



BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

NEWSLETTER

10th November 2017
Week 12

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,

Orbital's mission and vision for all of its schools has pupil happiness and safety at its heart above all other aspects of provision. I am quite sure we would all agree with this fundamental value. In a world that seems to be increasingly marred by human conflict, ethnic division and fundamentalist views it is even more important that schools educate their students to become the tolerant, supportive, empathetic and humanitarian global citizens that the 21st century clearly needs. Too often we see or hear accounts of bullying and victimisation of individuals and groups of people taking place, both within our own local community and wider afield. Taking a stance against all aspects of bullying is something that we as a school strongly believe in. This week, many activities in school have revolved around raising awareness of bullying and coming together as a school to make a stand against it. In so doing, we hope that our students will be encouraged to grow up as the next decades peace makers and help make our world a happier, safer and better place in which to live.

We hope all our readers enjoy reading about the week's other news and seeing if they can spot their child's face among our many pictures.



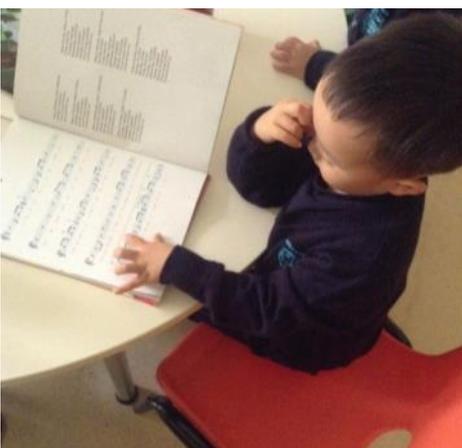
Week in Pre-Nursery

Pre-Nursery children are now very comfortable, confident and secure in their learning environment and with our team of educators. It is now that we are fortunate to witness spontaneous learning occurring through children's exploration, natural curiosity, and imagination.

This week one of our children opened a page in a book and happily began singing. To my surprise, he had demonstrated an understanding and connection between sheet music and song. This exciting discovery prompted a focus on instrumental music classes this week where we experimented with sound, regulating rhythm, identifying patterns and practicing our math as we counted out beats.

Pictured below in the arms of one of our little learners is our new class pet, Biscuit. Biscuit has a home, food bowl, and leash in the classroom. As a class we are learning to care for Biscuit, ensuring he is fed, warm at nap time, is walked and nurtured. Biscuit also acts as a token reward in class for good behaviour, good manners, sitting and listening at carpet time and use of our focus English words. As we continue with our thematic topic, "My School", Biscuit is helping us to educate our children about the use of gentle hands, friendly behaviour and use of language to defend personal space.

Our children threw themselves into art projects this week. They were inspired by the sites and scenes of Pumpkin Palooza and we extended on this excitement by creating spiders and a class snake now on display. In support of Anti-Bullying Week, children got busy and messy with blue, contributing to our school blue banner of support.





Week in Nursery

For our final week of the half term, we have been exploring the autumnal changes that we see in our world. We have been continuing to mix autumn colours to create the autumn scenes that you can see on display in our classrooms. We have spoken about the changes that are taking place in the weather and have talked about how we now need to dress appropriately for winter.

This week, we have also had a focus on using kind hands and words in Nursery, to support an Anti-Bullying Week. We have talked about the importance of being kind and what to do if somebody is not kind to us-i.e. tell a grown up. Thank you to those parents who raised awareness by purchasing a blue wristband.

Our topic next half term is "People that help us". Parents will have received a letter this week about our Nursery Trip on 15th December to EDay Town. This trip will support our topic by enabling the children to explore different occupations and ways of life through play, which we believe will be very enriching. Please return your reply slips to your class Teacher by 22nd November.

We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable November holiday. We can't wait to hear what you got up to!

The Nursery Team





Week in Nursery





Week in Reception

What a fun-filled fantastic week we have had in Reception. We all learned the value of friendship, how important it is to be a good friend and all the boys and girls looked beautiful in their blue outfits to support Britannica's Anti-Bullying message. Each class produced a giant poster which we will proudly display in our classrooms to promote our special message of friendship.

On Thursday our budding bakers whipped up a yummy batch of queen cakes and enjoyed eating them with lots of icing and sprinkles on top, of course! The children did a giant writing dance in the corridor and produced a lovely canvas which showcases the great progress they are making with their penmanship. It was lovely to welcome parents to our Open Morning on Wednesday and the boys and girls really enjoyed being able to show their Mums and Dads all the great work they are doing.

We wish all the children and their families a lovely holiday and look forward to seeing everyone back in class on Monday, 20th November.

The Reception Team





Week in Reception





Year 2

The children in Year 2 have had a successful week investigating how seeds grow. They were able to record their predictions and findings with the help of Discovery Dog! Within this experiment, we investigated several different questions about what a seed needs to grow. Discovery Dog showed Year 2 pupils how to plan an experiment and what kind of questions that they need to answer.

In another short investigation, pupils were given two items, food colouring, and celery. They then had to figure out an experiment that we could do. After many ideas and suggestions, we eventually settled on putting the celery in coloured water and waited to see what happened. Pupils were then able to visually see that water travels through the stem and into the leaves. Who knew you could have red, green and even blue celery! There are some budding scientists in the making, if the celery is good enough!



Key Stage 1 – Art!

In Year 1, students have recently been learning about different geometric shapes, as well as naming lots of them, we have been cutting templates of shapes and making figures. With paper, they have collaged different coloured shapes together to form patterns which resemble body shapes and form.





Key Stage 1 – Art!



In Year 2, students have looked at letter shapes in the spelling of their names. Each shape and overlapping letter creates a new irregular shape. Students have learned about controlling their shading and filled out these shapes using flat, bold colours. Keeping with the theme of overlapping shapes and patterns, students have used a range of geometric shapes to create abstract patterns and use of tones and colour.





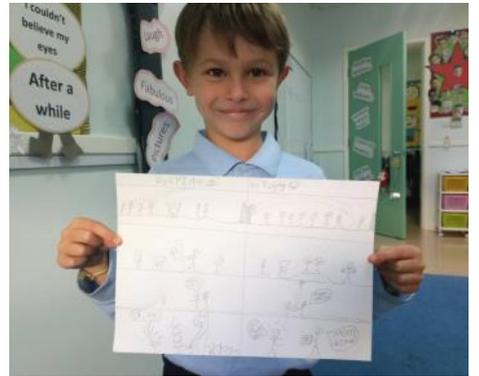
Year 3

In Year 3 this week we have been busy finishing off our Roald Dahl topic by writing our own stories inspired by "James and the Giant Peach". We have planned, written and edited our stories and we cannot wait for you to read them too. In Maths, we have been continuing to learn about shape by looking at different types of angles and lines. In Topic we have finished painting our peaches, and are now adding the finishing touches like leaves and a stem. We have loved getting involved with all the fantastic Anti-Bullying activities over the week. We made some cool blue bunting and eye-catching Anti-Bullying posters. What an excellent way to finish this half-term! We look forward to seeing all our parents after the holiday on Friday, 24th November for our Thanksgiving Celebration morning.



Year 4

This week has been incredibly busy in Year 4. We have continued our hard work in Maths, focusing on measures and mental maths skills. We have all been working hard on learning our time's tables and division facts whilst helping each other during our morning quick-fire recall tests. We are impressed by the amount of knowledge children are retaining from their new found Maths skills and everyone should feel very proud of themselves. During this week, we have completed many tasks related directly to Anti-Bullying Week. Exciting posters and poems are just some of the highlights that will be used for display along with our exciting and inviting corridor.





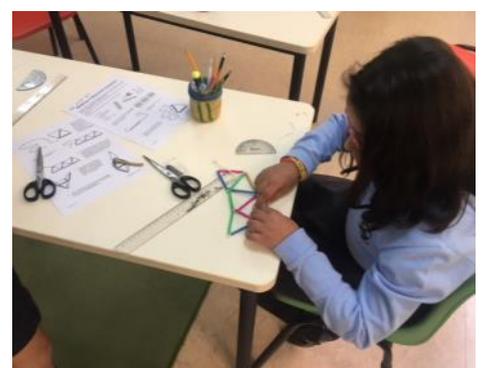
Year 5

Year 5 have had another incredibly busy week. In Maths, we have put to use our knowledge to solve problems, and also begun to use a Maths website called www.imymaths.com where we can test how well we understand what we have learnt. As part of Anti-Bullying Week, we have also been thinking carefully about the effects that bullying can have on others and how it is important to stand up for other people. We watched a short video clip of a boy with one wing, and have chosen what form of writing to retell it; either in the form of a diary entry, letter or story.



Year 6

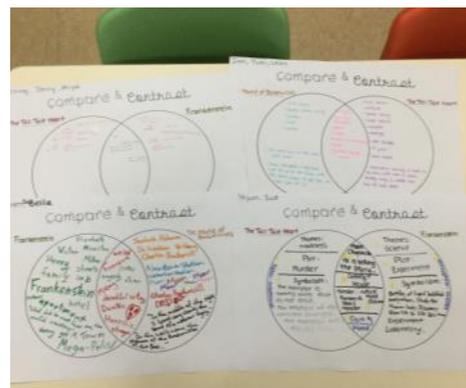
Year 6 have thrown themselves enthusiastically into Anti-Bullying Week and have produced some powerful posters to show their stance on this important issue. The classes focussed on fostering a positive and supportive atmosphere by completing activities that boosted self-esteem. It was a surprise for many of the children to discover just how highly others think of them. In their English Instructions unit, we are learning about imperative verbs in order to write a sequence of instructional steps. We analysed different types of instructional texts and annotated their features. Then we made spooky Jack 'o' Lanterns and produced individual instructions so that other children could recreate them. In addition, we linked this to the work of Leonardo da Vinci and his keen interest in geometry, and made "Himmeli Sculptures". For the finale, we will be writing the instructions to sculpt our very own clay horses.





Year 9 English

For the past few weeks, Year 9 students have been examining the genre of Gothic Literature. We started our Gothic Literature study with *The "Tell-Tale Heart"* by Edgar Allan Poe. The students were able to use their knowledge of Gothic conventions to write a second part to Poe's haunting story. Next, the students learned about the sub-genre of science in Gothic literature when they explored *"Frankenstein"* and completed an author-study on Mary Shelley. Currently, Year 9 students have been considering setting as a Gothic convention in *The Hound of Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Year 9 will be finishing our Gothic Literature study by comparing and contrasting the conventions found in the three texts



Student Profile

My name is Damien and I am currently in Year 11. I am looking forward to taking my IGCSE's in May. I have been at Britannica since I was in Year 8 and it has been a fun journey.

Playing football is what I enjoy most and I dream of making my debut for Manchester United someday.

This term has been very fun because of the number of events that have happened around the school. Pumpkin Palooza was the one I enjoyed most because of the various activities you could play and the different food vendors that you could go to. During House Sports week, I participated in lots of different activities; my favourite day was when we played ultimate Frisbee. I am now looking forward to seeing what will happen next term.



Damien Ong – Year 11



Anti-Bullying Week

A big well done to all students who participated in our Anti-Bullying Week activities! Students have enjoyed getting their hands blue and sticky creating "Triangles of Inspiration" and Anti-Bullying Posters. There has been a buzz in the air with all staff and children buying and selling their Anti-Bullying Wristbands. Our mission at Britannica this week was to promote a sense of self-worth, belonging and well-being. We believe that all members of our community have the right to learn and work in a safe, supportive, caring, positive and inclusive environment. We also wanted to continue promoting the value of diversity and to address issues of prejudice and stereotyping. Our stand against bullying, here at Britannica this week, will be practiced and reinforced to show our commitment to anti-bullying. Finally, a big thank you to EVERYBODY for supporting this valuable campaign! **Miss Wilcox**





Saturday School

Saturday school is closing its doors for the next two weeks for the upcoming holiday. We have had a great first session where our students have shown some excellent progress in both their English skills and their teamwork skills.

Our Key Stage One students have been focusing on their phonics and reading skills, I have noted some excellent progress and look forward to seeing more when we come back. Our students recently have been creating short pieces of writing about friendship and what it means to them.

Our Key Stage 2 students have been focusing on writing persuasively and writing book reviews. This group has grown in both confidence and ability and last week's letter writing task showed some excellent writing skills being shown.

Please enjoy a restful week off and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to Saturday school on November 25th.

Mr Donald

Changning District Tournament

This past week saw the first tournament action for our Secondary boys' basketball team. On Sunday, we travelled to Tianshan Middle School to compete in the Inaugural Changning District Foreigners Basketball Tournament. Competing in this tournament gave us the opportunity to test ourselves against some of the best basketball teams from around Shanghai. Our players worked very hard in every game of the tournament and with each game, we became better and better as a team. Many valuable lessons were learned and our students are fired up to improve and work hard to get better in training. It was a great opportunity to create some special memories and I'm sure some students made some memories that will last a lifetime! A particular highlight was Leon Hong (Y9) throwing up a three-point shot from way beyond the line and swishing it in right at the end of the first game! In the end, we finished third place in the tournament, but the experience gained from playing against some of the tops teams in Shanghai was invaluable to our player's development. I look forward to growing together as a team with this group of players and look forward to many successes in the future. Go Knights!



January Extracurricular Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:15-8:00		Beginners Swimming	Swim Team	Beginners Swimming	Swim Team
13:00-13:50					Netball Team
15:00-14:00			Football Team		
16:00-17:00	Ultimate Frisbee (Weather Permitting)	Badminton Team		Basketball Team	Elite Tennis Team (Outside Provider)



Music Department

There are still many ongoing projects in the music department this term. This week, we finalised the special assembly with students who just missed out on the finals for Britannica's Got Talent. There were eight students in Primary who performed at this special assembly on Friday during Period 9. What a great way to start our holidays for next week!

PRODUCTION HONK!

We have already had quite a few audition sheets back this past week, but please, if you haven't handed it in, you still can on the first Monday back. If you missed out on the form then you can pick one up at school from Miss Miia in the office as well as the link to the recordings. You must remember to bring in a USB to load on the songs! Auditions will begin in the first week back after the holiday. If you are keen and thought that you don't want a lead role, you still need to come along to an audition and fill in a form.



WINTER CONCERTS

We will be having our annual Christmas Concerts in the second last week of school December 11th – 14th. EFS will be on Monday, 11th during the day from 10.30 till about 11am, KS1 will be on Wednesday after school from about 3.30pm, KS2 will be on Tuesday Night from about 6 – 7 pm (exact time to be advised) and KS3/4 will be on Thursday Night also at about 6 – 7 pm (exact time to be advised). We are looking to have some surprise guests perform for you in our KS3/4 concert, but you will need to come along and find out what it is!!

All parents, friends, and students are welcome to all the performances. I can guarantee that they are going to be full of fun and exciting. Every year group will be presenting a performance along with the ASA clubs – Drumline, Marimba Club, Rock band, Britannica Voices 1 and 2, Britannica Orchestra and some new songs from the bands "BEATS 4" and "The Shadows". Keep an eye out for the next edition of the Newsletter for an outline of the different guest appearances from ASA's to special guests!



Carols at the Fairmont

On December 1st from 7 – 7.30pm, Britannica Voices 1 has been invited to sing at the lighting of the Christmas tree at the Fairmont Hotel. Parents and friends are welcome to come and we look forward to this special event! More details to follow in the next newsletter

Estelle Owens

Director of Expressive Arts



2017 – 2018 AUTUMN TERM BRITANNICA SCHOOL CALENDAR



November 2017

Monday, 13th November—Friday, 17th November Mid-term Break

★ Wednesday, 22nd November—English/EAL Parent Showcase Event



December 2017

Friday, 1st December—Open Day for Prospective KS1 Parents

Saturday, 2nd December—Open Day for Prospective KS1 Parents

Tuesday, 5th December—Geography Trip to the Shanghai Urban Planning Hall

(Year 9 and Year 10 students)

Wednesday, 6th December – Year 1 Trip to Children’s Museum

★ Thursday, 7th December - Year 5 Open Morning for current parents

Friday, 8th December – Year 2 Zotter Chocolate Factory Trip

★ Friday, 8th December – Year 1 Parent Activity Morning

★ Monday, 11th December—Friday, 15th December—Winter Concert Week

Friday, 15th December — Nursery Trip to EDay Town

Wednesday, 20th December— Reports Sent Home

Friday, 22nd December— Last Day of School (school closes at 12 o’clock)



ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

★ Parent Event All School EYFS Primary Secondary School Holiday Other

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