

Starting Point Charity School

Spring 2026 Newsletter

Hello Everyone

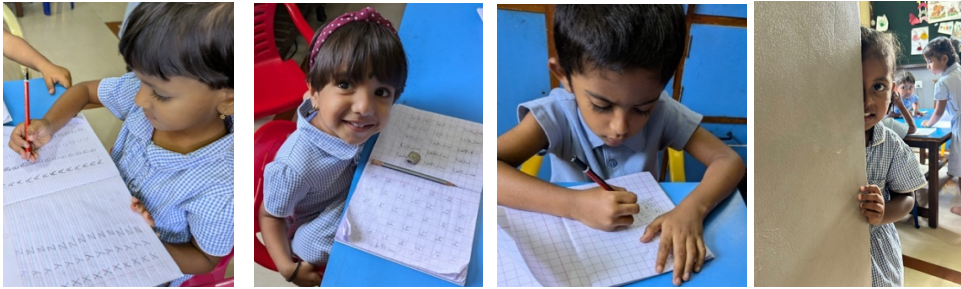
We have almost come to the end of another school year. How time flies by so fast and before we know it, we'll be saying goodbye to our current 2nd year class students. This year we will be open in April, mostly reviewing the year's lessons. In the past we have closed the school for the summer holiday in early April when a lot of the families return to their villages in the neighbouring state of Karnataka. We are expecting an increasingly smaller number of children to attend in April but will stay open for those who remain in Goa.



Starting Point 1st Year Class Ages 3-4 years

The children in this class have finished the scheduled curriculum for the year. They have covered phonetic sounds, reading and writing the upper-case alphabet and can recognise the lower-case alphabet. They have learned to read and write numbers 1-50 and can recite to 100. All have already applied for their re-admission and will return in June.





2nd year Class Ages 5-6 years

During the past school year of 2025-26 we have covered all the Indian 1st Grade curriculum and more. This includes English: reading, spelling, constructing simple sentences and in Hindi: reading and writing the alphabet and numbers. Many of the children in this class will be leaving us at the end of April. They will be going on to the local government schools in June. We will be sad to see them go but hopefully they will join our A.S.K programme for afternoon tuition and homework help.



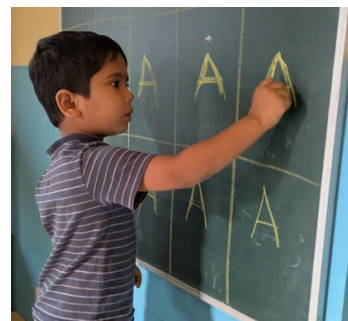


Dance class with volunteers from V Vibes Dance Academy.



Afternoon School Kids (ASK programme)

From the start of this school year, we have had up to 28 children attending our afternoon programme. Those who stay on from the morning session have quiet time or a nap after 1:30 when the others go home. Afternoon classes begin at 3:00 when the rest of the children arrive. We teach English, Maths, Yoga, Dance as well as help with homework and give extra tuition.





Visits from Friends

We have had some wonderful visits from friends old and new. When visitors offer to bring something for the children, we request fruit, as that is something that isn't always within our food budget. Apples and oranges are greatly appreciated as the children can take theirs home to share with their families. Thank you Angie and Joe, also Andrea and family for the fruit. Thank you Dee for knitting these cute teddy bears for the children every year. They love and treasure them. It's always a hit with the children when visitors do Arts and Craft projects, thank you Akruti and for the toys and clothes too.



Graduates News

We had a 2 week visit from Clive founder of the wonderful Novi Survat charity who sponsor the further education of many of our Graduates. He and Jane arranged the yearly reunion at a nearby beach shack. Thank you to Jackson's Shack owner and staff who again made us so welcome us, gave us the use of the whole shack for the afternoon and fed us at cost. Venky, Amruta and team from V Vibes Dance Academy entertained us with dance demonstrations, taught a Bollywood dance routine and finally organised a fantastic "dance off" competition.

We caused quite a stir on the beach and even had some holiday makers join in the dance training.



Celebrating Gracie our amazing cook. Gracie joined Starting Point on day one in June 2002. She was our very first staff member beating Jane by 5 minutes when they arrived for their interviews. We have calculated that she has served over **170,000** lunches over the last 24 years. Her cooking skills are legendary among the hundreds of children who have attended Starting Point. Many have said Gracie Auntie's cooking was the highlight of their day. The graduates have happy memories of their school lunches. Along with our lunch every day we even have Breakfasts, Milk, Chai, Fruit, Snacks and Cake! Thank you Gracie for so many years of love, care, hard work and delicious food.

Here are just a few of the 170,000 meals Gracie has made.





Thank you to everyone who helps to make this little project possible. We truly appreciate your love, help, support, time, donations and encouragement.

Please get in touch to find out how to donate to our project

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WhatsApp: +91 87884 19633

Web page: startingpointschool.info (work in progress)

Much love from the Children and Staff at Starting Point Charity School.