



# BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

# NEWSLETTER

26th May 2017  
Week 34

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.



1988 GUBEI ROAD, SHANGHAI 201103 CHINA

Tel: 021 6402 7889

Web: [www.britannicashanghai.com](http://www.britannicashanghai.com)



**DAVID GOODWIN**  
**PRINCIPAL**

Dear Parents,

Yesterday I returned to Shanghai after spending a number of days at an Orbital Principal's Conference held in Manchester, UK. The opportunity to meet with other Principals as well as catch up with the Orbital Governance team was highly valuable. I of course return with plenty to discuss with my senior colleagues at Britannica in terms of group-wide new initiatives and developments, all of which have the potential to have a very positive impact on further school development and improvement in Shanghai.

In my absence, secondary subject assessments and schoolwide standardised assessments have been taking place and we are starting to see the results of those come in. These will then be used to help inform school reports which have also started to be written in readiness for the end of term.

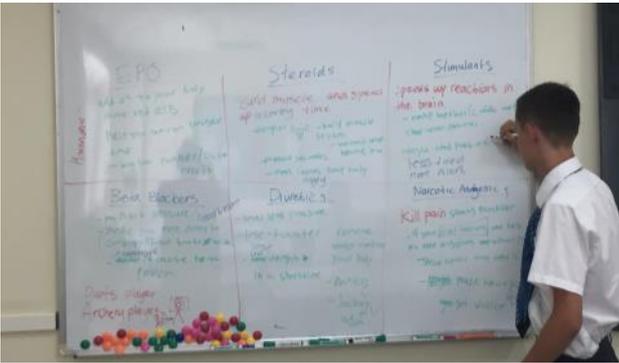
In the Marketing Office there are busy plans underway for the Summer Fair, which looks like it's going to be a great event for all. Do make sure you have booked the date in your diary. Parent Class Links are also busy behind the scenes gathering volunteers together for the teacher appreciation day happening next month. During lesson time the swimming pool is having a very busy few weeks with children enjoying the water in this hotter weather as they practice for the forthcoming swimming galas. We look forward to seeing the results of their achievements.

Do enjoy reading more about other current activities in this week's newsletter.



## Year 10 GCSE PE

Over the last four lessons, Year 10 GCSE PE students have been learning about performance-enhancing drugs in sport. They have been developing their knowledge of different types of performance-enhancing drugs, blood doping and analysing the advantages and disadvantages of sporting performers taking them. Students have also been looking at case studies of famous athletes who have been caught and banned from their respective sports. One case which pupils found particularly interesting was the story of Lance Armstrong and how he was stripped of 7 Tour De France titles for blood doping. Students are now able to answer extended writing questions in detail and this analysis has been excellent practice for the GCSE PE exam.



## Year 6 Transition Day

This week, the Year 6 pupils took part in the second transition day of the year to help prepare them for life in our secondary school. The Year 6 class followed a sample timetable of a Year 7 pupil and took part in Geography, Chemistry, Maths, English, ICT, PE and PSHE lessons throughout the day. They had a really busy day and met many of the teachers that will be teaching them next year. It was great to watch the interactions between secondary and Year 6 pupils at break time and during the PE lesson. I hope that this special day made them excited to join us properly in August!





## Primary Languages

### Hebrew



This month, the state of Israel celebrated its 69<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, and to bear cultural witness to this occasion, the students in the Britannica Hebrew classes were introduced to Israel's national anthem. For children who are growing up outside of Israel, it's very difficult to grasp the profound meaning of the national anthem, therefore, we spoke about the story "behind" the words, in order to make the lyrics sound more realistic and perceptible. Our students really appreciated learning this and it reminded them that Hebrew, like all languages, is rooted in cultural identity.  
**Ms Iris**

### Italian

Our Primary Italian classes have been very intense recently, and the children are about to reach their final goals. Year 1 and Year 2 pupils have made great progress in the analysis of Italian sounds and syllables, and they have become very proactive little readers. Year 3 pupils have also made good progress in overcoming Italian orthographic difficulties and in reading increasingly complex texts. They also enjoyed writing the personal description of themselves. Finally, Year 5 students have shown a good understanding of the morphological analysis of nouns and articles, and they are currently learning how to write both an informal and formal letter. Well done to everyone! **Ms Chiara**



### Year 5 French

In the Year 5 French Beginners class, students have had a lot of fun learning about forecasts and weather. "il fait chaud", "il y a du soleil" and other such phrases have been ringing in their ears. They ended this unit by playing Weather Forecasters, like those on TV, in front of their classmates by preparing their speech beforehand. They have extended their knowledge with some geographic content about France, such as the largest cities and mountains. Good work class! **Mr. Chevrier**

### Reception – French Corner:



Today our Reception Native French pupils had a special and fun time in their 'French Corner' lesson! We went outside to sing, read and draw with coloured chalks following the style of Bill Thomson's book - a book without text, and thus the children told their stories in detail to Mrs. JENNY! They drew suns, flowers, a dinosaur, a fire truck, a train, a butterfly, clouds and stars ... hoping like in the book that they became reality! A very colourful and sunny moment was had by all.

**Audrey Jenny**

### Japanese

Recently in 'EYFS Japanese Corner' we have been learning about Japanese Children's Day which is celebrated on May 5<sup>th</sup> each year in Japan. It was originally a day dedicated to Boy's day. Families who have young children decorate their houses with traditional Japanese samurai dolls as a sign and gesture that symbolizes children growing up healthily and displaying a decoration called 'koinobori' (carp streamer) for the day, outdoors, on a flag pole. In class, the students enjoyed reciting traditional songs for the celebration and also practiced making some special and colourful Koinobori using Origami.



Ms Yoko



## Year 5 & Year 6

At the end of last week, Year 5 and Year 6 travelled to the Science and Technology Museum across the water in Pudong.

It was clear to see the excitement on all of the children's faces as we pulled up behind a long line of tour buses. As usual, we were the centre of attention and everyone was interested to see what this collection and mix of children were doing on their day out. We didn't dilly-dally and headed straight into the museum.

The first stop was the animal exhibit, which featured extinct species and species that can still be seen today. It was interesting to see which animals we could identify without signs to assist the identification process.

From there on, small groups made their way into the spider house, just the thought of which made a few of the children quiver. Surprisingly, there were live tarantulas in some of the draws – one had obviously become so hungry that he had eaten his neighbour. "Euuuughhh!" exclaimed Fletcher.

Groups travelled up and down escalators looking for a room to meet their thirst for adventure.

Some of us stumbled on the robotics room, where you could compete for accuracy with a bow and arrow or try to play the piano as confidently as the robot music man.

As fascinating as these rooms were, they didn't compare to the array of kinaesthetic, visual and audio wonders on display in the Light of Exploration exhibition. Children rode a bike across a zip wire, ran through a psychedelic light tunnel, stumbled out of a gravity pit and moved electricity with their fingertips on magical orbs.

It was great to see all of the children enjoying themselves and learning at the same time. At the end of the day, they were full of smiles but wished they could have spent longer exploring in the museum.



## New PE activities to start Week beginning Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Class	Activity	Kit Needed
Reception A	Swimming	Swim kit
Reception B	Physical Development	PE kit
Reception C	Swimming	Swim kit
Year 1 B	Athletics	PE kit
Year 1 C	Gymnastics and Dance	PE kit
Year 1 D	Swimming	Swim kit
Year 2 A	Swimming	Swim kit
Year 2 B	Athletics	PE kit
Year 2 C	Dance	PE kit
Year 2 D	Swimming	Swim kit
Year 3 A	Striking and Fielding	PE kit
Year 3 B	Athletics	PE kit
Year 3 C	Gymnastics	PE kit
Year 4 A	Athletics	PE kit
Year 4 B	Athletics	PE kit
Year 5 A	Athletics	PE kit
Year 5B	Striking and Fielding	PE kit
Year 6A	Athletics	PE kit



## Year 1

Over the past few weeks, Year 1 has been taking care of and observing silkworms.

With the help of parents, some children have even been looking after our silkworms at home! We have watched as the tiny silkworms have eaten mulberry leaves and then spun cocoons. Some have even broken free of their cocoons and become moths. We have observed and written about their life cycle, which will begin again as soon as our moths have laid lots of eggs!

We have also continued our dinosaur theme and created some excellent pieces of art by using pasta to make a picture of our favourite dinosaur. In English, we have been working very hard at using comparative adjectives to describe different dinosaurs using the suffixes *-er* and *-est*. In Maths, we have been counting and sharing in 2s, 5s and 10. Everyone has been working very hard to understand these difficult concepts and enjoyed using different methods to work out number problems.



## Year 2

What a great week Year 2 has had. It was with much excitement that we headed off to the National History Museum. At times the children didn't know where to start looking as there was so much to see! The children saw a lot of skeletons and were able to compare the skeletons of different creatures. They also tried hard to name all the different joints of the skeletons they saw. The children also really enjoyed comparing their handprints to different primates and looking at how humans have evolved. Upon returning to school, the children recalled the information they had learnt and were adamant they would like to visit again.





# 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

ENTRANCE IS BY FREE TICKET ONLY, WHICH MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE BY CONTACTING [MARKETING@BRITANNICASHANGHAI.COM](mailto:MARKETING@BRITANNICASHANGHAI.COM) OR BY TELEPHONING

BRITANNICA'S MAIN RECEPTION ON 6402 7889

CURRENT BRITANNICA PARENTS DO NOT REQUIRE TICKETS TO ENTER



## Week in Pre-Nursery

We have continued to keep busy doing many activities around our new topic, Transport. This week, the children have especially enjoyed exploring different types of Trucks and their different purposes. The children have had a lot of fun using cars dipped in paint to paint different coloured tyre tracks onto paper. Many of the children were also very interested in Toby's idea to make an ice-cream shop. It was great to see the children's creativity and problem-solving abilities when they worked together and used different materials to make ice-creams to sell in their shop. We hope you enjoy looking at this week's photos of these and some of the other hands-on activities we have been doing.





## Week in Nursery

This week in Nursery, we have been using recyclable materials, which have been kindly brought to school, to create and paint our own models. Children have created bug houses and a variety of models using their imagination. This has been a talking point in class and given children the opportunity to develop their lan-

guage skills. They have been able to discuss what they are going to make and how they are going to build it.

We have also been keeping a close eye on our plants and have been watering them each day.

The wheat seeds are now beginning to grow! Each nursery class has

planted them in a different way, so we are monitoring which wheat seeds will grow the quickest!

Please note that Nursery P.E. sessions will change from next week. We are really pleased with how much progress the children are making and we hope you enjoy our photographs.





# Week in Nursery





## Week in Reception

This week, we have been looking at the different occupations of the people around us; from those in our family to the people in our community who help us on a daily basis. We looked at the people closer to home that help us with our everyday living, particularly in our school community. We talked about how thankful we should be

to people such as the school nurse, the DIY man, the chef, all the canteen staff and our aiyis. We have also been discussing the jobs that our parents do. Many of our parents go to work every day and we have talked about how wide and varied their occupations are. The main question of the week has been 'what do I want to be when I

grow up?' We have had some very imaginative answers from ice-cream maker to superhero, but no matter what the children decide, the teachers know that the boys and girls of Reception Class 2017 are sure to have a wonderful impact on the world!



Building a tower



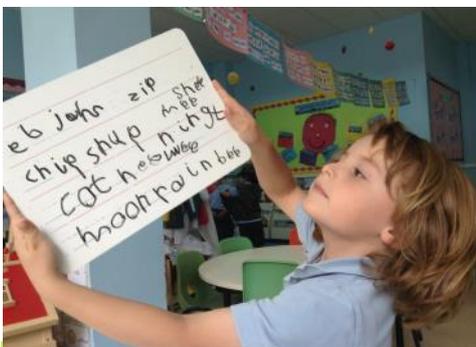
Completing a word search



In our Dragon Boat



Completing our 100 square



I'm so proud of my phonics!



Learning about the honey bee collecting nectar



Having fun and getting creative



Mending a broken arm



## Week in Reception



Making our Dragon Boat



Matching and ordering numbers



Lots of spelling



Practicing our addition



Ordering numbers in a team



Setting the clock



Reception B loves music



Reception's community helpers



The Reception medical team!



Time dominoes



We made our national flags



## 2016 –2017 SPRING TERM BRITANNICA SCHOOL CALENDAR



### May 2017

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



### June 2017

Thursday 1st June — Year 3 School Trip

Thursday 1st June — Presentation in Secondary Learning Centre on GL Assessments at 9:00am

Tuesday 6th June — Swim Gala KS1

Wednesday 7th June — Swim Gala KS2

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

Monday 12th June — Parent Class Link Meeting

Wednesday 14th June — Teacher Appreciation Day

Tuesday 20th June — Summer Term ASAs finish

Friday 23rd June — Summer Fair 11:00am to 2:00pm

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



**ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

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