



BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

NEWSLETTER

20th April 2018
Week 29

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,

We have been delighted this week to meet with parents in Primary for their termly Parent-Teacher Meetings. We hope, that as with the similar EYFS and Secondary events last week, that parents found these meetings useful in understanding the progress their child is making and informative about how they as parents can support from home.

On Thursday, I had a very enjoyable Coffee Morning with our current Italian parents, where we discussed matters that were of importance to this community group and also took the opportunity to share and discuss further the results and the next steps following on from the recent Orbital Parent Survey. Next week, I am meeting with our Korean parents from 8:45am to 10:00am on Tuesday morning for their Coffee Morning event. If you are a member of our Korean community then you are very welcome to attend this event.

Next week, we also have our Sports Days, to which we welcome our parents and their friends. Mr McKechnie and his Sports Department have planned some very exciting days for all our children from Nursery to Year 13.

Next Thursday we are also having an additional Early Years Open Day for prospective parents, due to the popularity of our last one. We encourage any current parents to let their friends and family know about this and, if interested, to register online via our website or by contacting admissions directly.



Week in Pre-Nursery

This week we continued exploring concepts presented in the nursery rhyme, *Hey Diddle Diddle*.

Children have enjoyed this favourite rhyme, laughing at the dog, mimicking the dish running away with the spoon and being curious about the cat and the fiddle.

Children were treated to a violin performance this week from a senior classmate, Halee You, who visited our room to play the *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*. They were captivated by the beautiful sound of the instrument and in awe of Halee. Children confidently sang along to the sound of the violin, were curious and showed much interest in the string instrument. A big thank you to Halee You of Year 10, for the performance!

As part of our ongoing curriculum focus on mathematics we revised shapes and paid attention to shapes found in our environment. We used shapes and our imaginations to construct animals, flowers and buildings.

Children explored concepts of night and day and the activities that take place in our daily lives at different times. We used this concept to practice our 'When' questions and examine our understanding of time.

Children enjoyed some wonderful storytelling this week with classic, *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown and *Pappa, Please Get Me the Moon* by Eric Carle.

We joyfully sang along to *Hey Diddle Diddle*, children joining in with repeated refrains and sequencing parts of the musical story using picture cards.





Week in Nursery

The tadpoles are growing legs and turning into little froglets, just like our Nursery children are turning into budding scientists, observing and talking about the changes that are taking place! The Tadpoles have sparked a lot of interest and the children are very excited about watching them grow. We have been learning about the cycle of life and how the cycle repeats itself; we have talked about where frogs live and what they like to eat. Every child has had a turn at sequencing the life cycle of a frog and they have each made a craft to represent this, please take a look at our Nursery display!

We have been making full use of our outdoor area this week and we have been hopping, jumping and ribbiting in the sunshine. We hope you enjoy the photographs from this week.

The Nursery Team





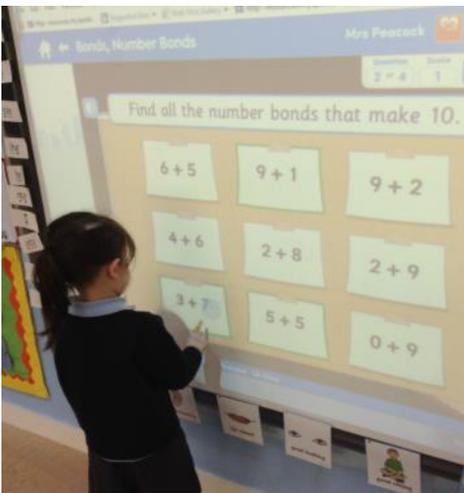
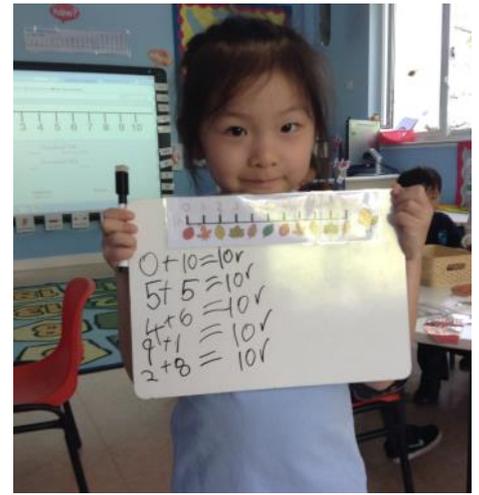
Week in Nursery





Week in Reception

This week our little biologists have been finding out about life cycles. The children have learnt about the changes that occur in plants, insects and mammals and have worked on their public speaking skills by presenting their findings to the other classes. In Maths we have been practising our number bonds to 10 with fun activities involving ladybirds and spiders.





Week in Reception





Storytelling and Rhymes in Year 1

We have had a fabulous and fun week in Year 1. The children started off by reading the story *The Gingerbread Girl*. We then cut out some masks and acted out the story, taking it in turns to say a part. All the children tried hard to use voices for the different characters and chant the repeated sentences together. Teachers and children loved watching their friends act it out in their group afterwards. We then moved on to looking at some rhyming words and we enjoyed working by ourselves and in groups to write our own rhyme by changing the repeated sentence in the *Gingerbread Girl* and the *Gingerbread Man*. We enjoyed listening to the different and funny rhymes the children had made up.



Year 2

Now we have a full first week back at school, Year 2 have new topics in English, Maths and Topic. English this week we have been learning about poetry and rhyming words. In Maths we are learning how to read time and in Topic we are finding out about being 'Fighting Fit'.

The most fun has been learning basic programming in ICT. We were able to use our commands and instructions that we learned earlier in the year to help us direct the 'Bee Bots' across different terrains.

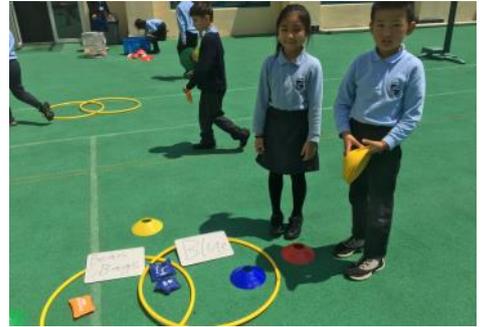
As the children develop their programming skills they will also be using cross curricular learning to read coordinates, instructions, directions and rotation.





Year 3

What an exciting and busy week Year 3 have had! This week students have been learning about how to stay safe when using the internet using a story about a penguin called Smartie. They thought about different scenarios that can occur online and which adults they would go to if they needed help. In Science the children tested different materials to see which would be the best to slow down a moving car. They also completed some sorting activities, beginning with sorting objects followed by different 2D shapes. It was lots of fun!



Year 4

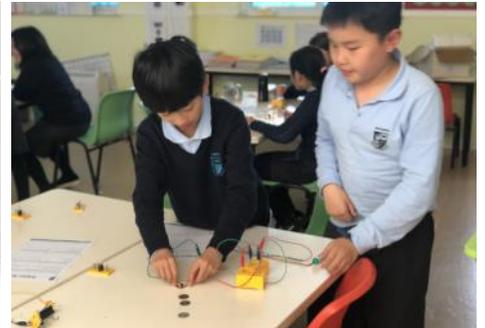
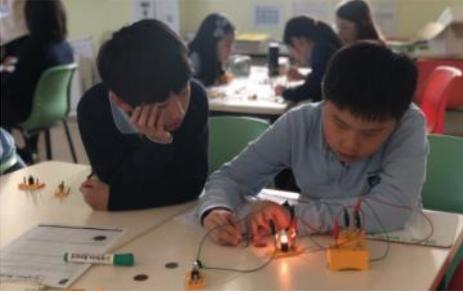
It has been a busy week in Year 4, with children eager to start their new research topic. Both Year 4 classes have been mixed for topic this term, with children having the opportunity to work with others from the parallel class. This has resulted in new working groups, and the children really engaged with each other to make their plans for the term long project about China. In Maths, children have continued their study of geometry, moving onto 3D shapes, while in English, children have continued to draft their issues and dilemma story. Children have had the opportunity to take part in drama lessons since this unit has begun, which has been a really positive learning experience for them, with some excellent performances. In Science, children have investigated gases, discovering that gases have a weight through experimenting with carbon dioxide in fizzy drinks, by weighing the drinks pre and post becoming flat.





Year 5

What a week! Year 5 have been trying to stand on their heads in gymnastics, mastering decimals and fractions in Maths, and placing puzzling punctuation into sentences and paragraphs. In Science, they have just completed another investigation. This time it was to create a report on which type of metal would be most suitable to use to make the wires of football floodlights. Children investigated the conductivity of a range of materials including Zinc, Silver, Copper, Iron, Bronze and Aluminium, and tried to put them into order. After this, they were able to create video presentations to explain what they did. Congratulations to Matthew and Jacky who correctly put the metals in the correct scientific order! It was also fantastic to see other students working collaboratively to solve this problem using a range of strategies to test the metallic conductors.



Year 6

Students in 6A are finishing off their recent topic of Mozart by creating a report about his life using the internet to research, and the app *Sketchboard* to organise ideas. The next topic will be all about Charles Dickens, and students will be writing narratives to create suspense, tension and atmosphere. Within this they will use adventurous vocabulary to describe settings and characters' actions, and will complement their paragraphs with speech for effect. In Maths, 6B researched how much things cost in Victorian England and made our own money (pounds, shillings and pence). Children set up their own shops such as the Bakers and the Butchers, and bought goods using this money. Children then answered a number of questions which they had to solve and use the differing conversion rates - back then there was 12 pence to a shilling and 20 shillings to a pound. In Science, children were able to learn about the various organs associated with the digestive system. They researched information on the iPads and were able to test each other using *GoogleForms*.





Duke of Edinburgh Trip

Although a few weeks ago now, I am going to write about the Duke of Edinburgh trip to Yaolin. Firstly, on a personal note, it was amazing to get to see another part of China. The weather was beautiful and I thoroughly enjoyed my week in the Chinese countryside. I completed my Silver Duke of Edinburgh when I was at school and so I know the skills that it can develop in a young person.

On Tuesday and Wednesday I was tasked with accompanying the Duke of Edinburgh students on their hike. I walked with O-Ching, Seven, Jerry and Ye Jun while Miss Van Balveren walked with Ian, Pietro, Yi Nuo and Nicholas. I have to say that I was so impressed with both groups for different reasons. I wasn't sure how they would cope with carrying heavy bags for two days and walking over 20 kilometres. I knew they didn't have much trekking experience and thought that it would prove challenging. I needn't have worried in the end. My group started off the first day at brisk pace and kept it up for the entire two days. They were relentlessly positive and seemed to find the trek relatively comfortable (apart from a few tricky orienteering moments)! The other group impressed me with their grit and excellent teamwork to ensure that all of them completed the trek.

This was by no means an easy hike and the instructor told us that it was the most difficult bronze hike he had ever planned! To put it into perspective, another International school based in Shanghai (who shall remain nameless) attempted this same expedition the previous week and both of their groups failed. This shows that it was not inevitable that our children would pass. It was down to their orienteering skills and hard work over the two days.

Mr Barclay



The boys practicing their first aid skills



The boys loved the scenery so much they had an uncontrollable urge to 'dab.'



The boys practice their map skills. They desperately searched for their nearest Wi-Fi hotspot.



We had to work as a team to climb up a really steep hill



The boys are delighted as they have just invented their signature dish of peanut butter pasta.



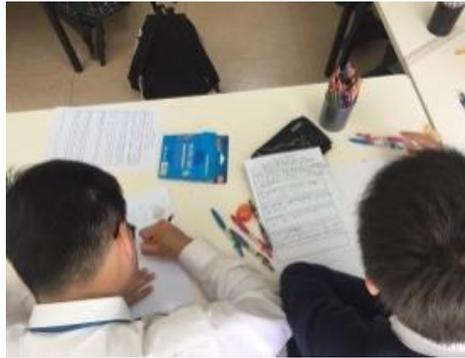
We got to enjoy some beautiful scenery



Secondary

Year 10 English

Year 10 IGCSE English students have just begun a new topic; Health and Fitness. Students have been researching ways to keep fit and healthy in order to design and create informative leaflets. Students have been using iPads to collect information from different sources and have been working hard in lessons to learn new vocabulary linked to the topic. Students have been looking at the different aspects of health and fitness including, diet, exercise and sleep. Students have been focused on informative writing styles and using sub-heading to organise their ideas. Look out for their colourful leaflets in reception.



Keeping a Sketchbook!

A sketchbook is a book or pad with blank pages for sketching and is frequently used by artists for drawing or painting as a part of their creative process.

Secondary art students use their sketchbook regularly, like a visual work Journal or diary, or scrap book or note pad to plan out ideas, or record thoughts and ideas, or keep it as a fantastic source of inspiration.

As one Year 7 student said, 'I pick up my sketchbook whenever I have some free time to help me wind down. I like to doodle or list ideas that I want to try out, to remind me!'





2017 – 2018 SPRING TERM BRITANNICA SCHOOL CALENDAR



April 2018

- ★ Tuesday, 24th April 8:45am to 10:00am—Coffee Morning for our Korean Parents
 - ★ Tuesday, 24th April—EYFS Sports Day (morning)
 - ★ Wednesday, 25th April—KS1 Sports Day (morning)
 - ★ Friday, 27th April—KS2/Secondary Sports Day (morning)



May 2018

- ★ Thursday, 3rd May 8:45am to 10:00am — Coffee Morning for our Chinese Parents
 - ★ Friday 11th May — Mothers Day special events
 - ★ Tuesday 22nd May— Open Coffee Morning for all Parents



★ Parent Event ■ All School ■ EYFS ■ Primary ■ Secondary ■ School Holiday ■ Other

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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