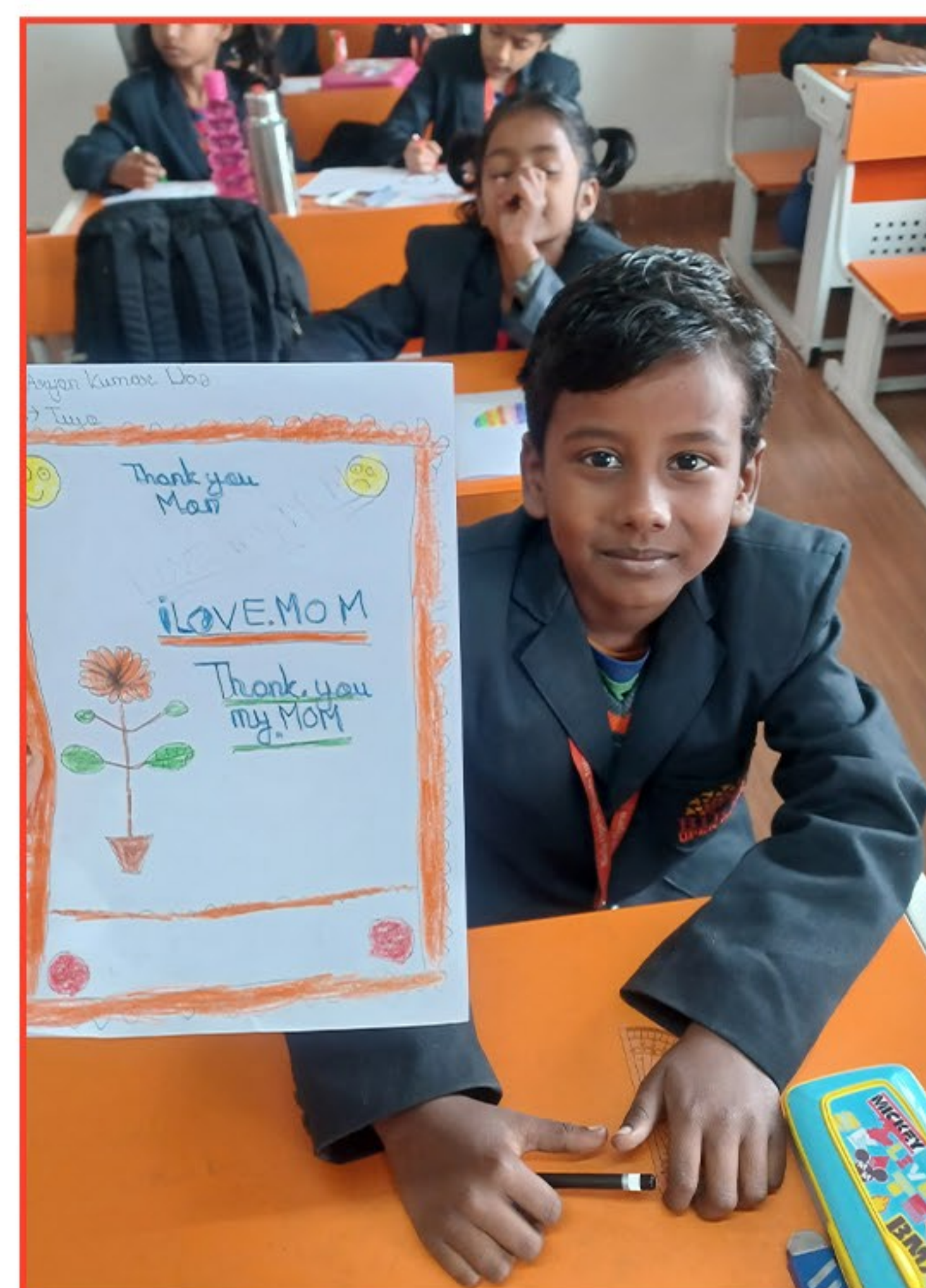


Finding Purpose:

Soul Science encourages self-reflection to help children discover their passions and values—their "North Star." This clarity empowers them to make aligned, confident life choices.

Resilience Through Challenges:

By embracing setbacks as growth opportunities, children develop resilience and self-compassion, learning to face adversity with strength and understanding.



Birla Open Minds Preschool
KUKATPALLY

Birla Open Minds International School
AMBIKAPUR, PURNEA and RAJAMUNDRY





Scramble Game

On this page you'll find an easy scramble game featuring 10 common sandwich ingredients. Can your child discover the sandwich word in each set of letters and spell it correctly?

For best results, print out the word list and have your child write the answers in the blanks included on the printable page.

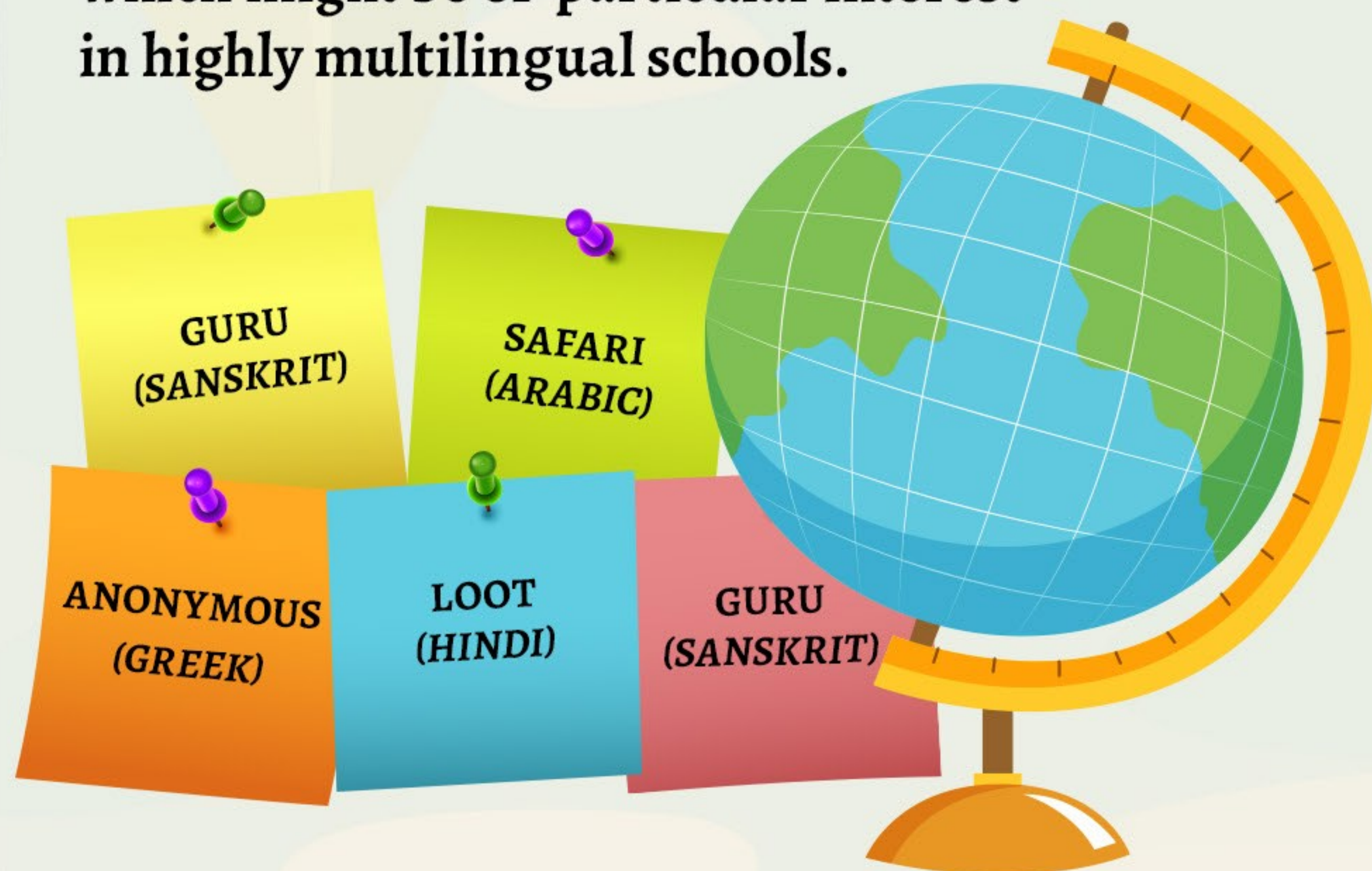
Word List:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. d r a b e | 5. e y l j l |
| 2. c l u t e t | 6. d r u m t a s |
| 3. o o m a t t | 7. e s h e c e |
| 4. u p e n a t t r u b e t | |

Activity

Put up a world map in your classroom. Ask your students to research English words that originated in other countries and write them on the map (either directly or using pins/ post-it notes). They could write short definitions (and even make presentations in class about them).

This could also be done at a whole school level, which might be of particular interest in highly multilingual schools.



Students could also draw the words and link them to the map to make it more visual. A useful resource to find out the origins of words is the *Oxford English Dictionary* (www.oed.com)

Did you Know ?



Given the hundreds of years of English language usage in India, there was a huge number of potential words which are absorbed in English through Hindi and Tamil, these words were adopted into English.

1. LOOT

/lu:t/ [noun]

'Loot' or 'looting' refers to goods (especially valuable goods) which are taken from an enemy or city in times of war. The word derives from the Hindi lūt, which itself appears to come from either the Sanskrit lōtra or lōptra, meaning 'booty', or lunt, meaning 'to rob'.

2. BANDANA

/ban'danə/ [noun]

Has a strong linguistic relationship with the word ba-ndhnū, meaning 'a mode of dyeing in which the cloth is tied in different places, to prevent the parts from receiving the dye.' Its Sanskrit roots lie in badhnati, meaning 'binds'. Its modern English meaning is a richly coloured silk or cotton handkerchief.

3. CURRY

/'k^ri/ [noun]

The English word curry derives from the Tamil kari, a sauce commonly eaten with rice. Its modern usage refers more widely to the preparation of meat, fish, fruit or vegetables cooked with spices which is eaten as a meal.

4. DOOLALLY

/'k^ri/ [noun]

Is a negative word used to describe an unbalanced state of mind. Its origins are in reference to Deolali, a large military camp close to Mumbai. British soldiers who had finished their terms of service would wait in the large barracks for their transport home. This often took much longer than anticipated, leading to intense boredom. As a result, some of the camp inhabitants went 'Doolally'.

5. CUMMERBUND

/'k^mab^nd/ [noun]

Entered English more than 400 years ago, coming from the Urdu and Persian kamar-band (=waist-band).

Originally, the sash was worn by domestic workers and low-status office workers. It was then adopted by British military officers, as a cooler alternative than a waistcoat when dining.

