



# BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

# NEWSLETTER

9th March 2018  
Week 24

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,**

This week we received feedback from the Council of International Schools (CIS) on our Part 1 submission, which is the result of the first stage of the self-study part of the accreditation process. We were very pleased to read their positive responses. We now look forward to the next stage of the process and eventually the final team visit to the school in October 2018, which will hopefully secure our full accreditation. We remain very conscious of the youth of our school and how unusual it is for such a young school to receive accreditation. We are proud of the fact that CIS consider us to be sufficiently developed and of high enough quality to secure such an important accolade.

I am currently analysing the parent responses to the recent Orbital survey and am putting together the school's response to those. Most areas suggested by parents for further improvement have already been identified on our school development plan for this year, so I remain confident that parents and the school are of the same mind in identifying areas for further school improvement and also in regard to what are our current school strengths. We will communicate to parents our response to the survey before the end of the term.

This week we worked up to our annual celebration of Mother Language on Wednesday. We were overwhelmed with the contributions and participation by so many parents representing the diverse mother languages that are spoken among our school community. There was real value in the experiences our students gained in attending and participating in the activities that parents organised. How wonderful it is being part of such a globally diverse school community and how much we all benefit from that! Thank you to every parent that contributed to make this such a special celebratory day.

Next week a variety of activities take place, many centralised around our Book Week. We are very excited about what we have planned!!

Meanwhile, do enjoy this week's news and photos.



## Week in Pre-Nursery

A wonderful week of experience, exploration, and investigation!

This month we celebrated Iris's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday! Happy Birthday, Iris!

Pre-Nursery planted and observed their bean seeds sprout and discussed and understood the need for water and sunlight to support life and growth. Children developed a deeper understanding of our world, talking about plants and rain and observed a natural change in the environment brought on by wet and dry conditions.

Children were excited to share their understanding of rain during mark making activities, in dance, creative music and art. Some patted out the sounds of light raindrops on drums, others used droppers and bits of paper or paint to create rain images and others danced their way through a song, creatively and confidently wiggling fingers to the pattern and rhythm of the rain.

Children enjoyed a wonderfully illustrated picture book this week by David Shannon, 'The Rain Came Down'. We sang and danced to a class favourite song by Dream Kid English, 'The Sun Came up'. Sing it at home for some musical fun!

On Wednesday, children experienced a cultural carnival as part of Mother Language Day and delighted in the cultural arts, food and display. Children were excited and very much enjoyed their participation in this busy and colourful event, waving flags and collecting cultural goodies from all over the globe. Thank you to all parents who supported the event with a special thank you to our Pre-Nursery families for their stands from Italy and United Arab Emirates.





## Week in Nursery

Nursery have been busy making hand print spiders this week to compliment our rhyme 'Incy Wincy Spider'. The children have learnt the rhyme and have even had a try at sequencing it. We have talked about what spiders look like, what they like to eat and how they make their webs. We have some cut out spiders with missing legs in the classroom so the children have been counting out legs for the spiders, whilst exploring numbers 1 to 10.

During our topic of Rhyme we are going to be encouraging the children to sing and join in with the actions; this is a fun and easy way for children to build their language skills. In Phonics we have been concentrating on Rhyming and have even thought of nonsense words that rhyme with our name, for example, Miss Dani Lani or Miss Amy Wamy. Can your child tell you what theirs is? Have a try at home too!





## Week in Nursery





## Week in Reception

The children met some amazing book characters this week as we continued to delve into the fantastical worlds created by the author Julia Donaldson. Reception B met a mean and greedy highway rat, Reception A read about a rather versatile stickman and Reception C discovered the joy of sharing thanks to a hermit crab. On Wednesday, we all enjoyed visiting the various stalls for Mother Language Day and we wish to thank the parents who gave us the opportunity to take part in such fun and interesting activities.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the week was the Reception field trip to the Natural History Museum. The children found themselves surrounded by giant dinosaur bones, they saw animals from the various habitats of the world and they even saw a real-life palaeontologist at work! The trip was rounded up by a picnic and Storytime amid the fossils and bones and each and every child was exceptionally well-behaved. Well done Reception!!





## Week in Reception





## Key Stage 1 – Reading Race

As many of you know, the Reading Race has seen the green flag and is well under way now. Students from Year 1 and 2 have been asked to read up to a maximum of 20 minutes each day. These times then accumulate with their peers' and are added to the total for their class. The class car then zooms around the 1,000 minute track and we have all been keeping a close eye on how other classes are doing. We have one more week of reading to go until we see who the overall winners are! Keep up the good work everyone and keep reading!



### Year 1

The Magic Bean Experiment

This week in Year 1 we continued learning about our topic Mystical Lands and Creatures with a focus on Jack and the Beanstalk. Growing a plant from a seed is a great way for children to learn about the conditions plants need to grow successfully. Beans were an obvious choice as they are a nice big seed, grow relatively quickly and are related to the week's choice of literature!

The students planted their magic beans and will watch them grow over the next few weeks! We are very excited to watch them grow, measure them with nonstandard objects (string, cubes, etc.) and describe their growth over several weeks on our 'Magic Bean Experiment Posters'. The students will learn to mark each day on a calendar and record observations.

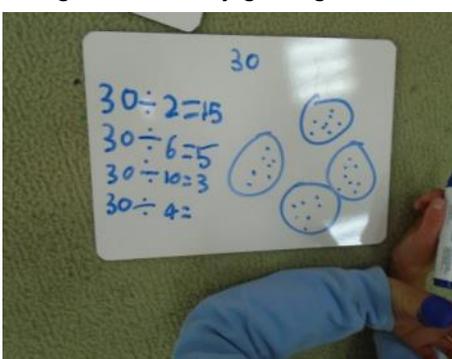
This activity certainly covers numerous content area connections and skill development opportunities.



### Year 2

Year 2 has been a busy group this week; we have been reinforcing our knowledge of division! We have spent time looking at how many ways we can group whole numbers. For example, did you know that you could group the number 20 in 5 different ways! We have also been working on answering a variety of different division questions and looking at the different ways that we can answer them.

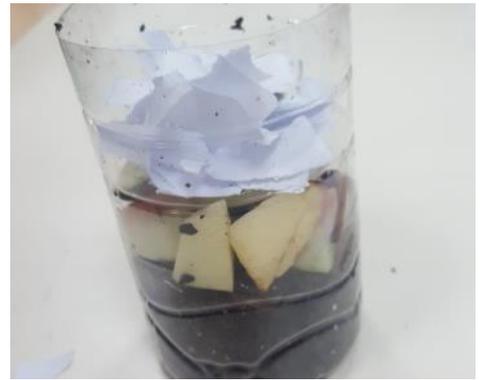
In English, we have been working hard to get our non-fiction books ready. We have used our research and editing skills on the computers to produce parts of our book and are excited to share these at the end of Book Week. Year 2 have also been focusing on adding a contents page, a glossary, and an index! Things are certainly getting more complex!





## Year 3

We have had a very mysterious and busy time in Year 3 this last week! With suspicious envelopes, creepy photos, strange memory sticks, crimes scenes and lots of investigative work. Children worked as a team to solve the mystery. They wrote stories, newspaper reports, interview questions and recorded evidence and clues! In Maths, we looked at measuring lengths using rulers to investigate the hand span and foot lengths of possible suspects for the crime. Finally, on Wednesday, Year 3 received one more strange envelope, it was a confession letter! The mystery was solved and the children were very relieved indeed! Taking a step away from the investigation, our science work on 'Rocks' continued as we built individual wormeries; with rocks, soil, worms, old fruit and paper inside a recycled bottle to create our own compost heaps. What a busy week!



## Year 4

It has been a very busy week in Year 4. Children have been getting in the spirit of Book Week, and have helped to create the classroom displays for next week! All children have had a part to play, from generating ideas, designing and sketching, colouring and cutting. It has been a real team effort from everyone! Everyone is now really excited for the various fun activities planned for next week. Furthermore, children have really engaged with their readathon challenge, and many children have already clocked impressive tallies for pages read and time spent reading! Keep up the good work for next week! In Maths, children have solved various problems involving money and started our new focus, fractions.





## Year 5

Year 5 are continuing their science unit of Materials. In small groups, they were responsible for designing their own experiments using their scientific knowledge to test the properties of a range of materials. They were able to test properties such as flexibility, permeability, absorbency, transparency, and magnetism. The children demonstrated some impressive scientific thinking by creating fair tests, then observing and recording their findings. 'I was working with Jacky and Mr Burnhill. We learnt about absorbency and it was very fun!' Matthew. 'We learnt a lot about the different properties of materials and had fun making our own investigations.' Sylvie.



## Year 6

Year 6 are continuing their unit on discussion texts. They have explored such diverse subject material as 'Should schools be on open Saturdays?', 'Does school uniform make everyone equal?' and 'Should the strange spelling of words such as *know* be changed?'. Now they are writing their own discussion texts based on a topic of their own choosing. In Science, children are continuing their unit on 'Human Body Systems' by investigating the effect exercise has on our respiratory and cardio-vascular systems. They were able to work in pairs to test their pulse at rest and then after a series of high-intensity workouts. Who knew learning could be so tiring?!





## Secondary Pupil Profile

Hi, my name is O-Ching. I have been in Britannica for three years and I have enjoyed each year being here. In school, I have joined many sport teams such as the Basketball team, Ultimate Frisbee team, Swim squad and the Badminton team. I have joined these sports so I can be more athletic when it comes to games. I don't have a favourite class because I like all my classes.

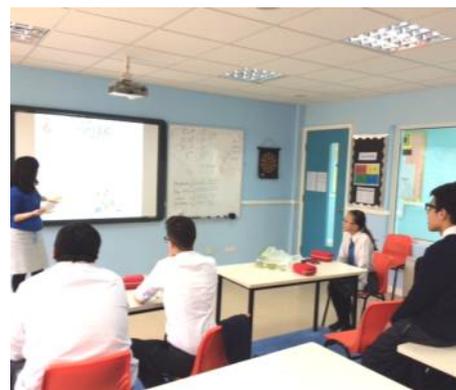
In my spare time around school, I like to go to the practice rooms to play any instruments I can get my hands on like the guitar, ukulele, piano and the drum kit. Other times I just compose songs and write lyrics for fun. I have three friends named Jerry, Seven and Leon who are in my band called Shadows. We have been performing songs in different performances around the school and we have enjoyed every song we have done. Some are composed and some are originals.

O-Ching , Year 9



## The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award

It was more planning and preparation for our Duke of Edinburgh students this week as they took a crash course in First Aid from Ms Wellna our resident nurse. Students learnt what to do in case of certain injuries; they looked at burns, cuts, fractures, breaks and lots more. They also got a chance to get hands-on work as they practiced how to put on bandages and clean wounds. Next week, students will continue their preparation as they learn how to cook outside.



## Year 7, 8 and 9 PE

Over the last weeks, Key Stage 3 boys have been taking part in one of the most traditional British sports; Cricket. One of the main learning objectives has been to perform an accurate overarm bowl. This was a new and unusual movement for students but many of the boys who improved their coordination and became successful cricket bowlers.

Alongside the bowling, students have also been working on their batting skills. Students gained knowledge about the rules in order to play games and take on different roles on the field.

Next week, students will face their final lesson of this activity block and will take part in a summative assessment where they will be assessed on their physical performances and progress as well as involvement and dedication throughout our recent PE lessons. Good luck boys!



## Chinese New Year Photographs

We'd like to make you aware that photographs from Britannica's amazing Chinese New Year celebrations can be downloaded via the following link:

<https://pan.baidu.com/s/1yua2LDUGDtByfITV2Hvu4A>



## International Mother Language Day – Linguistic Diversity - Year 8

International Mother Language Day is observed every year by member states of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It started in 1999 with the purpose of promoting linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. It also aims at protecting the hundreds of languages around the world that are in danger of dying out. UNESCO stated that "by deciding to celebrate mother tongues...member states wished to recall that languages are not only an essential part of humanity's cultural heritage, but the irreducible expression of human creativity and of its great diversity." IMLD celebrates the fact that 6,000 languages are spoken around the world today. Each year has had a special theme. This year the theme was 'Linguistic Diversity'.

Year 8s at Britannica studied a mini- topic in World Languages lessons on the importance of linguistic diversity and the importance of our Mother Language which culminated in them presenting their research and findings at the Secondary Assembly on March 5<sup>th</sup>, to coincide with our Mother Language Day Celebrations on Wednesday this week. There were three elements – what is UNESCO and Linguistic diversity? What do we do here, curriculum-wise & what do we do here in an extracurricular way, to support our students' Mother Language?

When asked afterward by their teacher what they learnt as a result of studying the topic and doing the assembly, their answers included:

"I learnt about UNESCO" "I learnt what language diversity meant", "I learnt why we celebrate Mother Language Day, and the reasons we should keep our Mother Languages alive" "I learnt that speaking your home language helps keep it alive" and "I learnt the many things we can do, and do do at Britannica to keep our Mother Languages alive, such as having many native language lessons here and celebrating days such as International Mother Language Day"

All students were pleased with the assembly they gave, some saying "it made me happy that I could talk on stage, after all the effort we put in" and "doing the assembly improved my speaking skills, because presenting on this mini-topic made me feel less nervous". Well done Year 8!

Mrs. McGregor

### What can we do to preserve our Mother Language?

There are many ways we can preserve our language. It is one of the reasons why , here we celebrate Mother Language Day. It is one of the most fun ways to keep our culture and language alive!



### Early Years

Native French and native Japanese children can have lessons with a native teacher, they have lessons about fairy-tales and folklore and they get to speak their own native language.



### Years 1 to 6

In Primary, Years 1 to 6 can study native French, Hebrew, Japanese, or Italian for 2 lessons a week



אבגדהווחטי  
כךלמסננסע  
פףצקקרת

IMLD activities will be in the indoor playground. Wednesday on lesson 9, the Secondary students have to go to there. After 20 minutes, the students will be helping parents to tidy up.

12:00-12:20	Nursery to go to event for 10 minutes after their lunch
12:20-13:00	Reception and Year 1
13:00-13:40	Year 2 and 3
13:40-14:20	Year 4-6
14:20-14:40	Secondary
14:40-15:00	Tidy up stalls, secondary students to help



## Britannica International Mother Language Day

This week, Britannica celebrated Mother Language Day, a day to celebrate and recognise the many different languages we have within our school and to further develop the students understanding of these cultures.

We were extremely lucky to have over 60 hard working parents participate in the preparation and delivery of this day This parent-led event featured activities from Korea, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates, Italy, America and China!

All the students from pre-nursery through to Secondary were able to join. This included participating in different games from different countries, looking at, and trying on traditional clothing, painting and design activities, calligraphy writing, and of course, eating different foods from around the world.

From the beginning of the event to the end there was an atmosphere of excitement and fun as the children went from Country to Country enjoying all the activities on offer and collecting small prizes and gifts in their bags.

Britannica International School, Shanghai would like to thank parents for their involvement in this week's Mother Language Day, as without their enthusiasm and hard work the event would not have been as big of a success as it was! We are extremely grateful for all their effort and we are delighted to take time to recognise and celebrate everyone within our multicultural community.

The pictures from the Italian photo booth can be downloaded from the link below:

<https://pan.baidu.com/s/1i5U5BO5>





## Britannica International Mother Language Day





## Britannica International Mother Language Day



## Congratulations to Conrad!

All at Britannica send their congratulations to Conrad, who received an A Grade in his A-Level English Literature examination. We are extremely pleased to see the results of such hard work and dedication within our Sixth Form by a pupil and his teachers. WELL DONE, CONRAD!



Find out what is happening at schools worldwide within the Orbital Education Group.

## Welcome to British School Quito in Ecuador, South America.



Last week all the students, staff and families at BSQ celebrated Digital Learning Day. The event has been taking place in North America since 2012 but this is the first time BSQ has joined in.

As you can see, there were very few places in South America getting involved but there we are on the map in Ecuador!

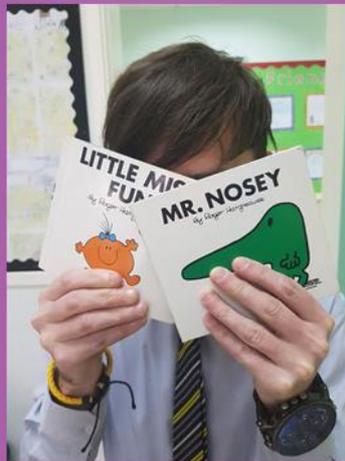
The theme was *What BSQ Means To Me* and the photos tell a really clear story. We collected all the pictures from our community on Instagram and are now going to turn them into a huge collage that represents what BSQ means to us all. The collage will then be displayed as the first of many DLD collaborations moving forward into the future.



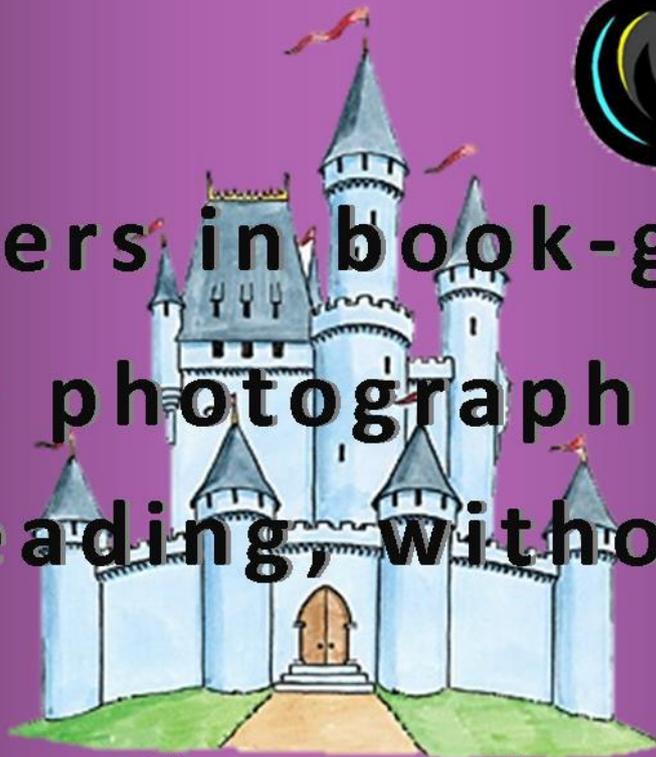
BRITANNICA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL,

# Book Week 2018

## Photography Competition



**Readers in book-guise!**  
**Take a photograph of you**  
**reading, without**



email your entries to

[bookweek@britannicashanghai.com](mailto:bookweek@britannicashanghai.com)



## 2017 – 2018 SPRING TERM BRITANNICA SCHOOL CALENDAR



### March 2018

Monday, 12th March—Friday, 16th March —Book Week

★ Wednesday, 14th March 2:00pm – Year 1 Parent Mathematics Workshop @2:00pm

★ Friday, 16th March — 8:30am Book Week Fancy Dress Parade

★ Friday, 16th March — 9:20am EYFS/KS1 Book Week Assembly

★ Friday, 16th March — 11:00am KS2/Secondary Book Week Assembly

Friday, 16th March - Year 9-11 Theatre trip in evening

★ Wednesday, 21st March —Britannica Spring Instrumental Concert

Friday, 23rd March – Last day of After School Activities

Monday, 26th March — Friday 30th March – Expedition Week for Years 4 to 10

Tuesday, 27th March – Year 2 Trip to Textiles Museum

Tuesday, 27th March — EYFS Open Day for prospective parents (9:15-12 noon)

Wednesday, 28th March—Year 1 Trip to Shanghai Botanical Gardens and Year 3 Trip to Jump360

★ Thursday, 29th March — EYFS Spring Tea Party (all EYFS parents welcome)

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



★ Parent Event    All School    EYFS    Primary    Secondary    School Holiday    Other

**ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

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