



# BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

# NEWSLETTER

8th December 2017  
Week 15

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 has seen further great examples of what we do best, with parents being invited in to view work taking place in Year 5, Year 1 taking their trip to the Children's Museum, Year 2 to the Chocolate Factory, our sport teams having great success against other major international schools and our musicians performing in the community and showcasing their talents at the Fairmont Peace Hotel. Next week's calendar looks equally impressive with our four Winter Concerts, a trip for Year 5 and 6, a trip for Nursery as well as the usual first-class teaching taking place.

Teachers are in the final stages of report writing and meetings were held across the school this week to discuss the progress that individuals and classes are making to better enable teachers to focus their planning for next term. Final preparations have also been made for the mock exams that Year 11 and our Sixth Form will sit immediately on their return in January and lessons in these year groups are preparing students for them.

The events calendar has also now been drafted for the Spring Term, where we are again providing plenty of community events and opportunities for parents to attend classes and observe teaching and learning in action.

We look forward to seeing everyone at one or more of the Winter Concerts next week. In the meantime, enjoy the pictures and reports within this week's newsletter.



## Week in Pre-Nursery

This week was all about Christmas and Winter! A festive Pre-Nursery group got busy this week decorating our class Christmas tree and letting their imaginations go wild, creating amazing Christmas baubles and cards for loved ones.

During instrumental music play, we enjoyed Christmas carols with all children playing well in rhythm and responding to instructions to speed up, slow down and to stop playing. Children shared much joy in our very own mini percussion orchestra in class this week.

We spoke about Santa and explored key vocabulary surrounding this festive time of year including traditional greetings, "Merry Christmas".

Our children visited the theatre often again this week and are comfortable in this environment in lead up to Monday's Winter Concert. This week we talked about where we will stand on stage, where too look while on stage and not to be afraid of the lights and sounds. Children were very excited to see their Christmas monkey costumes and are looking forward to performing for you all on Monday.





## Week in Nursery

This week's focus "Captains and Pilots" enabled the children to talk about transport on water and in the air. "Prepare the cabin for take-off!" The children got stuck in with some junk modelling by using cello tape, glue, cutting and painting materials to create their own model, using their imagination. It has been wonderful to hear the children using the new vocabulary that has been introduced this week such as pilot, passengers, engine, wings, tail, and propellers when talking about their masterpieces.

We have continued with our learning of shape in Mathematics and we have been encouraging the children to make vehicle pictures using shape arrangements. The children are beginning to notice the shapes in our world and have been pointing out shapes that they see around School.

Linking with our water transportation we did an experiment to find out if objects we use float or sink. Just take a look at the pictures!

We are almost ready to perform our Winter Concert to you on Monday. The children (and Teachers!) are very excited to showcase the children's beautiful singing voices. You are invited to come in for tea and coffee first and then you will be led through to the Theatre where all the children in Nursery will be eagerly awaiting your arrival. We look forward to seeing you there!

**The Nursery Team**





## Week in Nursery





## Week in Reception

It has been all systems go this week as the boys and girls of Reception set off to explore the continents of Asia and Australasia. We looked at the beautiful and colourful traditional costumes worn in some countries of Asia and enjoyed the storybook "The Emperor's New Clothes". We then moved on to Australia where we met some fascinating animals, such as the kangaroo and her baby joey. We looked at Aboriginal art and the children had the opportunity to decorate their own boomerangs resulting in some wonderful and colourful creations.

In Mathematics this week, the budding entrepreneurs of Reception were busy building shops, counting money and selling their wares. We looked at coins and notes, discussed the concept of transactions and from there it was sell, sell, sell!

With only three more sleeps until the Winter Concert, the children are dreaming of candy canes, little elves, and snowmen. We are all very excited to showcase our talents and look forward to seeing you all on Monday morning for what will be a fabulous performance.

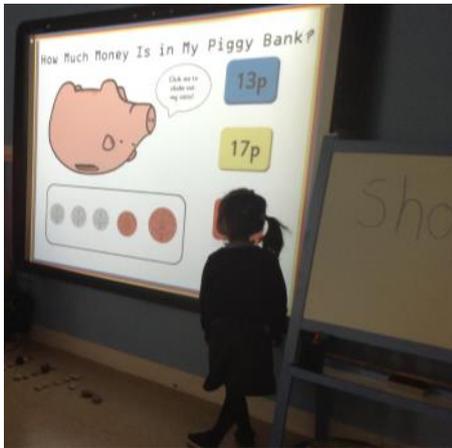
We wish you all a lovely weekend,

**The Reception Team**





# Week in Reception





## Year 1

On Wednesday, Year 1 visited the Shanghai Children's Museum. The museum consisted of various areas which all of us thoroughly enjoyed exploring. The exhibition areas included the theme of "Tour" which included the areas "Enter the Cabin", "Diving into the Deep Sea", "Space Travel" and "Back to the Earth" sections.

Shanghai Children's Museum, a member of the American Association of Museums, aims to inspire, enlighten and entertain children with fascinating exhibits and programs. It educates young visitors through entertaining activities. Our current theme "Great Explorers" tied in nicely with our field trip. Besides visiting the exhibitions, we had the opportunity to enjoy our packed lunches outside in the park. Enjoying the fantastic weather! All of us had a fantastic time learning more about the world around us and taking a moment away from our very busy days learning at school. We enjoyed the opportunities to explore, engage and pretend to be astronauts, captains on a submarine and great explorers on the oceans!



## Year 2

This week has been busy in Year 2. In the build-up to our chocolate factory trip, we've been learning even more about chocolate. As well as starting some information posters in the topic all about chocolate, we have been investigating instruction texts. We came up with our own success criteria, so when we write our own, we will know what to look for!

In Internationalism this week, we are beginning to round off our "Stories from Around the World" topic. We have spent the last two weeks focusing on Australia. After finding out all about it, including some of the animals that live there, we have had a go at making some of our very own Aboriginal Art.

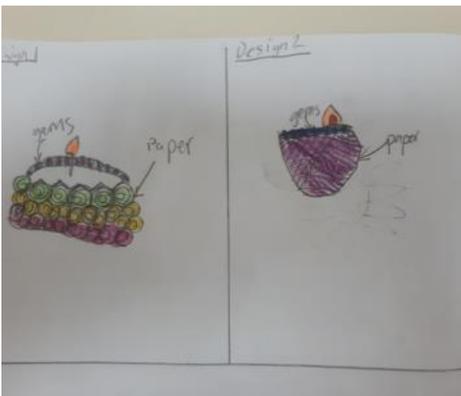
We talked about the technique that has been used for some time and, after some practice, we have started to put paint on to card. Have a look at some of the artwork that we have started! Can you guess the animal in the middle?





## Year 3

This week, Year 3 have continued to look at the celebration of Diwali in English and Topic lessons. In English, we learned the story of "Rama and Sita", and performed parts of it for different classes. In Topic, we have designed lamps that can be used to celebrate this important festival of light. We have also linked this to our science lessons where we have been investigating "Light". This week, we also examined and compared the reflective properties of different surfaces. We investigated a number of different objects and ranked them from "most reflective" to "least reflective".



## Year 4

This has been an exciting week in Year 4. The children continue to be engaged in their studies of Tudor Britain and King Henry VIII and are both shocked and fascinated to learn more about him as both a person and a king. The children are writing very detailed information texts about King Henry in English, and are creating one about his wives in the topic. This is giving the children a great opportunity to consolidate their English skills across the curriculum. The children have really enjoyed their maths studies this week, and have been excited to progress to the translation of points and shapes across quadrants. This has been coupled with times table practice and reinforcing mental maths concepts throughout the week. During ICT sessions, children have had the opportunity to research for their information texts, while during internationalism we have continued to look at festivals, with our new focus being Christmas.





## Year 5

On Thursday morning Year 5 hosted a class exhibition for parents. It was a chance to share and celebrate the children's work across a variety of subject areas throughout this term. On show was a range of settlements that the children had made in Geography showcasing their understanding and creativity. There were also videos of news recordings, a class science book all about animals, and a gallery of sketches and watercolours of bottles and bridges. Not to mention two entertaining performances in the style of Commedia dell' arte! Well done, Year 5.



## Year 6

Year 6 have had an extremely busy week. In 6A, students began their new English topic of "Newspapers" by holding a spoken debate on which form of media is most effective. This quickly proved to be a heated discussion, with children vigorously defending their chosen type of media and providing persuasive counter-arguments to other groups. Overall it was eventually decided that the internet is considered the most useful form, with newspapers and television a close second. As a result of this, they will begin to create their own online newspaper which will incorporate written articles, televised reports, and hopefully podcasts. In Year 6B the new topic of "Diaries" has been well received, with students being able to identify features and write their own entries.





## Duke of Edinburgh International Award

If your child is in Year 9-13 there is a great opportunity for them to be involved in the Duke of Edinburgh International award. This is a great course which is held in high regard worldwide and can make a huge impact on college and university applications. The course involves a host of extracurricular activities, these include getting the chance to develop new skills and honing existing ones. A big part of the course is also to plan and take part in an expedition, this trip will have students camping, making their own food and becoming self-sufficient. This is an incredibly formative experience and can really help your child grow as a person. You can see more about the course at <http://www.intaward.org>



If you think your child maybe interested please let me know and I can enrol them in the course. If you have any more questions please don't hesitate to contact me. **Mr. Rosenberg**

## Year 7 English

What a fantastic time Year 7 have been having in English recently! Having finished our class-reader, "The Witches", pupils were given the task of creating a visual representation of their favourite scene from the book. Who knew we had such creative and imaginative Year 7s? From play-dough figures to string and glue, our ever resourceful pupils put their most amazing efforts into the work and, subsequently, have some awesome finished products, representing some of the exciting scenes from Roald Dahl's novel.

Mr Couchman asked other pupils from across the school to vote on which they thought best depicted the chosen scene, and it was a very close race. In the end, Claire and Elaine's finished model came out on top, showing the scene in which the Grand High Witch reveals her horrific true self at the Witches' conference – well done girls.

Year 7 have now started their topic on William Shakespeare and have already researched and found out all about the man himself and the Globe Theatre, where many of his plays were performed. Make sure to ask any of the Year 7 pupils to tell you all about what it was like to go and see a play in Shakespearean London, particularly about where to go when someone needed the toilet during a performance!



## Secondary Student Profile

Hi, I'm Claudia Caro, I'm in Year 7 and I am from Spain. I have been at Britannica for 2 years and I am enjoying my first year in Secondary school.

The subjects that I like most are Geography and English, I like Geography because it is so fun to learn about rivers or interesting places like Ghana. I also like playing KAHOOT, which is a fun quiz game we play on the iPads. I like English because it's so fun to read books such as "Coraline", it was exciting and mysterious. I can't wait to see what we will be learning after Christmas when I come back from Spain.





## Year 9 & 10 Geography Trip

The Geographers visited the Shanghai Urban Planning museum this week to collect data about how Shanghai has changed over time. Students had to record facts about the different ways Shanghai is aiming to become more sustainable in the future. We also had the opportunity to find out about other places around the world that may inspire Shanghai in the future to become even more sustainable. Students enjoyed themselves and really enjoyed the opportunity to learn outside of the classroom, they're now pestering Miss Brown to organise another Geography trip for next term!



## Britannica Voices at the Fairmont Hotel

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December, Britannica Voices choir was invited to perform at the Christmas tree lighting at the Fairmont Peace Hotel on Nanjing Road. The hotel provided the students with a wonderful buffet before the performance and when singing downstairs later, they were given Santa hats to wear. The students were very excited to perform and were delighted as they entered the extravagant lobby, finding a 10-foot tall Christmas tree and the stage surrounded by guests. The tree was lit and the students were invited to the stage. They sang six songs wonderfully, ranging from Silent Night to Feliz Navidad, with the audience being very appreciative of the performance. We would like to thank the Fairmont Hotel for giving us this fantastic opportunity and we look forward to returning next year!



## Winter Concerts coming up this week

We are delighted to welcome parents and their family to attend one or more of our Winter Concerts next week. Please feel free to get into the spirit and come along, whether you have children attending or not.

Our EYFS concert is on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> December starting at 9.15am with morning refreshment starting at 8:30am in the foyer. We are hoping to get lots of parents and maybe some grandparents to come and watch.

Our KS1 concert is on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December in the afternoon starting at 1.30pm with afternoon tea before in the foyer and again we are hoping to have lots of friends, parents, and grandparents to witness some wonderful performances in the theatre.

Our KS2 concert is on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December in the evening starting at 6pm with some pre-performance drinks and nibbles in the foyer. This concert is packed full of a lot of different performances from class songs to the orchestra, rock band, marimba club and of course the Britannica Voices that sang at the Fairmont on Friday night.

Our KS3 and KS4 concert is on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December in the evening also starting at 6pm with some pre-performance drinks and nibbles in the foyer. This is a special concert where we have a guest performer from one of the charities that Britannica support – The WILL Foundation.



## **Britannica Knights**

A steely performance from the Knights ensured they kept their 100% record at fortress Britannica with a 6-5 victory over Jincai. Perhaps the cold weather could be blamed for the slow start from the boys, but the game heated up to boiling point with two late goals to snatch a victory from the jaws of defeat. The Knights went in at the half 3-2 down, despite peppering the opposition goal with shots from all over. Damien continued his fine run of scoring form and midfield speed merchant John got in on the act by firing home a gift from the Jincai defence. The boys went into the second half with the belief that they could still get a result. This belief was rocked with two early goals which put the score at 5-2.



The comeback got started when midfield dynamo Ulysse was rewarded for another powerhouse performance with a goal. The boys increased their intensity and won every ball all over the park. Ulysse grabbed his second with a thunderbolt of a free-kick that left the keeper rooted to the spot. At this point, the boys smelled blood and rode in for the metaphorical kill of the third victory in as many games. The boy's persistence and hard work were rewarded when a long ball was chased down. Jincai headed the ball half clear only for John to smash in a volley which practically ripped the net. However, the fun wasn't over and the boys were clearly not going to settle for a draw. With mere minutes left Britannica took the lead for the first time in the match. Ulysse, who embodied the fighting spirit of the whole team, won the ball from his opponent before smashing in the winner and sealing his hat-trick.

What a result for the Knights!



## **Pupil Safeguarding Procedures at Britannica**

Parents will know from our many communications the importance that we place on good safeguarding for our pupils at Britannica. An extremely important element of this is the careful screening of all staff that work in the school. Parents will also be aware from the media that some schools in Shanghai have recently suffered from safeguarding issues to do with the staff that they employ. One of the most important aspects of my job as Principal is making sure that we have only the best teachers for your children. I am always reassured by the recognition that current parents have of this, when they quote that "the strongest aspect of Britannica is its quality staff".

Part of the reason why I tend to hire only British teachers is that my ability to ensure effective safeguarding can be far more rigorous. Police checks, records of addresses, confirmation of employment history and the ability to secure valid references can all be far more effectively and confidently obtained. Two levels of police checks are secured on all British teachers that we employ, one at recruitment stage and a second one in the first term that they work with us. Notarised copies of all qualifications are secured before a teacher starts to work with us. A direct reference is always obtained from the teacher's current Principal, with an obligation on that employer that they must declare any known disciplinary issues related to that teacher. For teachers already working overseas I always also ensure I have obtained a reference from their home country. I require a minimum of two professional references for each teacher we employ and a minimum of three if they are already working overseas. These references are received in confidence by me from their previous employers, allowing referees to be fully honest. Our adverts when they go to press highlight the importance that the school places on safeguarding, which itself is likely to deter most unsuitable potential employees. Once teachers are employed they then undergo rigorous training at Britannica to ensure they are fully aware of all safeguarding matters. Parents will be aware of our strict policies on photos and the use of mobile phones, for example. Our comprehensive staff performance management process further identifies where teachers may need extra guidance and support to make sure that the best safeguarding procedures are always in place. All staff that work on site, regardless of whether they are directly employed by us or not, must hold a full police check that has cleared them to work with children. Outside providers that co-operate with us, will have had discussions with us before we start to work with them about the importance of them as employers ensuring effective safeguarding with their employees.

It is these strong safeguarding policies that give us confidence and we hope our parents too, that their children are in the best care while at Britannica.

**David Goodwin, Principal**



# WINTER CONCERT

**Monday, 11th December — EYFS Concert (9:15am—10am)**

**Morning tea from 8:30am**

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

**Pre-concert drinks from 5:30pm**

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

**Afternoon tea from 1pm**

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

**Pre-concert drinks from 5:30pm**



# 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, 9th December – Britannica Dual Swim Meet

★ Monday, 11th December — EYFS Concert (9:15am—10am)

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

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

Wednesday, 13th December—Year 5 & Year 6 trip to Shanghai Natural History Museum

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

Friday, 15th December — Nursery Trip to EDay Town

Friday, 15th December — Happy Bridge Kindergarten Open Day

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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