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The Power of **POSSIBILITY**

Across classrooms, communities and caring hearts.

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From the EDITOR'S DESK

A New Academic Year Dawns...

As the 2026–27 academic year begins, Bala Mandir moves forward with renewed hope and purpose, continuing its commitment to nurturing every child under its care.

The summer months were filled with enriching activities, including the Balu Sir Summer Camp, the STEM Camp, magic shows, and a fostering programme for institutional children.

The Nagercoil Home had its share of activities and visitors. The Kinship Care Programme had a special session for adolescents, storytelling and awareness talks.

A new initiative, *Bandham*, would launch to provide emotional support and build positive relationship for the children.

In April, Bala Mandir hosted 'Celebrating Dr. Anandalakshmi – Conversations on Education', focusing on *Reimagining Learning for Children: Voice, Culture, and Context*, alongside the launch of *Pillai Tamizh*, a BMKT publication.

BMRRRC expanded its outreach in early childhood care and parenting, partnering with UNICEF and BMMNC for a Policy Conclave that also launched the *Manual on Responsive Caregiving* for parents and caregivers of children with special needs.

The year ahead promises new learning, meaningful opportunities, and child-centred initiatives, guided by Bala Mandir's enduring belief that **every child matters**.

Till next time...

Rukmini Amirapu
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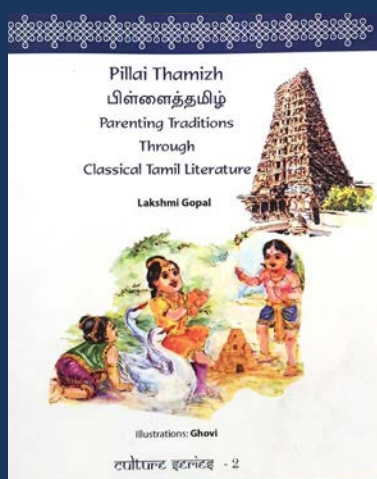
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Reimagining Learning for Children: Voice, Culture, and Context

What if children were not just learners, but active voices in shaping the world around them? This question formed the heart of the 3rd edition of 'Celebrating Dr Anandalakshmi - Conversations on Education,' held on 4th April, 2026, with *Reimagining Learning for Children: Voice, Culture, and Context* as its theme. The annual seminar series honours the enduring contribution of Late Dr Anandalakshmy, a towering figure in Education and Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), whose association with Bala Mandir continues to inspire conversations that enrich teachers, educators and the wider community.

Ms. Sumitra Gautama, Principal, Pathashaala (PCFL-KFI), explored how children can become active participants in their own learning; Dr. V. R. Devika, Founder, The Aseema Trust, Chennai, highlighted the role of traditional stories and art in child development; and Ms. Vidya Shankar Chakravarthy, Educationist and Chairperson, Relief Foundation (Trust), reflected on how everyday environments and communities can become powerful learning spaces.



A special highlight was the release of *Pillai Thamizh*, authored by Ms. Lakshmi Gopal, by Justice Prabha Sridevan (Retd.).

Exploring the female perspective within the unique Tamil literary genre of Pillai Thamizh, the book draws inspiration from *Meenakshiammai Pillai Thamizh* by Kumaragurubarar.

Policy Conclave on Responsive Caregiving & Inclusive Early Childhood Development



Every child deserves the right support to grow, thrive and reach their full potential. As part of their partnership with UNICEF, BMRRRC and BM MNC have been working in Tiruvallur District on the early screening and identification of intellectual and developmental disabilities among young children. Building on this work, a Policy Conclave on Responsive Caregiving was held on 29th May, 2026 at Accord Metropolitan, Chennai, bringing together stakeholders from government,

healthcare, disability inclusion, academia and civil society to explore more responsive and inclusive systems of support for children and families, particularly those of neurodivergent children.

The conclave also marked the launch of a *Manual on Responsive Caregiving*, developed to support parents and caregivers of children with special needs. The resource aims to strengthen caregivers' understanding and provide practical guidance to help create nurturing, responsive environments where every child can flourish.



A Little Magic, A Lot of Wonder



Sometimes, the most memorable lessons come wrapped in a little magic. Children and staff of Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust enjoyed a delightful magic show by renowned magician Dhaya, whose interactive performance filled the Bala Mandir campus with laughter, wonder and excitement as children and staff joined him on stage.

The programme was fully sponsored by Mrs. Hema Sridharan, Executive Committee Member, Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust, whose generous support made the memorable experience possible.

The event left the Bala Mandir family with not only treasured memories of a magical morning, but also a meaningful reminder that education can be the greatest magic of all - opening doors to limitless possibilities.

For every child, a happy childhood is built through countless little moments - feeling safe, discovering new places, expressing creativity, finding mentors and simply knowing they belong. This quarter, the Children's Home created many such moments, helping every child learn, grow and make memories that will stay with them for years to come.



Every child deserves a place they can truly call home. The newly renovated Girls' Section marked a fresh beginning, offering the children a space built around safety, dignity and belonging. The pooja and homam brought children and staff together in a joyful celebration of this new chapter.



Summer holidays can become a child's greatest classroom. Through storytelling, educational outings and visits to places such as the Anna Centenary Library, VGP Universal Kingdom, Marine Kingdom and Sadhana Forest, children discovered new worlds beyond the classroom.



Through the Family Exposure Programme, thirteen children from the Girls' and Boys' Sections spent time with foster families, experiencing care, affection and emotional security while strengthening their sense of belonging and wellbeing.



Sometimes, the greatest gift a child can receive is someone who listens. The Bandham Programme brings children from KG to Class XII together with dedicated volunteers in small groups, creating meaningful spaces for trust, guidance and emotional support.



For many children, feeling special comes from the smallest acts of care. The ear-piercing outing for girls from the Girls' Section became a joyful experience as they proudly admired their new earrings, shared refreshments and returned with cherished memories of being cared for and celebrated.



Talent flourishes when children are encouraged to express themselves. At this year's Balu Sir Camp, children explored dance, art and craft through a range of colourful and creative activities, developing imagination, coordination, teamwork and confidence in a joyful learning environment.

The camp concluded with a dance performance, a vibrant exhibition of children's artwork and an inspiring storytelling session by Ms. Sandhya Rao, celebrating the creativity, confidence and self-expression nurtured during the camp.





A safe and nurturing home grows stronger through continuous care and accountability. Mr. Rahul IAS visited and inspected the Children's Home, and interacted with staff and observed the overall maintenance and functioning of the home.



Strong child welfare systems are built through shared learning and collaboration. Mr. Abilash Kumar from Miracle Foundation visited the Home and interacted with staff to understand the institution's functioning and the welfare initiatives.



Festivals become truly special when children celebrate them with joy and a sense of belonging. Tamil New Year was celebrated with special prayers, a temple visit, new clothes and a festive meal, bringing children and staff together.



Sub-Inspector Ms. Hemalatha and Special Sub-Inspector Ms. Sutha Rani from Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) inspected the Children's Home, verifying staff and child records and reviewing the safety measures.



Knowing one's rights is the first step towards knowing how to protect them. Advocate Anbu Vijil from Nagercoil Court conducted a legal awareness session covering free legal services, child rights and legal protection measures available to children.



Every child deserves to grow in an environment that is safe, secure and nurturing. Members of the District Level Inspection Committee (DLIC) visited the Children's Home to evaluate its infrastructure, safety protocols and the quality of care.



Behind every well-run home is a commitment to meeting the standards that sustain it. The Revenue Inspector conducted a field inspection to verify the eligibility and infrastructure required for the renewal of the institutional ration bulk permit.



A healthy environment is an essential part of a child's well-being. Dr. Saroja, City Health Officer, conducted a comprehensive inspection of the facility's sanitation and hygiene standards as part of the renewal process for the Sanitary Certificate.



Well-being begins when children learn to care for both their bodies and their minds. Children and staff celebrated International Yoga Day with Mrs. Devi Elayaperumal and her team from the Heartfulness organisation, practising asanas, pranayama and meditation together.

A vibrant term is one where children are not only learning, but also discovering who they are and who they can become. This quarter at Vidyalaya was filled with opportunities to learn, explore and grow - from meaningful parent-teacher interactions and professional development for educators to a joyful return to school and inspiring experiences through storytelling, eye care and Yoga. Students also stepped into leadership through the Student Council Election, experiencing democracy, responsibility and active participation. Together, these moments reflect Vidyalaya's commitment to nurturing children who are curious in learning, confident in expression, mindful of their well-being and ready to grow into responsible members of society.



A child's progress is best nurtured when parents and teachers work together. The Open Day gave parents an opportunity to understand their children's progress, celebrate achievements and receive guidance to support their growth.



Inspired teachers inspire confident learners. Teachers participated in sessions on English by Ms. Kavitha Krishnakumar, Specific Learning Difficulty by Ms. Janani, Work-Life Balance by Ms. Shubhashree and AI in Classrooms by Prof. Umama.



Every new academic year brings new hopes, new friendships and new opportunities to learn. Vidyalaya welcomed KG and Primary students back on 4th June, 2026, beginning another year of discovery, growth and joyful learning.



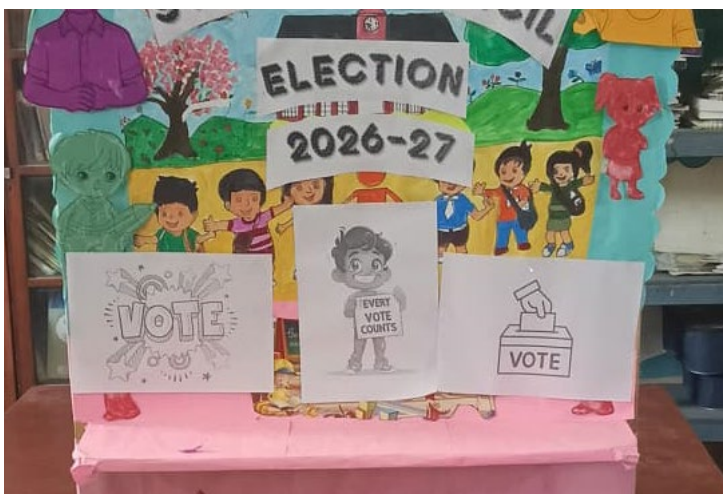
Stories have the power to ignite imagination and nurture values that stay with children for life. To commemorate Balu Sir's birthday, renowned storyteller Ms. Ambujavalli engaged students through expressive storytelling.



Clear vision is essential for every child's learning journey. The Eye Camp conducted with Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital screened Primary students, identified children requiring further attention and provided guidance for consultations and eye care.



Healthy habits developed in childhood become lifelong strengths. Mr. Saravanan and Ms. Malarvizhi from Sky Yoga guided Classes 3 to 5 through Pranayama and yoga asanas, encouraging children to embrace physical fitness and mental well-being.



Leadership is best learned by experiencing democracy and responsibility. The Student Council Election gave Classes 3 to 5 an opportunity to experience the democratic process, from candidate campaigns and voting to the announcement of elected council members, nurturing leadership and active citizenship.

Learning comes alive when children are given the freedom to explore, create and lead. This quarter at Satyamurthi Higher Secondary School brought together STEM and AI learning, internships, lifeskill programmes and hands-on experiences that prepared students for life beyond the classroom. From the new Math Lab and Saturday Clubs to yoga, eye care and environmental awareness, students explored new ways to learn and grow, while teachers strengthened their skills through professional development and AI-enabled teaching. Leadership opportunities, responsibility and career readiness, reflecting a holistic approach to education that builds curiosity, creativity, well-being and the confidence to shape a better future.



Great teachers create great learning experiences. Teachers strengthened their classroom and student-support skills through training in Social Emotional Learning, Specific Learning Difficulty and English, preparing them to meet diverse learning needs.



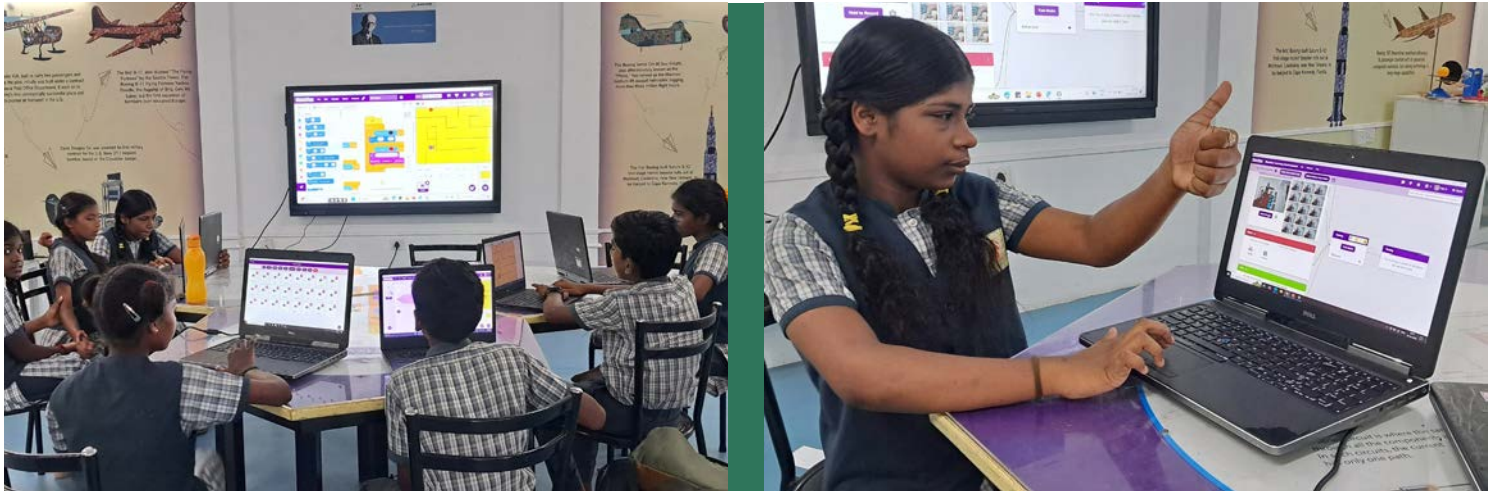
Technology becomes meaningful when it helps teachers inspire better learning. Led by Prof. Umama, the session introduced practical AI tools and teaching methods to make classroom learning more engaging and effective.



Mathematics is best understood when children can see, touch and explore concepts. The new Math Lab, established with Altius Academy for Classes 6 to 8, makes learning Mathematics hands-on, engaging and thought-provoking.



Healthy minds thrive in healthy bodies. Yoga Day encouraged students to practise asanas and embrace physical fitness, mental well-being and healthy habits as part of their everyday lives.



The future belongs to children who are encouraged to innovate, not just learn. Eight students explored Python, programming and AI through hands-on activities, building creativity, logical thinking and confidence in emerging technologies.



Classroom learning becomes meaningful when students experience the world of work. Higher Secondary students gained practical exposure to BMKT's HR, Administration, Finance, IT and Research departments, developing workplace and career awareness.



Preparing students for life requires more than academic excellence. Classes IX and X developed communication, financial literacy, computer, CV and interview skills through interactive activities, strengthening confidence and career readiness.



Leadership begins with responsibility and the courage to serve. The School Parliament was formed on 20th June, with Ms. Mala Shankar presenting badges and sashes to student captains and vice-captains.



Awareness empowers children to protect themselves and others. Officers from Singaperumalpur Police Force, Teynampet Station, sensitised students on child and women’s safety, emergencies, road rules and POCSO.



Every child deserves the gift of clear vision to support their learning. Dr. Agarwal Hospital’s Eye Camp screened students from Classes 1 to 12 and staff, identifying vision concerns and promoting preventive eye care.



Protecting the environment begins with everyday choices. Ms. Rukmani from AWCCEM engaged Classes 6 to 12 on waste management and plastic reduction, encouraging students to champion sustainable practices.

Learning extends far beyond the classroom. Saturday Clubs offer opportunities in Eco Club, Dance, Art & Craft, Yoga, Embroidery and Literary Club, alongside STEM, RSP and Scouts & Guides activities.



Every child deserves the opportunity to learn, grow and be supported by a strong community. This quarter at BMMNC brought together opportunities to strengthen inclusive education, promote accessibility and empower families, while celebrating children's creativity through the Jivikam Exhibition.



Quality education begins with well-trained educators. BMMNC hosted IGNOU's three-day CESEIID Orientation Workshop, strengthening participants' practical knowledge and capacity to create more inclusive learning environments.



Every child deserves the opportunity to showcase their abilities, not be defined by their challenges. The Jivikam Exhibition celebrated children's creativity and growing independence through handcrafted products and live demonstrations.



Caring for children begins with caring for those who support them every day. The BMMNC team came together for a refreshing outing that strengthened team bonds, boosted morale and celebrated their shared commitment.



Innovation creates greater opportunities when accessibility becomes a priority. BMMNC contributed to discussions on assistive technology and accessibility, while exploring opportunities for collaboration, funding and programme expansion.



Every institution is shaped by the people who dedicate themselves to its mission. BMMNC bid farewell to Special Educators Ms. Uma Mageswari and Ms. Kalpana M, honouring their compassion and lasting contributions to children and families.



Empowered parents become their child's strongest support system. A UNICEF-supported workshop equipped parents with practical strategies for daily living skills and connected them with BMMNC's online guidance and support services.



Children benefit most when professionals continue to learn and grow. BMMNC's Staff Refresher Course strengthened staff knowledge through sessions on Multiple Intelligences, Dance and Movement Therapy, Nutrition and AAC practices.

Preparing children for the future means creating opportunities to learn, explore and grow beyond the classroom. Throughout the quarter, Kinship Care empowered children through Adolescent Connect, Operation Summer, career guidance, storytelling, health awareness, creative workshops, digital and life skills training, Science, Mathematics and public speaking sessions. The programme also celebrated a 97.7% Class 10 pass percentage. It brought together 276 participants from 96 families for the Baloo Sir Summer Camp, strengthened the capacity of 27 Social Workers through a statewide meeting. It showcased inspiring family journeys through the Payanam poster session, and expanded Kinship Care's reach to 28 districts, enabling more vulnerable children to thrive in safe and nurturing family environments.



Adolescence is easier when children have someone to listen. The second batch of Adolescent Connect brought together children from Chennai, Cuddalore and Villupuram, creating a safe space to discuss the physical, emotional and social changes of adolescence.



Children thrive when learning is combined with joy, creativity and family participation. The Balu Sir's Kinship Care Summer Camp brought together 276 participants from 96 families, including 190 from Chennai and 86 from four other districts, combining educational, cultural and recreational activities with parent engagement and programmes such as Happy Reading and Happy Math.



The future belongs to children who are encouraged to innovate, not just learn. Eight students explored Python, programming and AI through hands-on activities, building creativity, logical thinking and confidence in emerging technologies.



Behind every statistic is a family’s journey of resilience and change. The Payanam poster session brought these journeys to life through displays showcasing the experiences of Kinship Care clusters, moving visitors, volunteers, donors and partners with stories of transformation and the dedication behind them.



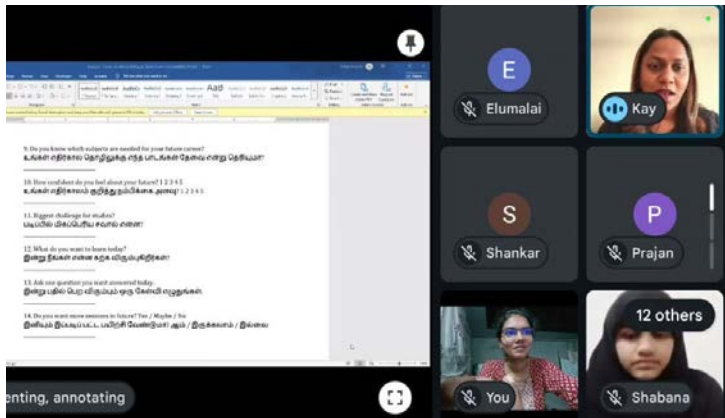
Strong teams create stronger support systems. A three-day meeting brought together 27 Social Workers from 28 districts of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry to strengthen collaboration, skills and the future vision of Kinship Care.



Reaching more children means transforming more lives. The Kinship Care Programme expanded to 28 districts with four new Field Social Workers, extending support to families across nine additional districts.

Operation Summer Sun, Fun & Run

School vacations become meaningful when learning is fun. Operation Summer engaged children through online sessions on career guidance, storytelling, menstrual hygiene awareness and oral health.



Completing Class 10 is the beginning of new possibilities. Career guidance by Ms. Ruby Raja Kaaviya helped students explore educational and government career opportunities aligned with their interests and aspirations.



Stories shape values that last a lifetime. Through engaging storytelling, Ms. Gayathri Anbalagan and Ms. Saranya Devi inspired 112 children with lessons on kindness, honesty, empathy and responsible behaviour.



Choosing the right path begins with the right guidance. Sakthivel from TQI guided 47 students through academic, vocational and career options, helping them make informed decisions about their future.



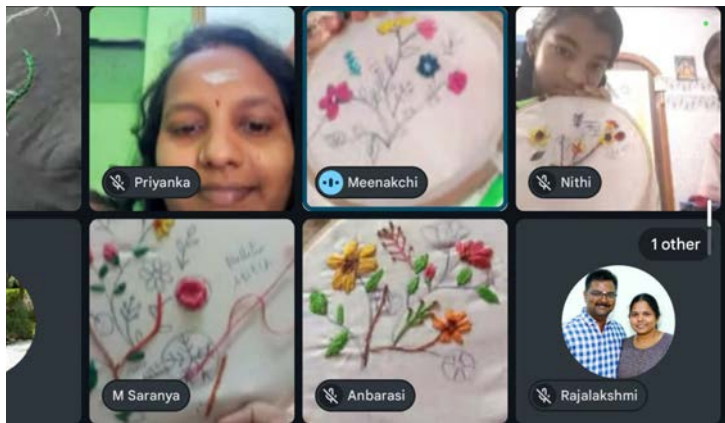
Knowledge empowers girls to embrace adolescence with confidence. Sessions by Ms. Saranya Devi and Dr. Sharon Aishwariya engaged 52 and 53 girls on menstrual hygiene, nutrition and healthy practices.



Healthy smiles begin with healthy habits. Dr. Rajalakshmi introduced Primary school children to proper brushing, oral hygiene and healthy eating, encouraging lifelong dental care.



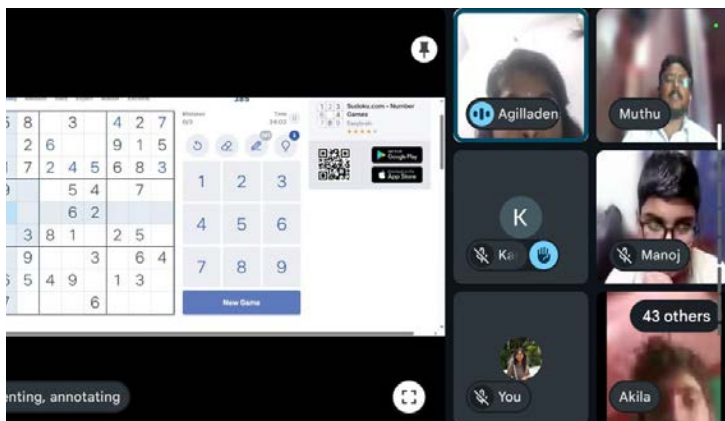
Creativity grows through simple ideas. Online Art & Craft sessions engaged 85 children in origami, shape art and woollen art, encouraging imagination, confidence and creative expression.



Practical skills build confidence and independence. A three-day embroidery workshop introduced 25 children to basic stitching techniques while nurturing creativity and fine motor skills.



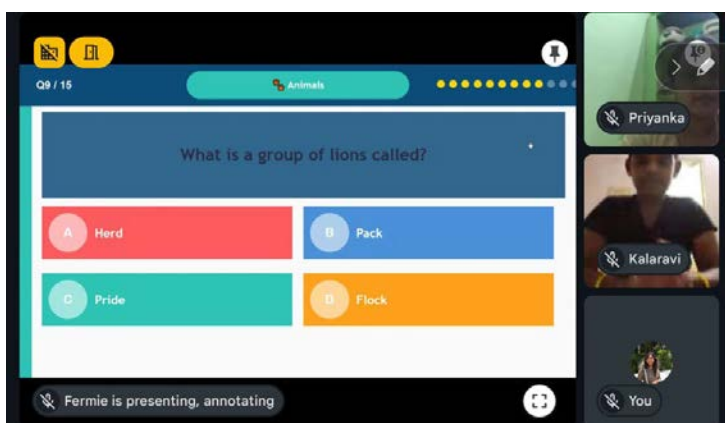
Digital creativity opens new possibilities. Ms. Gayathri Anbalagan introduced 25 children to Canva through hands-on bookmark design, building confidence with digital design tools.



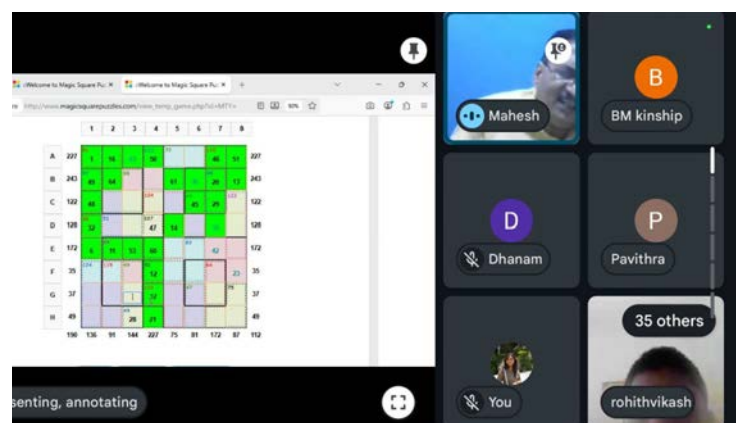
Learning is exciting when it feels like play. Mr. Muthukrishnan engaged 40 children in Sudoku challenges that strengthened logical reasoning, pattern recognition and analytical thinking.



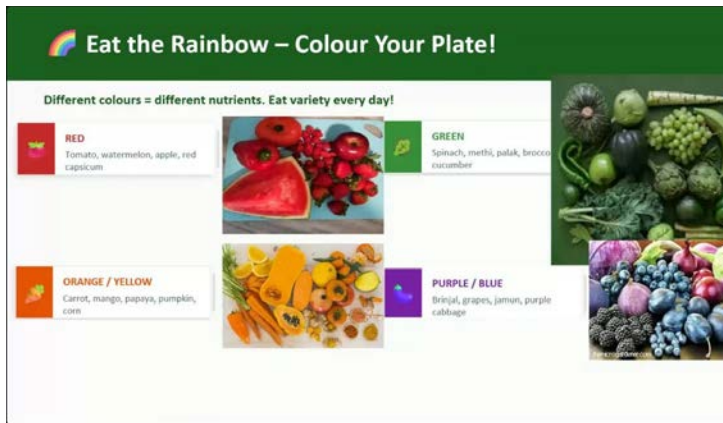
Confidence grows when children find their voice. Over four days, Mr. Vignesh trained 15 children in creative writing and public speaking, with five presenting at the Valedictory Ceremony.



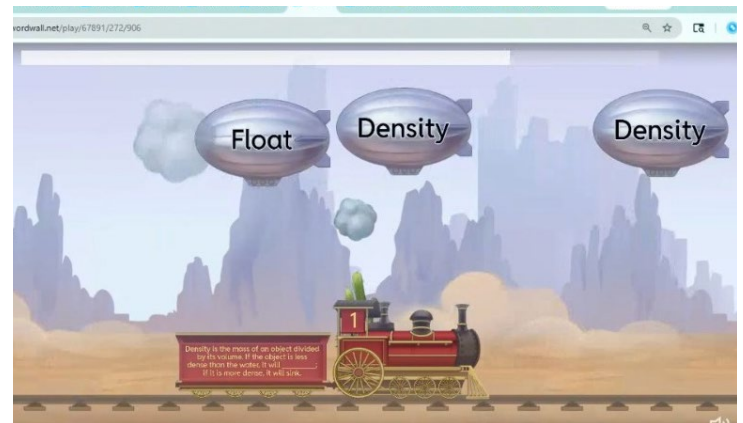
Curiosity sparks deeper learning. Ms. Priyanka engaged 53 children in quizzes and riddles that strengthened creativity, logical thinking and problem-solving skills.



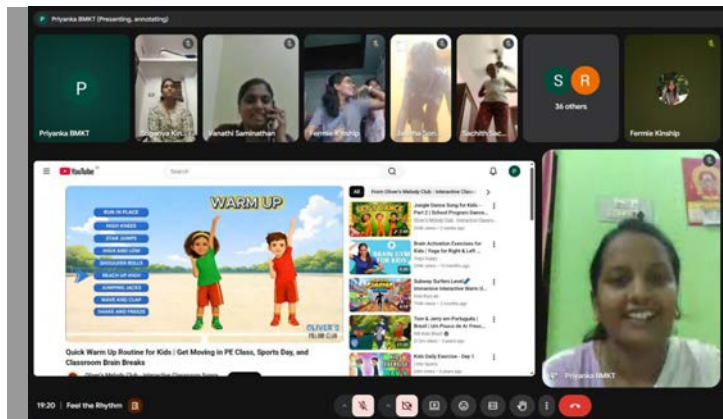
Mathematics becomes exciting through discovery. Mr. Mahesh introduced 42 children to magic squares, encouraging numerical reasoning and a greater appreciation for Mathematics.



Healthy habits shape healthy futures. Dr. Lalitha Ramasamy guided children and parents on balanced nutrition, physical activity, sleep and healthy daily routines.



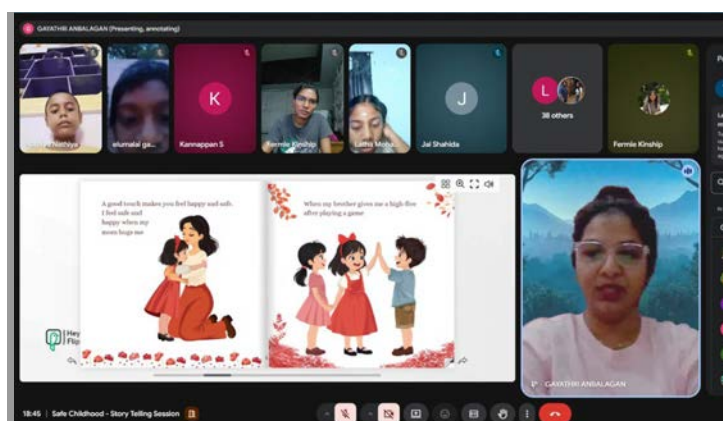
Science comes alive through hands-on experiences. Mr. Karthic from IIT and his team inspired children through interactive experiments and games that encouraged curiosity and teamwork.



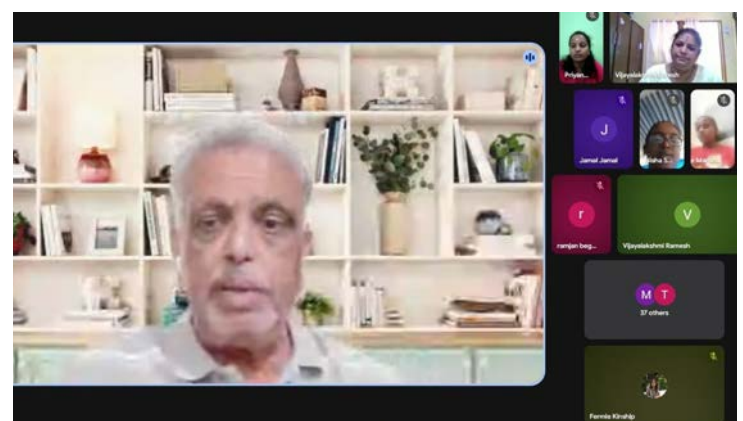
Joyful movement brings children together. Organised by Ms. Priyanka and Ms. Suganya, the Dance Marathon engaged 40 children in music and movement, promoting fun, fitness and togetherness.



Children thrive when they can express themselves confidently. Ms. Suganya guided 30 students from Classes 11 and 12 on assertiveness, personal boundaries and safe decision-making.



Safety lessons are best understood through stories. Mrs. Gayathri Anbalagan helped children recognise safe and unsafe touch while encouraging them to trust their instincts and seek help.



Celebrating progress inspires continued growth. The Valedictory Ceremony showcased children's public speaking, creative work and achievements, bringing together families, trainers and coordinators to celebrate Operation Summer.

Field Supervisors of Ellapuram Project and Chengalpet Project attended a training programme on ECCD. Topics covered included Parenting role perception, Universality in Parenting, Parenting - what, when and who, Stages in parenting, Importance of parenting, Parenting issues, Holistic development of the child - Brain development, Behavior problems/Positive parenting, Identification of delayed development and/or disability - Early Intervention. Centre Based Activity, Street Based Activity & Home visits, Monitoring and Evaluation, Daily Reporting formats & Planning and Training by Field Supervisors on Specific Topics, were held.



Blogs published during the quarter

- குழந்தை வளர்ச்சி பற்றிய எனது புரிதலின் மேம்பாடு
<https://tinyurl.com/5fbe5c88>
- It Takes a Community to Raise a Child – Introducing Bandham
<https://tinyurl.com/4u6xyepc>
- Love Requires No Language
<https://tinyurl.com/5d5jzt5p>
- Miracles of Life....
<https://tinyurl.com/3kb7c9j>
- பால மந்திரால் என்னுள் மாற்றம் என்னால் மாற்றம்
<https://tinyurl.com/bxmuhrdn>
- The Opportunities that Inspired Me
<https://tinyurl.com/3h6yva6b>
- What's Changing at Satyamurthi Higher Secondary School?
<https://tinyurl.com/yz76rn2>
- More than a Caregiver – A Mother to Twenty Hearts
<https://tinyurl.com/mwdz4cep>
- The Auto Ride That Changed My Life
<https://tinyurl.com/22hm37ue>

List of Abbreviations

- | | |
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| • AAC - Augmentative and Alternative Communication | • CSR - Corporate Social Responsibility |
| • AHTU - Anti-Human Trafficking Unit | • DCPO I/C - District Child Protection Officer In-Charge |
| • AI - Artificial Intelligence | • DSO - District Safety Officer |
| • AWC - Anganwadi Centre | • ECCD - Early Childhood Care and Development |
| • BM KC - Bala Mandir Kinship Care | • EIC - Early Intervention Centre |
| • BMKT - Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust | • HR - Human Resources |
| • BMMNC - Bala Mandir Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children | • IEC - Information Education Communication |
| • BMRRRC - Bala Mandir Research and Resource Centre | • IGNOU - Indira Gandhi National Open University |
| • BMSMHS - Bala Mandir Satyamurthi High School | • KG - Kindergarten |
| • CDPO - Child Development Project Officer | • TNSCPS - Tamil Nadu State Child Protection Society |
| • CESEIID - Certificate in Early Childhood Special Education
Enabling Inclusion–Intellectual Disability | |