



# BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

# NEWSLETTER

1st September 2017  
Week 3

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,

How quickly this second full week has flown by. We enjoyed meeting many of our Early Years and Key Stage 1 Parents on Wednesday afternoon, for their Meet the Teacher event. Both groups of parents had the expectations and the curriculum taught in that phase further explained to them, as well as being given an opportunity to spend some time with their child's Form Teacher and also meet with other parents in the form. Key Stage 2 and Secondary parents have their event on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September between 3:30pm and 5:00pm.

All parents should now have signed their child up for our After School Activity Programme which is starting next Thursday. Despite the pressure on the online registration system coping with 400+ parents all trying to register their child at once, it appears that our wider than ever range of activities have been hugely attractive this term. We remain the only school in the city providing onsite activities for all pupils from Reception to Year 13. It is of considerable credit to Mr David Hunter for managing such an enormous logistical challenge of almost 1500 individual pupil activity registrations and trying to get everyone into their choices, as far as possible. Our popular activities are repeated each term, so any disappointed students will have further options next term. Our keen sports girls and boys can also join one of our many squad and extra training sessions and details of these are included in this week's newsletter.

Various trips and House events have also been planned in more detail this week and notice of these will be soon coming home to parents.

Finally, I can give notice that our CIS community survey is about to go live and you will be receiving an email from our CIS Officer, Mrs Kim McGregor, about how to access this. This is an opportunity for you to express your views about the strengths and areas for improvement of the school. All stakeholders; parents, students, teachers, admin staff and school governors will be asked to complete this survey.

Enjoy this week's news.



## Week in Pre-Nursery

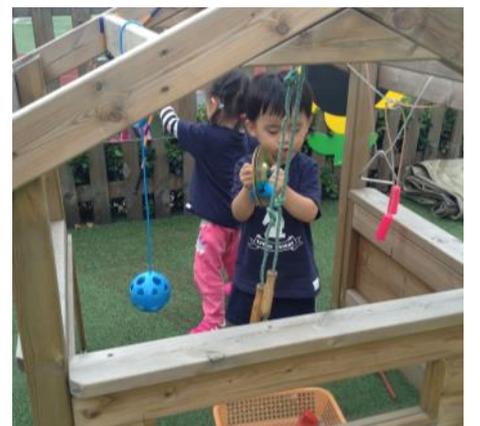
Hello families, what a wonderful job you are doing in assisting me in learning more about the needs and interest of your children and supporting their transition into life at Britannica. A big thank you!

We continue our language and literacy learning with "Brown Bear, Brown Bear" and enjoyed recreating our story characters with creative and colourful artwork.

We explored scientific and mathematical concepts by mixing paint colours together to magically create new colours and worked our fine motor skills with circle sticker art collages.

Since toddlers enjoy action based learning (ABL) we spend much time dancing and singing and this week learnt new words about our bodies with the song, "Heads, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes". These words will assist us as we head into our September topic, "All about Me".

"Understanding Our World" is one of the key learning outcomes of the EYFS curriculum. This week we got busy playing shop in Pre-Nursery, practised our counting with gold coins, encouraged recycling habits by reusing plastic shopping bags and developed a better understanding of the use of technology in our everyday lives with our cash registers. You can see some of our key, integrated learning spaces pictured below. Also included is a picture of our fun new outdoor musical house where we experiment with sound and create music.



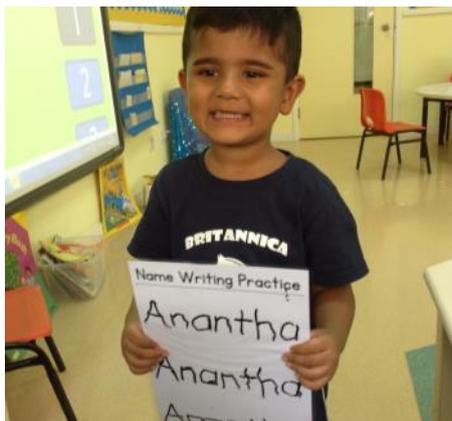
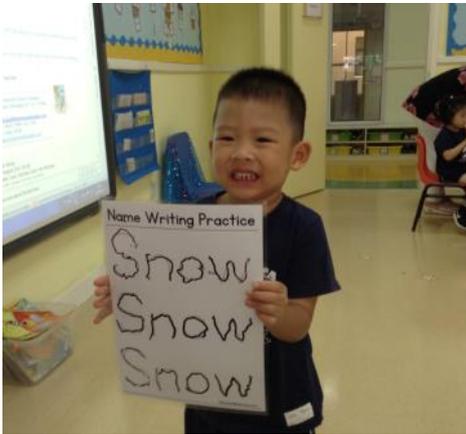


## Week in Nursery

We have had a lovely week in Nursery. The children are all settling in well and are learning to follow our Nursery routine and behaviour expectations. The children have been enjoying specialist Music and P.E. lessons, and have been attending their weekly library sessions.

This week, we have been encouraging the children to explore the Nursery environment and to play with the toys with care. Each child is beginning to select and use resources with help and they are starting to show a preference for what they like to play with at Nursery. It has been a very enjoyable week for both the staff and children and we are looking forward to seeing the children continue to settle and grow in Nursery next week!

The Nursery Team.





## Week in Nursery

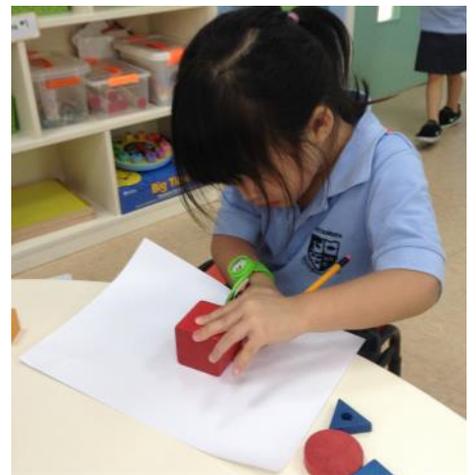




## Week in Reception

The boys and girls of Reception were very busy this week as we started our new topic 'All About Me'. With new friendships being formed and new routines being introduced, the children had the opportunity to explore and discuss their likes and dislikes with their friends and teachers, and each child made a lovely collage of their favourite things. We even looked at the rules and routines of school and each class drew up their own set of rules with some very amusing suggestions!

This week, we have been looking at the sounds 'a, t and p' in phonics and in Maths we have been exploring patterns of shape and colour and making patterns with different objects found in our surroundings. As the cooler weather arrives, the children have enjoyed getting outside to run around and play. As we say goodbye to August, we know that September is going to be a fun and busy month for the girls and boys in Reception.





# Week in Reception

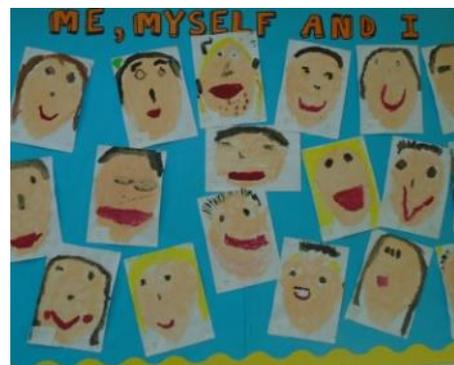




## Year 1

What an exciting second week we have had. The children are all doing a great job settling into their new classes and following their new routines.

This week, Year 1 have had a super fun week and carried on with our topic; 'Me, myself and I'. We have shared what our favourite things are and what we don't like. We have discussed what makes a good friend and who our good friends are. The children also contributed well during circle time about how we are all different.



In Maths we have been looking at 'teen numbers'. The children loved learning the 'teen song'. We have been using blocks to build and practise counting as well as working out how much more we need to make 14 when we already have 10. For our warm up, the children have enjoyed playing the number bond game on the interactive white board.



## Year 2

Britannica's academic year of 2017-18 is well underway. Pupils have been fully immersing themselves in school life and being challenged in the classroom.

In Year 2, the children have been studying the popular story "We are Going on a Bear Hunt". The story has helped introduce adjectives so the children can develop their understanding and use of adjectives this term.

In Maths, children are developing their addition and numeracy skills, counting in ones, tens and hundreds.

In other news, the first "Star of the Week" awards were presented in assembly. This week, teachers chose the students who they felt were being helpful towards others. In 2A Si Hyun was chosen for being helpful and a good friend in class. Class 2B's Star of the Week is Hee Bon, she was helpful, polite and welcoming towards the new pupils at Britannica. In 2C, Ella demonstrated fantastic team work during group tasks. Leonore from Class 2D was selected because she has been helping her friends in class.





## Year 3

This week, Year 3 have made a great start in all of our subjects. In English, we started reading James and the Giant Peach, just in time for Roald Dahl Day in September. At the part in the book where James received a mysterious bag from a peculiar old man, a mysterious bag was also delivered to our class! We had a good feel, and then came up with a list of things that could be in a magical, exciting bag, and a list of things that could be in a horrible, revolting bag. In Maths, we have been working on our number bonds to help us become more confident with our addition and subtraction facts. In Topic, we learned all about the Great Wall of China and retold the story of its creation using our dramatic acting skills!



## Year 4

There has been a real buzz in the Year 4 classrooms this week. On Tuesday, we began our Science topic for the term which is Electricity. Children discussed what they already knew, and what they would like to know, resulting in some very interesting questions being formed. In English, we continue to make progress in our Mr. Men stories, and children are very excited about producing their very own book in the first term using ICT to type stories! This week in Maths, we have looked at addition. Children have completed various activities using this essential skill, such as solving single step and multi-step word problems. In Internationalism, we explored the class demographics and represented the various nationalities in bar charts.





## Year 5

Year 5 have begun to plan and write their own creative writing pieces. First of all, we made a character profile for our main character, describing their appearance, behaviour, likes and dislikes and their family members. Then we planned our story, considering the setting for the story, the beginning, what the main problem or twist would be, how the problem would be solved (the resolution) and the ending. Yesterday we shared what our story's problems are, with great amusement and excitement from the rest of the class. Problems included spaceships collapsing, runaway children and vampires coming to life! We are now looking forward to writing our stories and reading them to our intended audience – other classes in Primary!



## Year 6

This week, Year 6 students have been exploring the concept of creativity. We began by defining what it means to be creative and researched people that we thought exhibited innovative traits. This enabled us to investigate the renowned inventor and artist, Leonardo de Vinci, in more detail. In English, we read articles to gain a better understanding of his life and used measurements of our body dimensions to depict his Vitruvian Man. In Art, we explored techniques that artists in the 15<sup>th</sup> century used to paint. We then created our very own egg tempera which we will use later on in our artwork.





## Learning French Foreign Language at Britannica

### 5 good reasons for parents and students to choose French and quotes from Year 9 Students

#### 1. A world language

In today's world, speaking one foreign language is not enough. Students who speak several languages will increase their chances of finding a job, whether at home or abroad. French is a major language of international communication.

*From Aliya: I think it is important to learn a foreign language because it might help our life.*

#### 2. A career asset

As France is the world's fifth biggest economy, the ability to speak both French and English is an advantage for finding a job, with the many multinational companies using French as their working language in a wide range of sectors

*From Aliya: Business people need to learn many languages to have conversations with their co-workers and need to translate many documents.*

*From Izabella: Foreign languages are also good for employees because the more you know, the better job you will have.*

#### 3. An introduction to an incomparable cultural universe

France is often considered the language of culture. A French lesson is a cultural journey into the worlds of fashion, gastronomy, the arts, architecture, and science.

*From Sue: You can discover a new culture from a new country.*

#### 4 An advantage for studying in France

Speaking French opens up opportunities for higher education at some of France's best-known universities, often on very favourable financial terms.

*From O Ching: It is also good for students in university to learn a foreign language for their degree.*

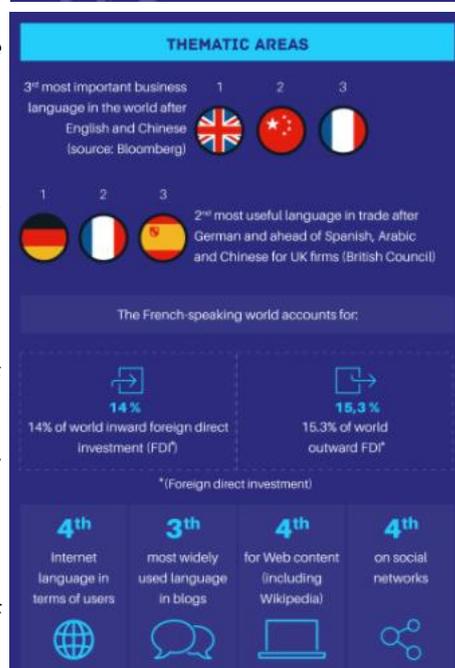
#### 5. A language for travel

France is the world's top tourist destination. The ability to speak even a little French makes it so much more enjoyable to visit Paris and all the regions of France. French also comes in handy when travelling to Africa, Switzerland, Canada, Monaco and other places.

*From Sue: When you are a tourist in France, you don't need any translator, you can just go to a foreign country, talk and understand people, and make many international friends.*

*From Ian: you will be able to travel to more places without communication problems.*

Source : <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/francophony-and-the-french-language/promoting-french-around-the-world-7721/>





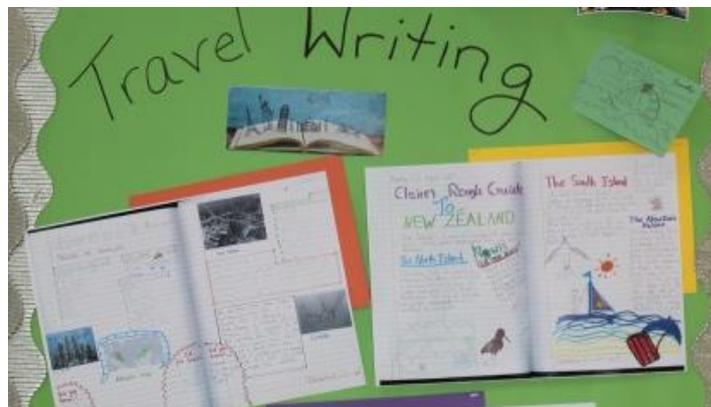
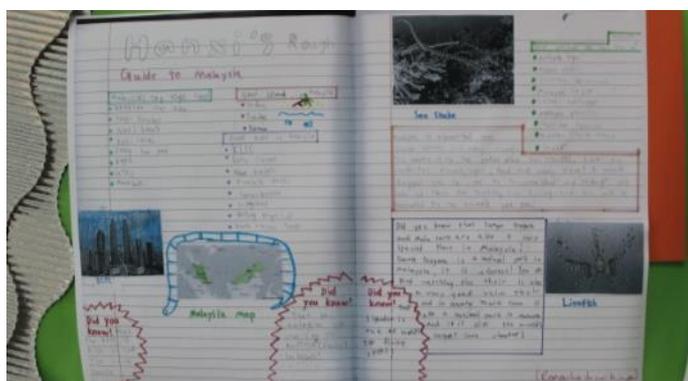
## Welcome Year 7

It has been a great start for our Year 7 students who have hit the floor running in their first year of secondary school. Miss Brown and I have been incredibly impressed with both the maturity of our students and how quickly they seem to have settled into Secondary school life.

Year 7 have been thrown into the deep end and have already delivered their first Secondary assembly. Miss Brown and I were so pleased to see Year 7 commanding the stage and delivering a creative and powerful assembly about how we can all afford to be better listeners.

In English, we have been focusing on travel writing and I am so happy to hear our students recount interesting stories of all the amazing places they have been over the summer holiday. Year 7 has had a fantastic start and I am very much looking forward to watching them mature and progress even further as we continue the year. Well done Year 7, keep up the fantastic work!

Mr Donald



## Year 9 History



Year 9 have had an action packed return to History, as they have been thrown into the midst of a World War! In week 1, we looked at the origins of the war and the factors that turned the assassination of one man in Sarajevo into a global conflict that led to the slaughter of millions. This week we look at the propaganda that convinced so many young men to sign up and fight for their country. They were told the war would be over by Christmas and they would return heroes. The recruitment campaign failed to mention the horrors of war and the terrible conditions they would have to endure in trench warfare. What makes this such an interesting topic is the abundance of source material available which can bring the history to life. We have already looked at some documentary footage of the war which I

think is a valuable way for the pupils to imagine what life was like for the soldiers in the trenches and the people that did their part for their countries at home. By the time we have finished this topic we will be close to Armistice Day. The pupils will be able to use what they have learnt in this topic to properly comprehend the importance of this day. It is for this reason that remembering our past is so important.



## Parking at the front of the School

We are pleased to update our parents on the parking situation at the front of the school:

We have submitted an official letter to the HongQiao Deputy Major after meeting with her to discuss the current situation. The Deputy Major will be submitting a letter regarding parking time exemption to the traffic police in person. We are currently now awaiting a response from the town government in light of that letter. Meanwhile, we are having a further meeting with the traffic police this week to encourage them to push through the exemption as quickly as possible. We are particularly disappointed in the current situation because last summer we had previously submitted a letter requesting parking exemption, which appears to have been ignored. We are now trusting that the weight of the Deputy Major helping us with our case will enable a satisfactory solution to the current situation in a speedy timeframe.

## Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge International A Level in China

Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge International A Level qualifications and programmes are in growing demand across Greater China, with a 12 per cent increase in entries over last year, according to Cambridge International Examinations. More than ever, international programmes are being advocated by families and academic staff in the region. Exam results in June 2017 showed that the cumulative Cambridge International A Level and Cambridge IGCSE entries in Mainland China alone reached 71,955 from 22,320 candidates, representing a growth of 14 per cent, significantly higher than the global averages.

The rise in popularity of the Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge International A Level qualification is often attributed to the uniqueness of these state-of-the-art programmes, which are founded in cutting-edge global research and strong cultural appreciation, knowledge and awareness. This allows learners from different backgrounds to quickly embrace these programmes and the wide range of subjects available. This has also been highlighted by the recent breadth of subjects chosen by students in China. Cambridge International A Levels in Computer Science have doubled since 2015, while this year has shown 14 per cent growth in Chinese pupils choosing entries for Cambridge International Art & Design.

In China, Britannica International School, Shanghai provides Cambridge International Examinations for students from over 40 nationalities and highlights the diverse, yet focused approach to learning that the Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge International A Level programmes offer as a fundamental advantage for young learners. Unlike other study programmes, such as the IB Diploma, Britannica's Cambridge International A level programme offers students complete flexibility and choice regarding the subjects they study. This allows pupils to focus clearly on their strengths and interests, while at the same time concentrating upon their aspirations for university and their future career.

David Goodwin, Principal of Britannica International, School Shanghai said "We are delighted to have been accredited by Cambridge International Examinations to deliver their IGCSE and A Level programmes. Many of our teachers are already experienced in delivering these courses and as such the mentoring and coaching that they are able to give them on their road to examination, is second to none."

The results speak for themselves. Britannica International School, Shanghai has consistently celebrated excellent academic results and recognises the increased

popularity of Cambridge qualifications both globally and across China. International education has been an important focus of discussion over the past decade in China and it is becoming increasingly popular for parents and children as a crucial pathway for future success.





## Sporting Activities at Britannica

We are pleased to share with you details of our sports activities that will make up this year's **After School Activity** provision.

This choice of activities will be supplemented by a number of **competitive sports teams** that are intended to give the students an opportunity to take their training to the next level and test themselves against other schools around Shanghai.

We are aiming to provide an opportunity for students who have displayed a particular interest or talent within a sport to challenge themselves on a competitive level. We believe that participation in competitive sports or activities can help promote positive habits such as good sportsmanship, teamwork and respect.

Initially our competitive sports provision will include; swimming, football, basketball and badminton.

### After School Sports Activities

Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><u>KS1</u> Dodgeball Multi Sports</p> <p><u>KS2</u> Invasion Games Dance</p> <p><u>Secondary</u> Football Swimming</p>	<p><u>Reception</u> Creative Movement</p> <p><u>KS1</u> Chinese Kung Fu Ballet Swimming Multi Sports</p> <p><u>KS2</u> Gymnastics Taekwondo Football Badminton</p> <p><u>Secondary</u> Basketball Boxing Fitness</p>	<p><u>Reception</u> Soccer Tots</p> <p><u>KS1</u> Taekwondo Swimming</p> <p><u>KS2</u> Chinese Kung Fu Dodgeball Basketball Ballet</p> <p><u>Secondary</u> Badminton Tennis</p>	<p><u>KS1</u> Gymnastics Tennis Hip Hop Football Dance</p> <p><u>KS2</u> Tennis Swimming</p> <p><u>Secondary</u> Ultimate Frisbee</p>



### Competitive Sports Teams

#### Swimming

Swim squad training will be open to all students who can demonstrate freestyle and backstroke continuously for 25m. These training sessions will take place on Wednesday and Friday before school, 7.15 – 8.00am.

Coach: Mr Anthony Chevrier – [anthony.chevrier@britannicashanghai.com](mailto:anthony.chevrier@britannicashanghai.com)

#### Basketball

Basketball training will be open to all students in Year 7 and above. We are looking to join a number of leagues around Shanghai and will be playing matches against other schools throughout the year.

Training sessions will take place on Thursday after school, 4.00 – 5.00pm.

For students in KS1 & KS2 there is a basketball ASA that will take place on Thursdays 3.00 – 4.00pm and finish in time to catch the school bus.

Coach: Mr Ross Mckechnie – [ross.mckechnie@britannicashanghai.com](mailto:ross.mckechnie@britannicashanghai.com)

#### Football

Football training will also be open to all Year 7 and above. Similar to basketball, we will be looking to set up a number of competitive matches over the course of the year. Training sessions will take place Thursday after school 4.00 – 5.00pm.

There will also be football ASAs for students in KS1 and KS2.

Coach: Mr Adam Barclay - [adam.barclay@britannicashanghai.com](mailto:adam.barclay@britannicashanghai.com)

#### Badminton

The Badminton team for this year will be coached and selected using the time in the Badminton ASA, if your child would like to represent Britannica in Badminton matches please make sure they sign up for this ASA.

Coach: Mr Oliver James – [oliver.james@britannicashanghai.com](mailto:oliver.james@britannicashanghai.com)



## 2017 –2018 AUTUMN TERM BRITANNICA SCHOOL CALENDAR



### September 2017

Wednesday, 6th September— Meet the Teachers—KS2, Secondary 3:30-5:00pm

Thursday, 7th September— After School Activities starts (Reception—Year 13)

Friday, 8th September— House Crazy Hair Charity Fun Day

Wednesday, 13th September— Roald Dahl Day - Year 3

Monday, 18th September— Britannica's Got Talent audition week

Friday, 22nd September— Open Morning for current parents

Wednesday, 27th September— School closes at 3pm for Mid-Autumn Festival



**ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

■ All School ■ EYFS ■ Primary ■ Secondary ■ School Holiday ■ Other

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