



# BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

# NEWSLETTER

1st December 2017  
Week 14

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 have enjoyed a visit from our CEO, Mr David Pottinger, who has taken the opportunity to meet with key staff in the school and myself to discuss school development and our focus for the rest of this year and next. David has also had the chance to see the students working in the classroom and our excellent teachers in action. Each time we receive a visit from our school board we are bigger, busier and there is more to see and talk about. I am always so proud to show our board members round Britannica. I was equally proud this Friday, when I toured a number of prospective parents during our KS1 Open Morning; polite pupils kept stopping to welcome our visitors and say good morning to them and I. They were a credit to the school. Our confidence in our pupils' behaviour, manners, attitude and commitment across all walks of school life is high.

All students are busily rehearsing for the Winter Music Concerts, while many have also been representing the school in recent sporting fixtures. There is currently a very impressive glass trophy waiting on my desk, for me to award to our basketball players on Monday in their Secondary Assembly and we will recall from last week the huge success our footballers are having playing other top schools in the city. Meanwhile, we have interschool Mandarin, poetry and creative writing competitions taking place that are all encouraging pupils to push themselves hard and demonstrate their full academic potential.

Teaching staff are currently writing end of term reports and we are looking forward to reporting the good progress that your children have made over the course of the term. These reports are due to you on Wednesday, 20th December. Communications sent out to parents this week have included information regarding the last few trips of the term and the final dates and times of the winter concerts, so that parents can book their seats. For those who wish to get in the festive spirit, we welcome you to view the four House Christmas Trees, with their accumulating collection of recycled ornaments made by the students at home. There are some stunning ones!

Enjoy the rest of this week's news.



## Week in Pre-Nursery

We made a number of treks to the school theatre this week in Pre-Nursery as we prepare for our upcoming Winter concert. Moving children to new areas of the school and holding class in a new environment is a new experience for children and some can find these transitions challenging. With patience, care and well thought out plans, these regular exercises help children to develop their confidence and sense of independence.

As part of our learning topic, "My Family", we explored areas of the home and introduced new vocabulary to children. We investigated heart shapes through art and talked about feelings of love associated with family members and friends.

Children had much fun modelling the interior of a home with Miss Rachael and talked about the activities that take place as a family in areas of the home such as cooking in the kitchen, watching television in the lounge and showering in the bathroom.

We continued reading about the journeys of our friend Biscuit, children relating to Biscuit's bedtime routine at home and sharing cuddles and kisses with mum and dad before being tucked in. Children found joy in our new "hide and seek" sensory play area, seeking out friends and hiding from others.





## Week in Nursery

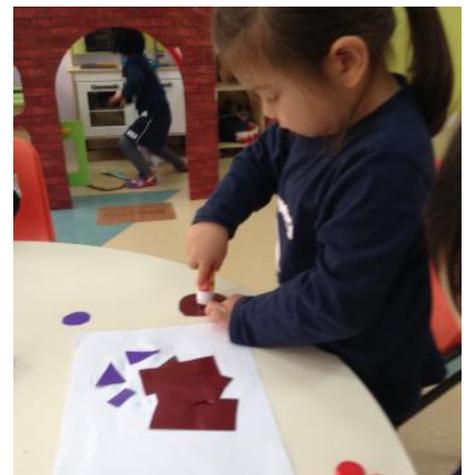
120 Emergency, Emergency! Last week Nursery were visited by local Police Officers who brought their Police vehicle with them. The children were able to see the equipment they use and some children volunteered to wear the Police vest and hold the heavy baton! We heard the very loud siren and saw the flashing blue and red lights which was very exciting. The Police Officers explained what to do when we are lost and how we stay safe on the roads.

This week, we have had a visit from our resident nurse, Wellna. The children shared their experiences of going to hospital and talked about a time when they have needed a plaster or injection. We have been learning the rhyme "Miss Polly had a dolly" to aid our learning and some children have had a try at sequencing the rhyme! Perhaps your child will sing the rhyme to you at home.

In Mathematics we have been concentrating on shape and making shape arrangements. Can you spot any shapes on your way to School?

Here are some photographs of our busy week in Nursery!

The Nursery Team





## Week in Nursery





## Week in Reception

Reception have been flying all over Europe this week visiting different European countries. They have been looking at the wonderful cities that are in Europe, such as London, Paris and Rome. We have looked at food, architecture and dancing from all the places we have visited. In France, we followed instructions on how to make a sandwich using delicious bread. In England, we looked at famous buildings and, in Spain, we tried flamenco dancing. Reception have even used their mathematical topic on 3D shapes to try to build the Eiffel Tower and Big Ben.





## Week in Reception





## Year 1

Year 1 have continued to be enthralled by their topic of Great Explorers and have been learning about Captain Robert Scott and Amundsen and their "Race to the Pole". The children learnt about the different types of equipment that was used on this epic journey and compared the materials that their clothes were made of to modern clothing. This then led Year 1 to begin their very exciting investigation into what would make the best material for an Arctic glove. Watch this space to find out!

The children also began story mapping to develop their grammar and comprehension skills through the true story of "Tom Crean's Rabbit". We worked together to sequence the key events of this wonderful and touching story about a mother rabbit aboard Scott's ship.

In Mathematics, the children looked at ordinal numbers and consolidated their learning by playing the iceberg game by putting themselves in order. Have a look and see if you can work out who came 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>..... all the way to 18<sup>th</sup>!

Hello! Take a look at these items of clothing and decide if they are:

Waterproof

Warm

Protective

Which item would you take on a trip to the South Pole?





## Year 2

This week, Year 2 have welcomed some new, but familiar faces into their classrooms. It is easy to say that everyone is getting on well and are still working as equally as hard!

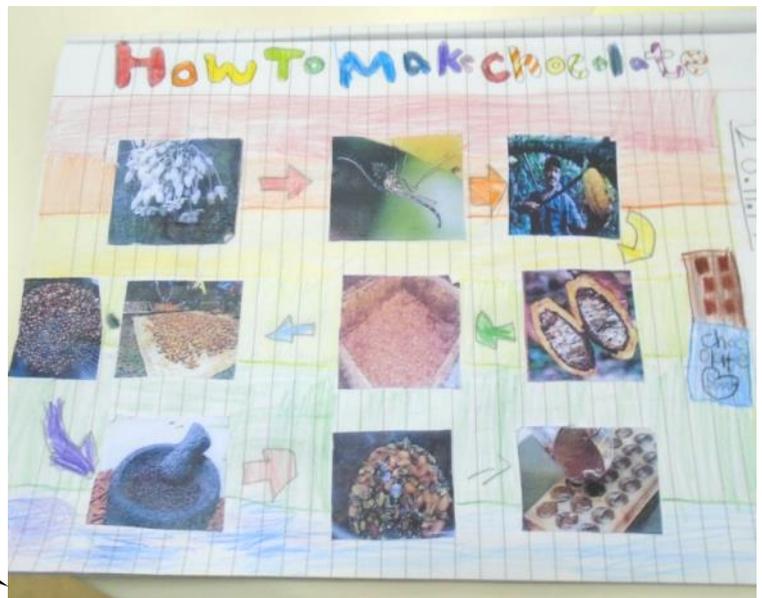
In English, most of us have been adding the finishing touches to our changed fairy tale. We have been writing about the new problem in our story and have been looking at different ways to end the story as well. It turns out that Little Blue Riding Hood, Silverlocks and the under-sea turtle and hare type races of the fish, mermaids and sharks have some BIG problems to try and fix.

In Maths, we have been re-introduced to some simple multiplication. Over the next two weeks, we will be investigating different methods to multiply and try to figure out which way that we find easiest. This week, we have been sorting a number into equal groups and working out the sum and arrays. Have a look at our pictures to see how we did.



As we gear up for a chocolate factory trip next week, in our Topic lessons we have done even more investigating into where chocolate comes from and how it is made. We had a look at the different countries that make chocolate, like Brazil and Ghana, and we had a look at how the cocoa bean is harvested. Who knew it was such hard work to get some chocolate?!

After some research, as well as sequencing pictures; it turns out, this is the process to make some delicious chocolate!





## Year 3

For our "Festivals and Celebrations" topic, Year 3 have started to explore Diwali – "The Festival of Light". Children started by reading an information text about Diwali and discussed all the different preparations that take place in family homes across the world. One aspect we explored was the designs and creations of Rangoli patterns. Children created their own Rangoli designs first with coloured pencil, then with oil pastels against black card. *"I loved doing the Rangoli art because they look beautiful and the colours are so bright"* Kyla 3A. *"I have learnt that people put lights outside their houses because they want to welcome their families and friends"* Vivian 3A.



## Year 4

This week, we have been incredibly busy once again. In English we have been looking at non-fiction text, researching all about Henry VIII and his 6 wives. Children have learnt lots of new facts and truly immersed themselves within the topic of "Hang onto your Head", finding out all about life in Tudor Britain!

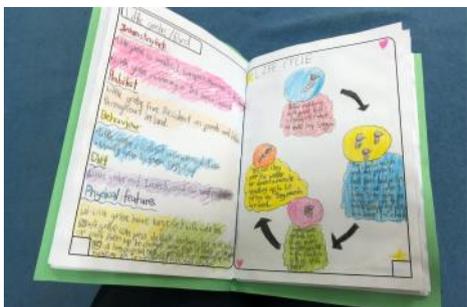
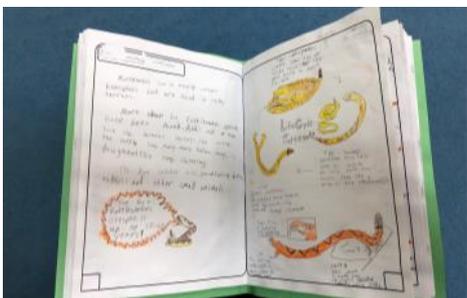
Within our topic lessons, we have completed beautiful pastel portraits of Henry VIII which look wonderful and really showcase the children's artistic talents. Furthermore, we were able to create detailed family trees which focused to show who Henry VIII married, in what order and what children he had. All of the Year 4 children have enjoyed learning new bits of information and fully believe in the idea that "Knowledge is power", happily extending their own general knowledge about British world history.





## Year 5

In Science, Year 5 have nearly completed their unit on "Living Things". Each group was responsible for one habitat: rivers, polar regions, mountains, or grasslands. Students then used books, atlases, and online resources to research information about specific animals that live in their group's habitat. Their written report included information on the animal's life cycle, behaviour, diet and physical features. All of the class' work was then combined to form Year 5's very own mega book to teach others about such diverse species of animal, such as the harp seal, river otter, flying squirrel and the amazingly interesting (but little known) Greenland shark!



## Year 6

Year 6 have had a very productive week. In English, 6A finished researching survival skills and in groups published our instructions on what to do in the case of an emergency. In Maths, we were able to complete a survey to gather information and could represent this on a variety of types of chart including line graphs, bar graphs and pie charts. We also practised our ICT skills using the amazing app "Createagraph" to input data and present our findings. In 6B we finished our topic of Leonardo da Vinci and his love of geometric shapes by making our own sun dials. The children had to recall their knowledge of angles, and measured and skilfully used a protractor to accurately draw their lines for their sun dials. We then tested these out and explored the advantage and disadvantages when compared to modern day technology.





## Year 7 Geography

Students have become the teachers this week as we have used peer learning to teach each other the rules of six-figure grid references. We have even applied this knowledge so we can locate and recognise features of rivers on OS maps.



## Year 8 Geography

Year 8 students have been super creative this week; making their own model rainforests. Students have had to show their knowledge of the different rainforest layers as well as the plants and animals that are adapted to live there. Some very creative thinking has been taking place. The finished rainforests will be on display next week!



## Year 10 and 11 PSHE

Recently in PSHE Year 10 and 11 students have been working on a broadcast media production. They have split into three news teams and will be filming over the course of the next few weeks. They will be covering various events around Britannica including football matches, sports events, music rehearsals, and other exciting activities going on around the school. They will be interviewing students and teachers about some serious issues and some not so serious issues. The aim of the project is for students to work as a team, be creative and improve their use of technology and media, which also includes video editing. Their final pieces will be shown in assembly. This is an exciting time and we are eagerly awaiting the final pieces.



## Secondary student profile - Ulysse Negros

Hello, I am Ulysse, a native French speaker. I am in Year 12. I currently study Maths, English, Spanish and Mandarin. I have recently joined the school council because I want to make a difference at Britannica. So far I have really enjoyed working with other students from different year groups, understanding what is important to them. I am a member of the Yellow Tigers; you may have seen me at school events cheering on my house as the mascot. I also represent the school at Frisbee and Football. I read with Year 1 children twice a week and help out with the Primary Football ASA. I enjoy all of these things at Britannica. I also enjoy my classes and working with my different teachers.

In the future I hope to go to University, but I have not ruled out taking a gap year to travel.





## Frisbee Match with Pinghe Dogs

Out of all the three competitive matches we had with other schools, I have to say, this was the one I enjoyed the most playing. Not only were we able to learn a few things or two ourselves, but we also learnt because of the friendly people from the opposing team and how we were communicating with one another - like close friends midway through and towards the end of the game. Although we lost the match, it was all fair and square. But the best and most important factor is that I was really glad to see my teammates playing with a lot of courage and confidence throughout, even when the opposing team were constantly scoring. Good job Knights!

-Damien



Thank you, Damien, for writing this article. I think it perfectly sums up what, in ultimate Frisbee is referred to as, the "Spirit of the Game". This is what it's all about, learning from each other and enjoying friendly competition. It was also good to see the coach of the Pinghe Dogs, who has more than 10 years' experience coaching ultimate in Shanghai, staying behind after the game and going through some drills with our players. This kind of welcoming community has really helped our players settle into their first ever season of competitive Frisbee. I have watched this group of players go from having zero experience in the game of ultimate Frisbee to being able to hold their own against the top teams in Shanghai in such a short space of time. I am genuinely excited about what the future holds for Britannica's ultimate players!

-Mr Mckechnie

## Girls Basketball Match with Jincal

Our girls competed in their first ever competitive basketball match this week, a hard-fought loss against Jincal. As Lynn (Year 8) nicely summarised "We tried our best and I think that we did pretty well for our first match. I think all the girls tried really hard and we probably all have blisters on our feet! We gained knowledge and had a lot of fun yesterday, it was a great experience!" I'm proud of how our girls never gave up and kept fighting right until the final whistle. They will continue to grow in confidence as we progress and I'm sure they will experience success in the future.

-Mr Mckechnie





## Festive Fun Begins

This week, Britannica started the first of many Winter celebrations across the school. Pupils have been taking part in a friendly House competition to decorate their own Christmas tree. There are four trees, one for each school House, and students have been using recycled material to make their tree as beautiful as possible. The winner will be chosen next week!





## Festive Fun Begins



## Festive Fun with Britannica Voices 1

We would like to wish Britannica Voices 1 the best of luck with their carol singing tonight at the lighting of the Fairmont Peace Hotel Christmas tree. Families and friends are welcome to join the 1st of December Christmas celebrations at the beautiful Art-Deco hotel, taking place between 6.45pm and 7.30pm. Join us on The Bund for some festive fun!

## Winter Concert Week

### **Monday, 11th December**

There will be an EYFS Concert with morning tea, after children are dropped off at school, starting at 9.30am and finishing at 10am.

### **Tuesday evening, 12th December**

A KS2 concert will take place with pre-dinner drinks of tea, coffee and gluhwein from 5.30pm. The concert will start at 6pm and finish at 7pm.

A wide variety of acts from Britannica Voices 1, Britannica Orchestra, Rock band ASA, Marimba Club ASA, as well as each class, will perform in style.

### **Wednesday afternoon, 13th December**

A KS1 concert with afternoon tea starting at 1pm. The concert will begin at 1.30pm till 2.15/2.20pm.

### **Thursday evening 14th December**

A KS3/4 concert with pre-dinner drinks of tea, coffee and gluhwein from 5.30pm. The concert will start at 6pm and finish at 7pm. A wide variety of acts will perform, from Drumline, The Shadows, Beats 4, a guest piano performance from the WILL Foundation, Jun Jun, in addition to performances from Year 7, Year 9, pupils from Year 8, and lastly Year 10 students, who will all be putting on wonderful shows to celebrate Christmas.



# Britannica Dual swim meet



We are pleased to hold the first swim meet at Britannica on December 9th and will be hosting Concordia School for a dual swim meet. Our swim squad has been training really hard over the last few weeks to be ready and we predict this meet will be a wonderful opportunity for students to beat their personal best times.

On this day, swimmers from 6 years old and over will compete in up to 4 individual events and 2 relays. We can already give some credit to some of our 11 years old boys who will race a 100 meters medley. On the top of that, our youngest swimmers will challenge themselves in a 25 meters butterfly. We are looking forward to seeing you there cheering our team.

#### Categories:

Mixed 8 years and under  
Mixed 9-10 years  
Mixed 11-12 year

#### Events:

100m freestyle relay - Mixed 8 and under  
100m freestyle relay - Mixed 9-10  
100m freestyle relay - Mixed 11-12  
100m medley - Mixed 8 and over  
25m butterfly - Mixed 8 and under  
25m butterfly - Mixed 9-10  
25m butterfly - Mixed 11-12  
25m breaststroke - Mixed 8 and under  
50m breaststroke - Mixed 9-10  
50m breaststroke - Mixed 11-12  
25m backstroke - Mixed 8 and under  
50m backstroke - Mixed 9-10  
50m backstroke - Mixed 11-12  
25m freestyle - Mixed 8 and under  
50m freestyle - Mixed 9-10  
50m freestyle - Mixed 11-12  
100m medley relay - Mixed 8 and under  
100m medley relay - Mixed 9-10  
100m medley relay - Mixed 11-12



## 2017 – 2018 AUTUMN TERM BRITANNICA SCHOOL CALENDAR



### December 2017

**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** – The final day of the Autumn term’s ASA programme

**Saturday, 9th December** – Britannica Dual Swim Meet

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

**Monday, 11th December** — EYFS Concert (9:30am—10am)

**Tuesday, 12th December** — KS2 Concert (6pm—7pm)

**Wednesday, 13th December** — KS1 Concert (1:30pm—2:20pm)

**Thursday, 14th December** — KS3/4 concert (6pm—7pm)

**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)



★ Parent Event    All School    EYFS    Primary    Secondary    School Holiday    Other

**ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

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