

A Letter to Teachers

Dear teachers

Greetings from Shriram Foundation!

It is that time of the year when we wish each other a happy new year. May 2017 see you make progress on all fronts and may all your wishes come true this year.

The team at Shriram Foundation expresses its sincerest desire to strive together with you towards realizing our shared dreams of making significant changes and bringing joy and enrichment to the young lives of the students in our care.

Write to us at m100.shriramfdn@gmail.com.

Warm regards
Editor

Happy New Year

2017



Wise Words

Here are some proverbs, sayings and quotations from all over the world to inspire you. You may write or display them on your blackboards or notice boards, explain and discuss them with your students.



"We are responsible for what we are, and whatever we wish ourselves to be, we have the power to make ourselves."
-Swami Vivekananda



"Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other."
-Abraham Lincoln

Teacher Tip

Consequences for Misbehaving

Good classroom management begins on the first day of school. Once students learn that there will be consequences for misbehaviour, they usually start behaving properly.

Here are three steps which will help you set up consequences:

1. Find out what consequences will be effective with your students. Ask yourself what students don't like. For example, an adolescent student hates staying after class, being moved from a seat they have chosen, etc. Make those your consequences. But remember, classroom management need not have to be negative always. You can also find out what your students want (some free time in the class for fun and games, an extra games class etc) and offer those as rewards.
2. Tell students that there will be consequences if they misbehave. First, you may tell them that you will put their name on the board. Then let them know that the time they stay after class depends on how the rest of the hour goes. They will now be in charge of their own time. If they do not behave well, they will stay long. Tell them if they become a "model student," you might even erase their name.
3. Follow through with consequences for misbehavior. Be consistent. Show students that you are serious and they will take you seriously too.

Story of the Month

Did you know that January 23rd is the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose? He was one of India's foremost leaders in the Indian freedom movement. Why not inspire your students by narrating the story of his life?

Subhash Chandra Bose



Subhash Chandra Bose was born on January 23, 1897 in Cuttack, Orissa . He was a very intelligent and observant child. As he grew older, he felt unhappy that India was ruled by the British. When he was in college, his Professor made unpleasant remarks about Indians. When Bose protested, he was expelled from the college.

After completing his college education, Bose went to England and passed the civil service examination with merit. But during this time, he heard of the Jalianwala Bagh massacre. In this incident, hundreds of innocent men, women and children were killed by British soldiers on April 13, 1919, on the day of 'Baisakhi'. This incident greatly disturbed Bose and he decided to dedicate his life for India's freedom struggle.

Bose formed his own party – the Forward Bloc party. He went to Germany and then to Japan to seek their cooperation against the British. Then he formed the Indian National Army (INA) with soldiers who were Indian prisoners of war. The INA under his leadership crossed the Burma Border and entered India. It is said that they even hoisted the Indian flag in Kohima, Nagaland. But then, Japan and Germany lost in the Second World War. Without their help, it was not possible to continue the revolution. So, his army surrendered. Bose left in a Japanese war plane which crashed in Taiwan on August 17, 1945, killing everyone on board.

He is still remembered for his inspiring speeches to the people of India to fight for freedom. His quote – "Give me your blood, I shall give you freedom", still remains unparalleled in the history of our freedom struggle.

Classroom Activity:

The song "kadam kadam badhaaye ja" is a song that was used as the march music by Subhash Chandra Bose's Indian National Army. This song can be taught as a group song.

The song can be found at : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7PyBSKkQn0>

In the News

It is important for children to know what's happening in the world around them. Why not have a morning "News Discussion time" in your classrooms once a week?

The demonetization story

On November 8, 2016, the Indian government announced that Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 currency notes will no longer be valid post-midnight. These notes had to be returned through banks and exchanged for notes that are still in circulation. This was a move to end corrupt practices. While on the one hand it has led to curbing and discovering black money, it has also posed challenges for the common man who had to wait in long lines outside banks and ATMs. The government has now released new Rs. 2000 and Rs. 500 notes.



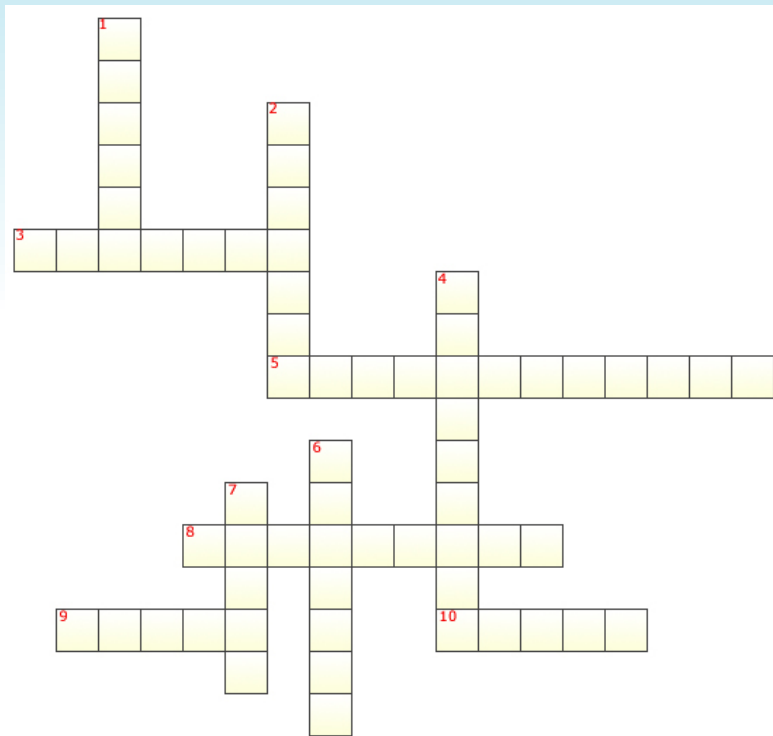
Classroom Activity:

Have a class discussion. Ask the students to talk about what happened at home when demonetization was first announced. What challenges or problems did their families face? How did they deal with these?

Get samples of the new currency notes and educate children on their security features.

Crossword

Here's a quick crossword on some fun facts about animals. Try this in the class:



Across

- 3. The tallest animal on land which is very fond of leaves
- 5. This animal spends most of its time sleeping, and resting in shallow parts of water bodies. Though it is huge and heavy, it can swim fast, walk on the river bed and remain underwater for as long as 10 minutes at a time. It is a pure vegetarian. Which animal is it?
- 8. The process of animals (and even birds) moving to warmer places during winter to find food is called
- 9. A group of lions is called
- 10. Part of the elephant's body that is long and hangs down from the face

Down

- 1. Fear of this animal is known as 'arachnophobia'
- 2. The fastest land animal in the world
- 4. A person who studies about animals
- 6. The horn of a rhinoceros is made from this, not bone
- 7. The largest type of 'big cat' in the world

Puzzle

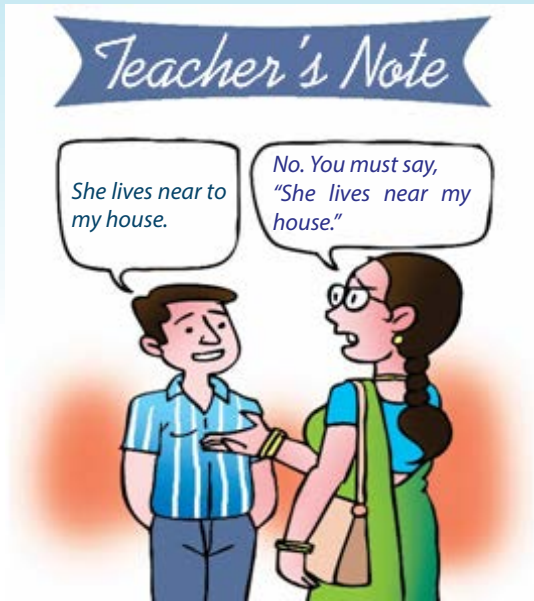
Let children enjoy the fun of mathematics with this simple activity using addition and subtraction! It can be used for students in the primary classes.

The grid to be filled is the four-square white-coloured grid. Use the numbers 1 to 9 to fill the empty cells so that the sum of each horizontal block equals the clue on its left, and the sum of each vertical block equals the clue on top. Each number can only be used once per block!

Kakuro

	11	3
8		
6		1

Let's Learn English



Near is a preposition. It is never used with *to*. Prepositions are a headache. We often make mistakes in using them. Let us try to understand them.

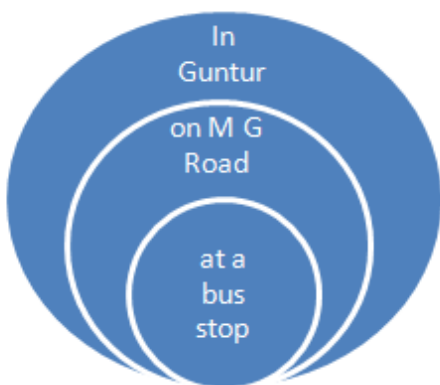
The programme started *at* 6 o'clock. It is being held *at* Saraswathi Hall, *on* M. G. Road, *in* Kalam Nagar. It will continue for two hours and is expected to end by 8 pm. My car will pick me up *from* the venue *at* 8 pm.

The highlighted words are all prepositions. The words *in*, *on* and *from* are prepositions that help us understand locations and places. The words *at*, *for*, *by* refer to time. Prepositions tell us about locations and time. They are used in a wide variety of contexts. They are used in complex ways. We can learn the correct usage of prepositions only by reading more and more texts and observing their usage.

Let us look at the use of just three common prepositions: *at*, *in* and *on*. All three are used both with reference to time and place. Let us see how:

We use *at* to refer to a specific point of a place, while we use *on* to refer to a larger area where the specific point is located. We use *in* to refer to an even bigger enclosed space.

I met her *at* the bus stop *on* MG Road in Guntur.



We also use *on* to refer to a surface. For example, There is a lizard *on* the ceiling *in* my bedroom.

Here is an image that clearly tells us how *in*, *on* and *at* are used to point out time and location. Study it carefully.

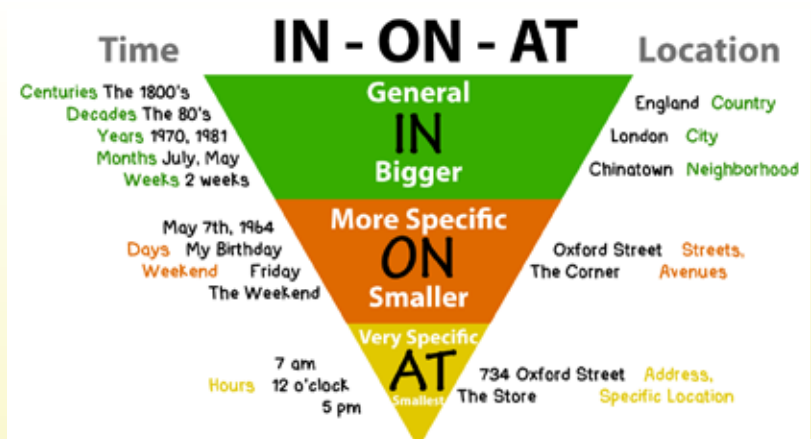
Here is an example of how these prepositions are used to describe time.

She was born *at* 3 pm *on* March 31 *in* 2015.

Now complete this sentence: The programme will be inaugurated

Now try to write one sentence using the three prepositions in a single sentence to describe the time when something happened.

Are you now good *at* using these three prepositions?



Theme for the Month

Sankranti

As the month of January begins, the air is filled with joy and celebration as the children eagerly await the festival of Makar Sankranti. Here are a few fun activities you can do in the classroom.

Exchange greeting cards – Encourage the students to make greeting cards with creative drawings. They can also make greeting cards with quilling paper or colour paper. Have a dedicated time for the exchange of cards among the children.



Paint the pots – Another creative activity would be to get students to do some pot painting, symbolic of the harvest festival.



Make the school grounds colourful with Rangoli – The school can be decorated with colourful and vibrant rangolis made by the students. Teachers can allot specific spaces for each class and group of interested students.



Sankranti world-wide – Let students find out how the festival is celebrated in different states in India and what it is called.

In India:

What is it called?	Where?
Pongal, Uzhavar Thirunal	Tamil Nadu
Uttarayan	Gujarat
Bhogali Bihu	Assam
Shishur Saenkraat	Kashmir Valley
Makara Sankramana	Karnataka

In other countries:

What is it called?	Where?
Shakraim / Poush Sangkranti	Bangladesh
Maghe Sankranti or Maghi / Khichdi Sankranti	Nepal
Songkran	Thailand
Thingyan	Myanmar
Moha Sangkran	Cambodia



Food festival – Sankranti is characterized by delicious sweets and savouries. Have a day for a food festival, where students bring sweets from home and share it with the rest. Also encourage the students to write down the recipes for the same.

Creative Corner

This Sankranti teach your students to make a new kind of kite – the Delta kite! Here’s how to make it.

- Things needed**
- 1. Paper (A4 size preferably coloured)
 - 2. Scale
 - 3. Pencil
 - 4. Cello tape
 - 5. Twine/Cotton thread
 - 6. 1 Thin stick
 - 7. Bits of coloured paper ribbons for the tail & decoration (optional)

Step 1 :

Fold the paper into half along the long side. Mark 2 inches on the bottom and top of the folded paper as shown.



Step 3 :

Place the stick along the wide part of the wings as shown and tape the stick to the paper.



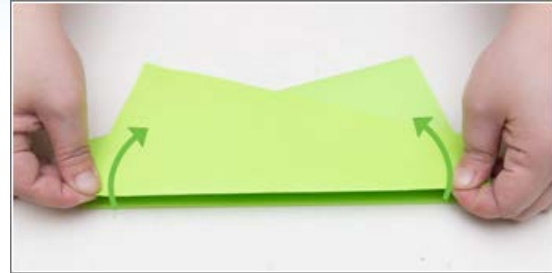
Step 5 :

Now that the main body of the kite is ready, the ribbons can be used as the 'tail' of the kite. Let students decorate the kite the way they want to.



Step 2 :

Fold the paper along the line drawn in the previous step. Turn the paper over and fold the other side as well.



Step 4:

Punch holes into the paper as shown and string the thread through the hole. Then tie a gently but tightly secured knot.



Step 6:

Now the kite is ready for launch. Find an open space and let your kite get, set and go!

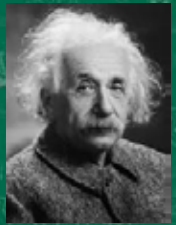


Answers

Crossword

Kakuro Puzzle

	11	3
8	6	2
	6	5
		1



Invention of the Month: Man's first flight

On December 17, 1903, the Wright brothers made the first ever human-controlled airplane flights. Till then, no one believed that human beings could ever fly! Narrate this story to your students and inspire them to never give up on their goals!

The Wright brothers – Wilbur and Orville Wright were born in Indiana, USA in 1861 and 1871 respectively. One day, when both of them were still school children, their father brought home a toy helicopter. It was made of cork, bamboo and paper, and it was powered by a rubber band to twirl its blades. This small incident sparked a life-long interest in the two children for flying.



The brothers also shared a passion for mechanics. This led them to open their own bike shop in 1892. Here they not only fixed bicycles, but also sold cycles of their own design.

The brothers were determined to develop their own design of flights even though it had never been done before. They observed birds and learnt how their wing design helps them to balance and control. After many years of research and training, they succeeded. On December 17, 1903, in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, USA, Wilbur Wright flew their plane, the 'Wright Flyer' for 59 seconds, at 852 feet !

In the classroom

Do you have to teach complicated Biology terms?
Break them down with a song:

Here is a simple way to teach the steps in the process of digestion in the human body:



- Digestion,
Breaking food down,down,down,
- Ingestion,
Taking food in, in, in
- Absorption,
Passing food on, on, on
- Assimilation,
Making cells use,use, use
- Egestion,
Throwing food out, out, out



You can also make your own model of the digestive system from waste materials as shown in the above picture*

*Source: <http://arvindguptatoys.com/toys/Humandigestivesystem.html>



Science in the News

Brighter than ever

On November 14, 2016, millions of people around the world took to sky-gazing as the full moon came closest to Earth. This is the largest and the brightest moon in about 70 years. The next supermoon was observed on December 14th, 2016.



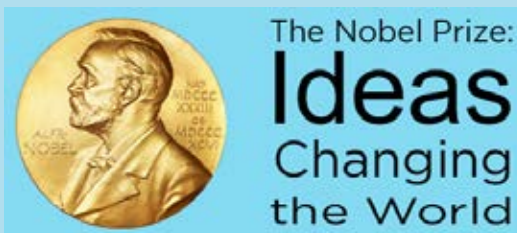
Now HIV tests on a USB stick



Researchers at the Imperial College, London, have developed an electronic device that can detect the amount of HIV virus in a small sample of blood. It can be used as a way to monitor treatment for HIV patients. It is especially useful in remote areas where patients are not able to access costly testing equipments.

Special feature : Nobel prizes

The Nobel prizes are international awards given annually to people who have achieved greatly in different fields of science or culture.



Medicine

We know that the cells in the human body work like mini-factories. So what happens to the waste materials? This year's Nobel Prize in Medicine was awarded to Japan-born scientist, Yoshinori Ohsumi for his discoveries about this very process. It is called 'autophagy'.

Chemistry

Imagine you are ill and you go to the doctor. Instead of giving you a medicine, the doctor injects micro-robots into your body that can travel inside and deliver the drug to the target organ. Once their work is done, they degrade and exit out of your body. No, this is not a story! This could happen in the near future. This year's Nobel Prize has been awarded to 3 scientists- Jean-Pierre Sauvage (France), Sir J. Fraser Stoddart (USA) and Bernard L. Feringa (Netherlands). They designed the world's smallest machines, thousand times thinner than the human hair which could become the micro-robots of the future.

Physics

We all have studied about states of matter. But have you ever questioned about what makes them the way they are? What could be the coldest temperatures at which they exist? Three scientists, David J. Thouless, F. Duncan M. Haldane and J. Michael Kosterlitz (from USA) researched on these special characteristics of matter and developed methods to explain them mathematically. They were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics.