



BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

NEWSLETTER

19th May 2017
Week 33

Britannica International School is a British school located in the heart of Shanghai, providing a British style education to international families with children aged 2 to 18.



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DAVID GOODWIN
PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

One of my biggest pleasures this week is being able to share with you the excellent additional team of new teachers who will be joining us in August, for next academic year. A separate letter has gone home to all current parents today with brief biographies on each new member of staff. Without exception, they are an extremely strong team. The strength of applicants this year for advertised posts reflects the popularity and the quality of the school, of which we should all feel pleased. Teachers who currently work in Shanghai, those already working internationally and those looking for their first posting from the UK have all chosen Britannica as their school of choice. In a climate where it is increasingly difficult to find top quality teachers, we are extremely fortunate at Britannica. As a current school teaching team we are very excited about further new school growth and development next year and very much look forward to welcoming our new colleagues to Shanghai. Incoming staff have already been 'buddied' with current staff, who will help them with their transition to Shanghai and HR are very busy sorting out visas and the vast array of necessary documentation that is now required to secure a work permit in the city.

The final month of this term has plenty on the calendar to keep everyone busy, while behind the scenes inevitable preparation is already taking place for the Autumn Term 2017. Our re-registration date is now closed, so may I take this opportunity to thank all those parents who have re-registered for next academic year and for continuing to support the school and entrust your children with us. Our promise, as always, is to place all our energies into providing the best possible British education that we can, for all our Britannica students, as we plan for next academic year.

Enjoy reading this week's further news.



Dragon Boat Holiday - May 30th

We have received questions through Parent Class Links about the arrangements for the upcoming Dragon Boat Festival. The school will only be closed for one day on Tuesday, 30th May. Please be aware that Monday, 29th May, is a normal school day.

Senior School Key Stage 3 English

It's been a busy few weeks in Key Stage 3 English. We've been working on looking at poetry, including reading lots of different kinds of poems and even managing to write some of our own.

Year 7 have been exploring limericks, haikus and narrative poems and this week have put together their own poetry anthologies, showcasing all of the hard work they have been doing.

Year 8 have been working on ballads; reading some famous examples and also having a go at writing their own poetry.

Year 9 have worked on developing their analytical skills, looking at how writers create effects in poems. They have focused particularly on sonnets and have written their own fantastic examples – we might even have the next Shakespeare amongst us!

As always, it's been busy busy busy in the Senior School English Department, with lots of learning and lots of fun!

Saturday School

As the end of the summer term is in sight, I think it is a great time to reflect upon all that has been happening over the year at Saturday School. I am so proud of the students who attend Saturday school every week in order to come and improve their English skills and take advantage of our wonderful sports facilities that we have at Britannica.

We now have a cohort of students ranging from Year 1 to Year 11 taking part in a wide variety of activities and classes.

We have also welcomed students from outside the Britannica community and it is such a pleasure to see

our children working and playing hard with new friends.

The progress being made by our students is noticeable and a testament to how hard they are working in these sessions.

It is not too late to join us for the last 6 weeks of term, our Saturday school programme is always looking for more students to join in the fun and if you think your child could benefit from some extra English support at the weekends then please contact saturday-school@britannicashanghai.com Registration forms can also be found on our website.

I look forward to seeing you bright and early on Saturday Morning!

Mr Donald



Summer Camp

Due to the busy building works scheduled in different areas of the school and the short summer holidays, we will not be holding the Summer Camp in the first week of July at Britannica campus. Please see the Community Bulletin board in the school foyer for information about the summer camps around the city. Please note that school is not affiliated with any of the camps and parents should contact the camp organisers directly for further information.



Year 3A

This week in Science, Year 3A became shadow hunters. We spent time outside looking for different objects that cast shadows. Once we had found an object, we then rated the darkness of the shadow on a scale – we found it quite interesting that there were different shades of shadow. In the classroom we then learnt about how objects can be opaque, translucent or transparent – this helped us to understand why shadows can be different shades! To finish off we then worked with a partner to find and sort objects around the classroom into these three categories.



Year 3B

This week in English, the children have been exploring the use of instructions. They began by attempting to create a Celt shield from their imagination having no idea how to do it. They were then given a set of instructions to follow and discovered that even though some parts were challenging, having instructions made the task a lot easier. In order to write their own instructions, they needed to identify the different features included in most sets of instructions and explain why each feature is useful. The week ended with a full set of instructions written by each child about either 'How to brush your teeth,' 'How to get dressed in the morning' or 'How to prepare for school'. These instructions were written for a Celt child (Spike) who was visiting 2017. Good luck Spike!



Year 3C



In 3C we have been learning all about fractions in Maths lessons. The children worked with a partner to split a number up into various fractions. For example, a half or a fifth. We understood that in order to find the answer we needed to use the division skills we learnt in previous lessons. The children were then able to find fractions such as two-fifths or three-fifths using this key information and our multiplying skills. The children did a great job of sharing ideas and supporting each other to complete the task!

The Rocky Monster Show DVD has arrived

The Key Stage 2 musical, The Rocky Monster Show, was filmed, and DVDs were pre-ordered and paid by a number of families. These DVDs have arrived and were sent home with students earlier this week. If you have any questions about the DVDs, please contact your form teacher.



Year 1D

Year 1D children have enjoyed the first week of our Dinosaur topic. They have travelled back in time to have a look at what used to roam the earth before us. We have learnt what the word 'extinct' means as well as lots of

different names of the dinosaurs. Our two favourites being a Pterodactyl and Tyrannosaurus Rex, both being scary meat eaters. We have been looking up lots of information using our non-fiction books and were very

happy to have some of Year 2 in to help us read dinosaur stories and find out some interesting facts. Some of us have even been palaeontologists and have had a go at digging up some dinosaur fossils.



Year 2

This week in Year 2 we have been learning all about the life of Mary Seacole during our topic lessons. We have been learning why Mary Seacole is such a significant figure in the development of medicine and the impact she had on nursing.

We have explored the journey she

went on from her home country of Jamaica all the way to her work during the Crimean War. In the coming weeks, we will compare and contrast Mary Seacole's life to Florence Nightingale's.

We have enjoyed creating a timeline of Mary Seacole's life. In pairs, we

have looked at the information and placed this onto a timeline. This took both our previous knowledge of Mary Seacole and our ability to analyse the language used to give us clues where they would go on the timeline. We all got there in the end!





SUMMER • FAIR •

OPEN TO ALL FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

WHEN

FRIDAY

JUNE 23RD

11AM — 2PM

WHERE

BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

1988 GUBEI ROAD

NEAR WUZHONG ROAD

- FEATURING VENDORS, HOUSE STALLS FOR CHARITY, FORM STALLS WITH ACTIVITIES, SPORTING COMPETITIONS AND MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE AT THIS FREE EVENT, PLEASE CONTACT BRITANNICA'S MAIN RECEPTION ON (+86) 6402 7889

PLEASE NOTE THAT CURRENT BRITANNICA PARENTS DO NOT REQUIRE TICKETS.



Week in Pre-Nursery

Another enjoyable week in Pre-Nursery has passed by. We have been busy doing many activities to do with our new topic, Transport. The children have enjoyed exploring a range of vehicles, their functions, as well as the sounds they make. The new train station has been par-

ticularly popular and provided many opportunities for the children to develop their sharing and turn-taking skills. Our beans have continued to grow and we are making sure we water these daily. More excitingly, some of our tadpoles have turned into frogs! These will be released

into an appropriate waterway this week. We hope you enjoy looking at our photos of these and some of the other hands-on activities we have been doing in our class.





Week in Nursery

This week in Nursery we have been busy planting seeds. We have learnt that plants need soil, water, and sunlight to grow. We have used a trowel to put the soil into cups and used our finger to create a hole in the soil, to make room for the root of the plant. We have placed the plants in sunlight and have been watering them each

day and waiting for them to grow. We have also been using different materials to create flower pictures, such as a paint, pen and tissue paper. We talked about the features of a plant and the different colours of the petals.

Throughout the week, children have selected resources in the indoor and outdoor environment that are related to our theme of growing. We hope you enjoy our photographs!





Week in Nursery





Week in Reception

This week we continued our topic about how the dinosaur era came to an end and focused on three main theories; climate change, a volcano eruption and an asteroid. In small groups, we discussed how we think they died. Our discussions focused around the many volcanoes that spew smoke and ash into the atmosphere and how the volcanic activity persisted for many years. The sky grew black and a lot of the living creatures and organisms died as a result. We also learned that climate change is

when the weather all over the world changes a lot and that it became very cold for all of the dinosaurs. We discussed how the plants died because of climate change and that all the herbivores are thought to have perished as they had no more food to eat, which in the end made all of the carnivores disappear.

We also examined another reason why all of the dinosaurs went extinct. 65,000,000 years ago a big ball made of metal and rock, called an asteroid, hit Earth and is said to

have impacted in the Gulf of Mexico. We discussed the impact of this and how it sent dust flying up in the air along with smoke from all of the forest fires. We know that plants cannot grow without sunlight, which was the reason why the majority of life on earth perished.

Next week we will begin our new topic, People Helpers and Occupations, starting with a look at what our parents do for a living and who helps us at home.



We hatched dinosaurs!



Building a volcano



Lets add some red colouring



Look it erupted!



More spelling words



Our science experiment!



Week in Reception



Most definitely a volcano or two erupted



Fun in the indoor playground



Reading up on animals



Keeping our dinosaurs safe



Searching for our spelling words



Our theory is climate change



Sorting skills- dinosaurs, animals and trucks



We should add some vinegar!



Research...



2016 –2017 SPRING TERM BRITANNICA SCHOOL CALENDAR



May 2017

Tuesday 23rd May — Year 2 trip

Thursday 25th May — Year 4 trip

Friday 26th May — Year 1 trip

Tuesday 30th May — National Dragon Boat Festival Holiday - School Closed



June 2017

Thursday 1st June — Year 3 school trip

Tuesday 6th June — Swim Gala KS1

Wednesday 7th June — Swim Gala KS2

Thursday 8th June — Swim Gala Reception (morning) & Secondary (afternoon)

Wednesday 14th June — Teacher Appreciation Day

Tuesday 20th June — Summer Term ASAs finish

Friday 23rd June — Summer Fair

Friday 30th June 12:00 noon — End of Term



ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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