

# CONNECT 09

30 Oct Issue, Term 1 (2015-2016)

Embracing Diversity. Challenging Minds.

GREETINGS FROM NEXUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, PUTRAJAYA



**NEXUS**  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL  
PUTRAJAYA





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# Highlights

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## ▶ Coming up next week:

**Tuesday – Year 2 trip to the Butterfly Park**

**Thursday – Year 6 Taylor's Games**

**Friday – Deepavali Curriculum Day**



# Primary



# Primary Deepavali assembly



## Dear Nexus Community,

Nexus will embrace diversity once again through our whole school Deepavali or Diwali celebration on **Friday 6th November 2015**.

### Programme for the day:

- Whole school to **dress up in traditional Indian attire**. Learners will have lessons as usual focus on Deepavali learning.
- **Food Tasting** - Our Indian parents will cater scrumptious **authentic indian food and delicacies** – a menu to look forward to!  
Primary learners will join food tasting accompanied by their class teachers and teacher assistance at an allocated time and secondary learners to join during their lunch time.
- There will be a **Deepavali Learning Centre** set up – For learners to learn about the significance elements in Indian culture or tradition. Interactive hands on learning activities for all ages. *e.g learning about different spices, traditional indian attire, make your own jasmine garland and many more!*
- There will be a special **Primary Deepavali assembly in the theatre at 2.15pm**. Primary learners and PTA will showcase what they have learned during the week. Parents are invited to join our special assembly.

We would appreciate parents' participation to extend the celebration to a wider community. Nexus encourage all parents, teachers and learners to get involved and help us with organizing this event.

To help our learners understand the traditions of different cultures deeper through our International Mindedness Personal Goal - Understanding of ourselves as part of a global community and a respect for, and celebration of, diversity within that community.

### At Nexus this means that we:

- celebrate festivals of cultures in Malaysia
- are part of a global community.
- to understand and respect each other.
- open to learning about each other, including our similarities and differences.

### Volunteers Needed

1. We are seeking volunteers to decorate school corridors on **Monday 2nd November at 10am in the Primary cafeteria**.
2. We would also appreciate anyone able to share with us some of the Deepavali - connected traditions: for example henna painting, traditional musical instrument - Sitar/Tabla, etc.
3. We need a few special helping hands on **Friday 6th November** with serving food, sweets and savouries to our primary and secondary learners.

### If you wish to help or contribute please contact:

[pta@nexus.edu.my](mailto:pta@nexus.edu.my)  
[hilrora@gmail.com](mailto:hilrora@gmail.com)  
[lpainsborough@btinternet.com](mailto:lpainsborough@btinternet.com)





# Secondary



# Visit By KL Shakespeare Players



On Monday Year 8 Learners began their study of Shakespeare, his life and times and particularly his play A Mid Summer Night's Dream.

To mark this occasion the learners were able to watch, and in some cases be actively involved with the performance, as two experts from KL Shakespeare Players delivered selected scenes from The Taming of the Shrew.

The learners then broke up into 4 groups and were involved in active workshops led by our English teachers Mr Kyle, Ms Sarah and Miss Stephanie, along with Ms Amy from the Performing Arts Department and the two visiting experts.

A chance to encounter Shakespeare's texts as actors engaged the learners so that all those involved readily shared mutual experiences, where curiosity, cooperation, playfulness and support were encouraged and clearly evident.



Many learners demonstrated an aptitude for performing and it was wonderful to see them engaging with the activities to the level that they did. Overall, all the learners showed willing and commitment as they participated in connecting with the language of the Bard in a fun but rigorous learning experience.

**Ms Maureen**  
**Year 8**  
[www.nexus.edu.my](http://www.nexus.edu.my)



# CAS Trip to Sabah - Part 1

## On the service project

In kicking off our life changing CAS expedition, we found ourselves undergoing 3 days worth of manual labour under the scorching heat, for the purpose of renovating the centre of a rural village in Sabah. The village is situated in the beautiful Kiulu Valley. The first day commenced with an inquisitive mind and an eager heart, for there was a sense of novelty to this kind of labour that most of us had never before been exposed to. However, on the second and third day, many of us began to flag, as the magnitude of the tasks at hand grew to overwhelm us. What kept us going was the support and encouragement we gave each other. Moreover, talking to the local kids and the adult villagers emphasised to us how much they appreciated our efforts and how much the renovation meant to them. Being able to see firsthand the gratitude on their faces for the time and effort we put into improving their infrastructure was more than enough to keep us going.

*"Sabah was an exceptionally amazing experience I can never forget. If I ever had the chance to, I'd gladly trade high speed internet, fast food and the comfort of my bed to relive those 9 wonderful days again."* - Sue Yen

*"The 9 days that had been spent had definitely changed us all for the better. Being away from school-life and putting us into a situation where we saw our actions actively make a difference had shown us first hand our ability to give if we work together."* - Rachel

**Jasmine Foong**  
**Year 12**  
[www.nexus.edu.my](http://www.nexus.edu.my)





# CAS Trip to Sabah - Part 2

## On the jungle trek

The prospect of living in dense tropical forest for three days was at least, unprecedented and nerve-wracking for the majority of us; the trek, through the very steep terrain of the Kiulu Valley, was made more difficult by the unforgiving heat of the Bornean sun, as well as, the weight of 15kg rucksacks on our backs. Despite being hunched over in pain from physical exertion, melting in the searing temperatures, severely itching from the incessant mosquito bites, bruised and muddy from constantly falling on the slippery slopes, the first day of the trek taught us a newfound respect for the environment around us. We reached the first campsite after what seemed like an excruciatingly long time, set up our surprisingly comfortable (albeit claustrophobic) hammocks, and started a fire so we could produce something edible for lunch. Life in the jungle forced many of us to find a new level of independence and tolerance. For here, there are no housekeepers to clean up after you, no maids to make your bed, no cooks to lay the table with food, and no parents to shower you with affection. Adapting to such a different environment was extremely testing for me. However, it was only a short while before I found myself intrigued by how different and removed mother nature is from modern society, and it was a privilege for us to experience this wonder first-hand.

*"An experience of a lifetime which included helping out a kampung, surviving a jungle and relaxing on the beach. It truly changed us from friends to family." - Julian*

*"I enjoyed peeing in the bush" - Kamilia*

*"If I were to describe Sabah in word I would say "Tuqburni", which means I cannot imagine life without you. To me Sabah has been mesmerising and what would life be without an adventure to the world of the unknown (jungle) with the ones you enjoy spending time with (friends)." - Imran*

**Shailinder Singh**  
**Year 12**  
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# CAS Trip to Sabah - Part 3

## On High Ropes, White Water Rafting, and Island Day



Arriving back at the adventure center after our 'adventures' in the jungle, the relief on our faces was palpable. Now for some fun!! On the itinerary were high ropes, abseiling, rock climbing, as well as white water rafting. The initial sight of the high ropes brought out apprehension in most of us, but I don't think I'm speaking only for myself when I say it turned out to be an exhilarating experience. Fueled by encouragement from below, apprehension gave way to excitement and a sense of accomplishment. White water rafting was an enjoyable experience and great as a bonding one as we all competed (well some teams did) to finish first. Of course, my team finished first!!!

That night, as we packed in preparation for our one-night island stay, we bid the adventure center and some of its staff goodbye. We looked back on the past 7 days wistfully and reflected on how much we had changed in the space of a week. Personally, the trip did me a world of good. I had thought I would hate it, yet in the end it was a tremendously rewarding learning experience surrounded by people I love.

After breakfast the next morning, all 48 of us, worn out but happy, enjoyed a day of pure relaxation on a private island. And the end of the day, we had a final debriefing and thought of a message we would send to our future selves based on what we had experienced that week.

*"It gave me the opportunity to step out of my comfort zone but still feel safe doing so, and it allowed me to experience things that I would never have if I hadn't gone on this trip." - Ling Ann*

*"An unforgettable experience where I was immersed in nature with the people I love" - Fizzy*

*"The trip was the best experience I've had so far. As a new student, it allowed me to get to know everyone better." - Ilham*

*"Tiring but definitely worth it" - Amirul*

**Toni Toh**  
**Year 12**  
**[www.nexus.edu.my](http://www.nexus.edu.my)**



# Why I do CAS

## DP CAS REFLECTION

Ever since I was primary school, I was always out playing football during break times with the boys and I felt like football was what I was best at in sports. I felt like football was something I wanted to be in.

This had led me to joining the Secondary Girls Football Team. There were tournaments or friendly matches against the other schools and I attended most of them. From attending the games, I have learnt how to communicate well with the others while I am on the pitch. During games and training with Mr Paul, I have also successfully worked collaboratively with my teammates so that we make sure to play our best on whilst we're on the pitch against the other team.

Our team from Nexus consists a lot of tiny people compared to the other schools such as EPSOM, ISKL, Alice Smith but that did not stop us to win the games. To be honest, I was scared at first as I am quite tiny myself but training and practicing with the girls helped me to gain confidence and strength within myself.

Stamina was a thing I had a problem with, and the worst thing is that I am was an upfront midfielder which requires a lot of running up and down the pitch. During the tournament, I have pushed myself really hard because I wanted our team to win a medal. In the end we were all dead tired, but we made it. It was worth it even when I was dying due to bad stamina. This was a challenge for me as my stamina was really bad and being a midfielder requires lots of running. This activity has changed me in my attitude as I have become more aggressive and loud, especially on the field.

From my experience of joining the girls football team, I think what I learnt from this activity is that it has helped the others too. It helps the others and me in a way where if they have lost a game, it would help them work harder in order to win the next match and not give up, even if it was a friendly game.

**Akila Ayatillah**

**Year 13**

**heap.c@nexus.edu.my**

**www.nexus.edu.my**



# Why I do CAS

## DP CAS REFLECTION

Starting Nexus Community, I thought to myself, Nishi what are you doing? What are you putting yourself through? You hate kids, why do this? I convinced myself that providing a service towards these unprivileged Myanmar Learners, even though the thought of being able to get along with them was totally bizarre, was a good way to devote my time. This is a new role as I have never been in a position where I must be patient and engage with kids and actually genuinely get to know them. I have never really been a “kids person” as I did not have the patience, and so nexus community will hopefully allow me to become one. Also it is new because I must definitely consider the ethical implications of my actions around them, and provide a good example for them to follow so they can grow to be good individuals because right now they do not have their families to provide that example for them.

The first activity that I was lead was Just Dance, an interactive, minimal effort physical activity to be performed in a classroom. I personally enjoy dance and felt that it would satisfy the young learner’s energy frenzies. I had to consider each song I was subscribing to the activity as I needed to gauge on the response of the learners to certain types of music, ie: I knew The Rolling Stones would probably not strike the same chord as Taylor Swift. When the activity started, the learners were enchanted by the graphics and participated enthusiastically alongside flailing team mates (the boys less so than the girls admittedly). However, I noticed the learners grew tired of the activity halfway through which reminded of the cons of short attention spans. This was coupled with technical issues faced with the equipment. From this, I learned to avoid dependency on technology as although attention-grabbing and instantly stimulating does not offer the same authentic interactions that other activities might.



An example of this would be an ill-organised day in the field. The session was supposedly dedicated to a game of Softball and Baseball but due to the overbearing language barrier, the instructions of the game was impossible to communicate to reach a level of proficiency in the game. Nonetheless, the session was spent well because we found the learners fully capable of entertaining themselves- they soon resorted to an excited session of flower-picking while the boys had one-on-one tackle sessions with some of my teammates. This session contrasted with the one I organised greatly because it relied on the energy of the present moment alone, it showed me how sometimes, it’s the simplest moments that amount to the most meaningful. This session was also significant to me because it was when I fully realised by attachment to one of the learners- Eliyana. We would have little conversations that ran on sign language and share laughter about the frequent silliness of the boys. It was surprising to me because I don’t usually get along with kids of that age and that was when I was suddenly aware of my progress of patience.

**Nishi Ahmad Taher**  
**Year 13**  
**heap.c@nexus.edu.my**  
**www.nexus.edu.my**



# Why I do CAS

## CAS REFLECTION



Delegate Affairs- Timeline

Timeline:

Tasks	In-Charge	Deadline
<b>Recruitment of members</b>		
<b>Liaison Officers I: 2 people</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Responsible for the communication with delegates/Head of Delegates via email</li></ul>	Luanne + Fiona	Sep - Oct Week 4 - Week 1
<b>Liaison Officers II: 4 people</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Planning and preparing delegate packs</li><li>- Drafting delegate guide</li></ul>		
*Preferably, the entire team of Liaison Officers should consist of at least 2 people with first aid licenses; applicants with such qualifications will be looked upon favourably.		
Overall Team duties (on-day)		


This term, I will be focusing on the Service aspect of my CAS as part of the Secretariat for Asia-Pacific Model United Nations, an annual travelling conference that is hosted by another country every year. Traditionally, the conference is usually held in Australia; however, seeing as how Malaysia won the bid for the conference, it would be held in KL next July!

I have had the fortune of being invited to join the Secretariat team as the Director of Delegate Affairs with Fiona, thereby holding the responsibility for the welfare of the delegates during the conference. This includes pre-planning the conference and delegate guides which is terribly time consuming and also managing contacts with the various Heads of Delegation from all over Asia-Pacific.

Though a secretariat role isn't anything new to me, organising a conference at this scale (expected number of delegates to be 1200 people) is an extremely challenging one. As such, Fiona and I have begun plans to ensure the smoothness of the conference through planning a rough outline of our roles and jobs. I am definitely looking forward to the challenges this would bring and hope for the very best at the conference next year!

**Luanne Rou Yinn Lai**  
**Year 13**  
**heap.c@nexus.edu.my**  
**www.nexus.edu.my**

# Pre & Health

The background features abstract geometric shapes. In the bottom left, there is a complex blue polyhedron made of many triangles. In the top right, there is a green polyhedron. Thin yellow lines with small circular endpoints connect various points across the white background.

# Secondary Swim Gala - Tuesday 3rd November

## Postponed due to haze

After a long discussion and with a heavy heart we have decided to postpone the Secondary swim gala until Term 2. A new date will be announced very shortly.

I understand that many of you will be very disappointed but I will try to explain the reasons behind this decision below.

Sports and sporting activities are extremely valued at Nexus. However, with uncertainty surrounding the continuing haze problem and a poor forecast for the next few weeks, we feel it is important to make an early decision so that parents, learners and staff are fully aware of the situation and no further disruption is caused to a curriculum that has already been adversely affected.

Please contact me if you have anything you would like discuss regarding the above.

Mr Andy

**All Secondary**

**smith.a@nexus.edu.my**

**Sport Fixtures Schedule**

**PE Department Website**

## U11 Boys Basketball - "GOLD MEDAL WINNERS!"

### 28th November 2015



Our U11 Boys played in their KLISS final yesterday at IGB International school, we played against BSKL, ISP & Help.

The boys had a very competitive afternoon starting with their first game against BSKL, the pressure they put on was great, moving with their opposition, driving into the basket and attempting to steal the ball at every opportunity. The boys won their game 20-10 Yu Chen, Aqeel, Aidil (6E), Kasper and Muhammad all adding to the score line!

Their second game was very close, 2-2, 4-4, 6-6 and then 7-6 Help in the last few minutes with a free shot going in just before the whistle was blown.



Our third and final game against ISP was a great game, the pressure was on, they needed to win their game to achieve 1st or 2nd place. Basket after basket was going in, we drawing all the way up to the last few minutes. There were some great free shots from Yu Chen at a crucial point that got us up to 14-14, with ISP sinking 1 of their free shots making it 15-14 and then Muhammad in the final few minutes sunk both of his free shots giving Nexus the lead with 5 seconds to go! The final score against ISP 16-15.

**BSKL 10 - 20 NEXUS**

**HELP 7 - 6 NEXUS**

**ISP 15 - 16 NEXUS**



A huge well to done to all of the boys that took part, all of their training and hard work paid off!

**Miss Gemma**

**Year 6**

**craker.g@nexus.edu.my**

**Sport Fixtures Schedule**

**PE Department Website**

**Primary PE Website**



# U11 Girls Basketball

Wednesday 28th October



This was the second round of the tournament for the U11 Girls Basketball team in the KLISS league. In the first round Nexus finished in the top two teams in their pool. This moved them up to the next pool to play for the cup this week.

In the first game against BSKL Nexus had a great start with superb defence from the team and excellent shots from Mya and Arianne. Xuen also scored points on two free shots that were awarded to her. In the next game against TISKL, Nexus stepped up their attacking skills with Thirah getting into space under the basket and Adilah trying hard to get the rebounds. The final game of the evening was a tough game against ISP. Nexus girls worked hard at getting as many attempts at shots as possible, but sadly ISP's defence was too strong. A special mention for Humayra for outstanding play throughout the tournament.

The team finished fourth out of eight overall. Well done to everyone involved;

Jeeahn

Xuen

Mya

Humayra

Thirah

Arianne

Adeena

Aminah

Adilah

**Grace Nichols**

**Year 6**

**[nichols.g@nexus.edu.my](mailto:nichols.g@nexus.edu.my)**

**Sport Fixtures Schedule**

**PE Department Website**

**Primary PE Website**

# KLISS X-Country Hosted by Nexus

Nexus are hosting the annual KLISS X-Country event on Saturday 28th November from 7am until 12pm.

As always this is a very inclusive event and should be seen as an opportunity for you to either try a new activity, have fun with friends, or push to improve your personal best. Whatever reason you decide ultimately you will be representing Nexus and gaining points for our team. Every learner that runs will gain at least one point for the Nexus XC team and so your participation is very much needed.

## What to do next?

Miss Gemma will be handling the sign-ups for primary learners. She will speak to you during your lessons and register learners that way.

For secondary learners, I will shortly be sending round a google doc for you to add names onto. By adding your name to the doc you are committing yourself to attending the event.

Once you have signed-up you should come and see a member of the PE dept for a Parental consent form. Please get this signed and returned to Mr Andy ASAP.

## Outline of the day

All the details of the event can be found [here](#)

If you have any questions or queries please contact me on the email below

## PE Dept

Year 3 to Year 13

[smith.a@nexus.edu.my](mailto:smith.a@nexus.edu.my)

Sport Fixtures Schedule

PE Department Website

Primary PE Website





# Under 13s boys football



Busy week of football for the boys football teams.

The Under 15s boys football team played three games on Thursday and won one game and lost two games. They have their next game on Saturday morning at AISM.

The under 13s played two fixtures this week. They managed to win one game on Saturday and they also won one game on Monday night at ISKL.

**Mr Paul**  
**All Secondary**  
[smith.a@nexus.edu.my](mailto:smith.a@nexus.edu.my)  
**Sport Fixtures Schedule**  
**PE Department Website**

## Primary Inter-House X-country

Primary learners from Year 3 - 6 all took part in the Primary Inter-house X-Country event between 9am and 10.20am.

Despite very hot and humid conditions all learners persevered and completed the course in what was a very noisy atmosphere. A big thank you to all of you who came to support the event and cheered the runners on. It really helped make the morning such a success.

The winning house will be announced on Friday where they will be presented with their trophy. See next week's edition of connect for photos of the presentation

**Mr Andy**  
**Year 3 - 6**  
[smith.a@nexus.edu.my](mailto:smith.a@nexus.edu.my)  
**Sport Fixtures Schedule**  
**PE Department Website**  
**Primary PE Website**





# Why Schools?



# Primary Deepavali assembly



## Dear Nexus Community,

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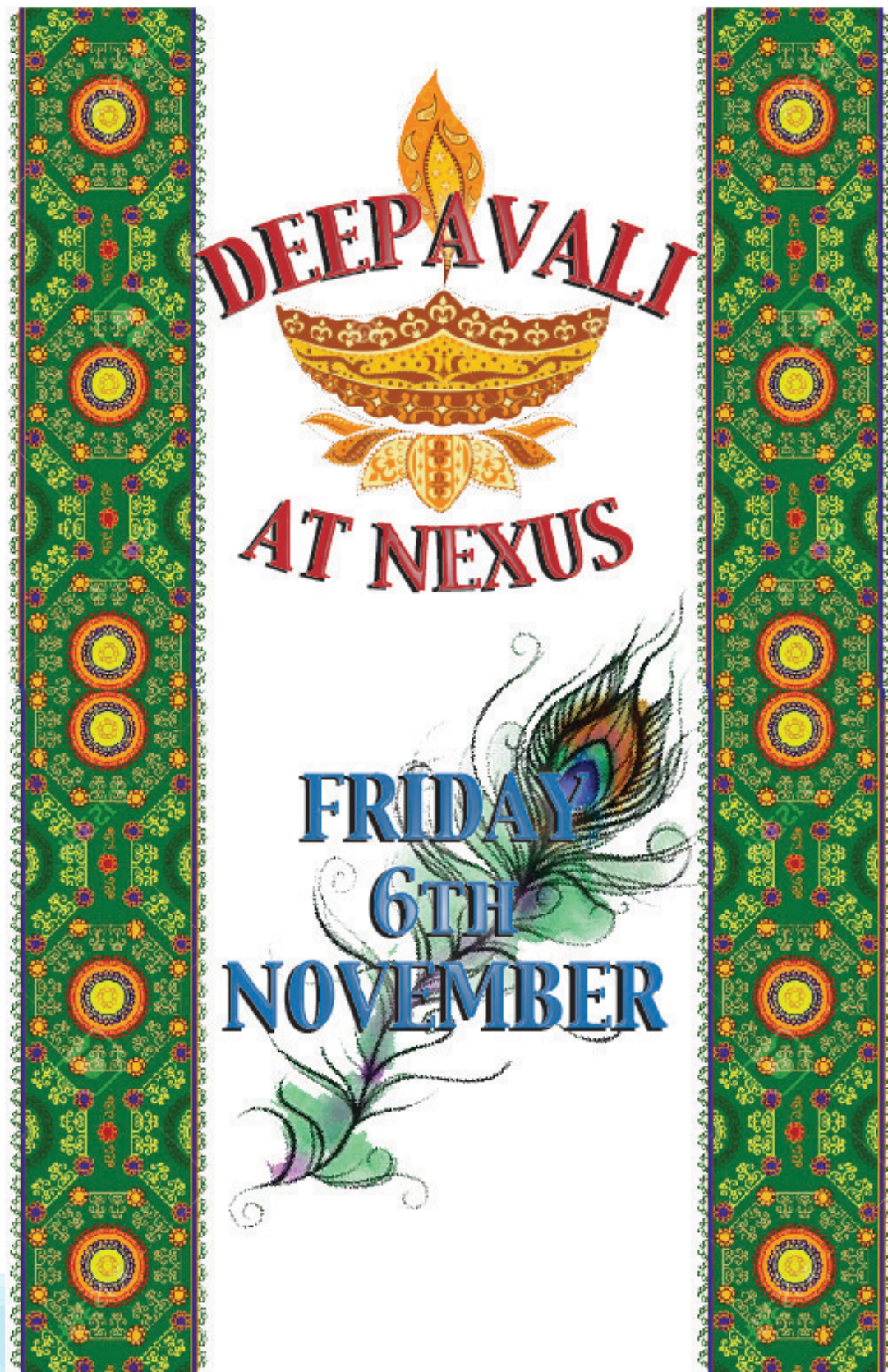
### If you wish to help or contribute please contact:

[pta@nexus.edu.my](mailto:pta@nexus.edu.my)

[hilrora@gmail.com](mailto:hilrora@gmail.com)

[lpainsborough@btinternet.com](mailto:lpainsborough@btinternet.com)

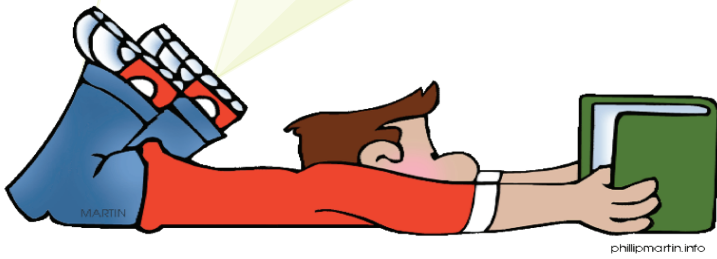






# Reading At Home

Children who read are ones who succeed



**Top tips to help with reading at home**  
Produced by the ELL Department

## Get into a routine

Try to make reading a nightly routine.

## Make reading enjoyable

Keep reading time relaxed, comfortable and pleasurable. Don't get impatient or pressurize your child

## Maintain the flow

Don't correct too quickly. Allow time for the child to correct themselves which they will often do when they realize it doesn't make sense.

## Be positive

Give praise for even the smallest achievements

## Don't struggle

If your child is really struggling, take over the reading and let their teacher know

## Prompt rather than correct

Prompt with the sound of the initial letter and see if you can sound out the word together

## Get into a routine

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## Prompt rather than correct

Prompt with the sound of the initial letter and see if you can sound out the word together

## When, where and how long?

- \* Choose a time and a place that will be both quiet and comfortable for you and your child
- \* Sit side by side so that you can both see the text.
- \* Read for 15 -20 minutes

## The Aims

- To make reading an enjoyable experience.
- To give learners greater independence in reading.
- To show by example, that reading is a valuable and worthwhile activity.
- To improve learner's reading skills

## What to read?

### Opportunities to read are all around us.

Encourage your child to read whenever possible.

- Choosing from a menu.
- Signs and posters.
- Adverts
- Newspapers
- Rules for a game

Your child will choose an appropriate book from the school library (teacher and the Librarian can help them choose)





ETA



# PTA Deepavali Clothing Drive

## PTA DEEPAVALI CLOTHING DRIVE

2 ~ 6 November 2016



**Please Donate Gently Used  
Deepavali Outfits for Less Fortunate  
Children and Adults**  
**\*\* to preserve the dignity of the recipients  
we ask that all items be in good & clean  
condition\*\***

### DROP OFF POINTS

- . Primary & Secondary Drop Off
- . Outside the PTA Room

**Questions? Contact the PTA Charity Sub Comm**  
**E: [baraqahboxes@gmail.com](mailto:baraqahboxes@gmail.com) T: 0122970895**