PALM RIVER ACADEMY

Early Years Weekly Newsletter

QUARTER 2 · WEEK 6 · FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2026



This week Nursery went into the jungle and Kindergarten found out how fish breathe.

Nursery met lions, monkeys, elephants and more, sang jungle songs, made toilet-roll lions and explored the letters B, J, W and V. Kindergarten learned the sounds ie and ee, added within 10 on an egg-carton ten-frame, and used a strainer to see how fish gills work. In Cooking, both classes made French toast squares. On Thursday, families joined us for Stay & Play to celebrate Vietnamese Teachers' Day.

Nursery

Jungle Animals

Weekly Learning Focus

Nursery explored **Jungle Animals** through songs, stories, movement games, pictures and creative activities, building their language and observation skills.

Into the Jungle

Children looked at pictures and toy models of jungle animals, found what makes each one different, and learned how they move. In matching and movement games they linked each animal to its actions. New words: **lion, tiger, elephant, monkey, giraffe, zebra, snake, bear, crocodile, parrot**, and the action words **roar, swing, walk** and **stomp**.

English in Action

Children sang "Walking in the Jungle" and "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" and practiced simple sentences: **"It's a lion." "I can see a monkey." "The lion can roar."** In phonics they explored the letters **B, J, W** and **V** and the sound each one makes. In Doodle Town they began the topic **My Body**, learning the names of body parts and singing "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes." They are growing more confident recognizing letters, repeating their sounds and following simple instructions in English.

Numbers & Reasoning

Children practiced recognizing numbers and counting within 10, and reviewed basic shapes and colors by observing and matching.

Make & Create

Children turned toilet paper rolls into lions with paint, drawing and collage. They also printed with real leaves, painting them and pressing them onto cardboard, then added paper leaves to make their own jungle scenes, naming the animals, leaves, colors and materials as they worked.

Moving & Playing

Children tossed and caught a ball together in a cloth, picked up balls with their feet and dropped them in a basket, crept through a web of strings to Rescue the Bears without touching a string, and took turns as kicker and goalkeeper in football.

Growing Together

Children kept working on **respect** and **kindness**: treating friends kindly, sharing, and playing and learning together.

Looking Ahead

Next week Nursery discovers **Insects**: different kinds of insects, their features and how they move, through songs, games, observation and creative activities.

Phonics Reviewing the letters Yy, Zz, Xx and Qq.

Doodle Town More of the My Body unit.

Numbers & Reasoning Counting and number recognition.









Kindergarten

Ocean & Forest Habitats

Weekly Learning Focus

Kindergarten learned the digraphs **ie** and **ee** and the heart words **me** and **we**, practiced **addition within 10**, explored more **animal habitats**, and found out **how fish breathe**.

Phonics & Early Reading

Children read words with the sounds ie and ee and wrote and read the sentences **"She can hug me"** and **"We see a goat."** In a Feed the Monster game they read words with **ai, oa, ie** and **ee**, sounding each one out before feeding it to the monster. They read *Duck Gets Stuck*, blending sounds to read the words, and practiced writing the letter O.

English in Action

At Show & Tell, children shared a favorite book, stickers and house-building blocks, listened to their friends, and asked and answered questions about their favorite things. They also learned about Arctic and Antarctic animals, made a snowy owl craft, kept practicing writing the number words from one to twenty, and gave each other feedback as they worked in groups.

Numbers & Reasoning

Children added within 10 with cubes and fingers. They used an egg carton as a ten-frame, added pom-poms to show each number, counted them and wrote the number sentence.

Understanding the World

Children reviewed the Arctic and ocean habitats, then looked closely at the **ocean** and the **forest**: what each is like, which animals live there and how they adapt to survive. New words: **large, deep, flippers, shell, gills** and **suckers**.

Investigate & Describe

How do fish breathe? Children mixed coffee grounds into water to stand for oxygen and poured it through a strainer to model how gills filter water and take in oxygen as it passes through. They described what happened, using the words **fish, gills, oxygen, filter** and **breathe**.

Make & Create

Children built desert habitats from egg cartons, sand and small rocks they collected outdoors, using the words **desert, sand, rocks** and **habitat**. They also made music with instruments made from spoons, bowls and pans.

Moving & Playing

Children tossed a ball in a cloth, picked up balls with their feet, crept through a web of strings to Rescue the Bears, and took turns as kicker and goalkeeper in football, building balance and coordination.

Growing Together

Children were excited by Feed the Monster and took care to read each word correctly. They are growing more confident blending sounds and reading words with vowel digraphs.

Looking Ahead

Phonics The sounds **Zz** and **or** and the heart words **to** and **do**.

Numbers & Reasoning More addition within 10.

Understanding the World More animal habitats.









Cooking

Nursery & Kindergarten

Both classes made **French toast squares** this week. Children read the recipe, found the ingredients and followed the directions in English. They learned the new words **batter**, **dip** and **slice bread**, and reviewed **vanilla**, **cinnamon**, **eggs** and **milk**.





Stay & Play for Teachers' Day

Thank you to all the families who joined us on Thursday for Stay & Play, and to those who brought potluck dishes to celebrate our teachers for Vietnamese Teachers' Day. It was a lovely way to celebrate together.









Family Reminders

NOV 23
Vietnamese Pride Day. Children are welcome to wear red and yellow or outfits inspired by Vietnamese culture.
Monday, November 23

NOV 24
No classes. PRA is closed for Vietnamese Culture Day, a public holiday.
Tuesday, November 24 NO CLASSES

NOV 26
Thanksgiving lunch, 11:35 AM–12:25 PM for Early Years. Parents are invited to join their child for lunch, and we'll take care of the food. Please sign up through the Zalo poll or send us a message: sign-ups close today.
Thursday, November 26

Please pack a change of clothes for Water Play, which depends on the weather.
Friday

Thank you for being part of our learning community. We look forward to another week of discovery, creativity, and growing confidence in English!

Warm regards,
Palm River Academy English Center

Read it online