



# BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

# NEWSLETTER

27th April 2018  
Week 30

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 I was pleased to meet with our Korean parents for our termly Coffee Morning. We discussed the results of the recent parent survey and in particular key areas for further school development that are relevant and important to this parent group. Our Korean parents are an exceptionally supportive group within the school and we are always delighted to have the opportunity to spend time sharing with them.

Next week we have two Coffee Mornings, one with our Chinese parents on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May and the other with our Japanese parents on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> May. We look forward to similarly enjoyable and constructive discussions.

Activities around school this week have been dominated by our three Sports Days. All three, as is central to our philosophy as a school, have been fully inclusive of all students. While there has been personal and team competition in all three Sports Days, the fundamental aim has been to enable every student to continuously participate in events throughout the day in support of their Houses. Thank you to all parents who attended, to add to the community spirit.

On Thursday we had another very successful open day for prospective Early Years parents. Many of these parents had heard from friends and through the Shanghai community about the excellent provision we make in our Early Years programme. We also have a primary open day coming up shortly, at which we expect a similar large number of interested parents. Do let your friends and family know of these opportunities.

As parents start to think about next academic year, I am sure they will be pleased to hear that the final rounds of recruitment for new teachers are currently taking place. Again this year, we are blessed with one of the smallest school staff turn-overs in the city. I will be releasing details of all new teachers very shortly.

Enjoy reading the rest of this week's news.



## Week in Pre-Nursery

We enjoyed another musical and joyful week in Pre-Nursery as we continued our learning journey across our favourite Nursery Rhymes. We sang and learned about Miss Polly and her sick Dolly this week. Last week, we sent home a Nursery Rhyme booklet for you to sing along to at home. We hope you enjoy this activity together!

There are a number of concepts that we have drawn from in this nursery rhyme to enrich learning and introduce our children to.

Understanding our world is one of the curriculum focuses in Early Years where children are encouraged to show interest in different occupations in the community, notice details in our environment and use technology to gather information. Children role played doctors and nurses this week to understand how they help us when we are sick. They used medical play tools such as syringes, bandages, stethoscopes and thermometers to gather medical information about our sick dolls and painted the Red Cross symbol that they have come to understand represents medical help in our community.

Children practised their literacy skills as they took notes on clipboards about their patients and learned new words to describe their body part injuries. Children had much fun exploring these concepts, communicating with one another and demonstrated a great deal of empathy and care for others; another developmental goal as part of our social and emotional learning area of the curriculum.





## Week in Nursery

'Cheep cheep cheep' sung the chicks as the children observed, listened and gently stroked them. What a fantastic opportunity it was for your children to see the chicks up close in real life. These early experiences enrich your child's education and provide them with opportunities to explore and make links to the world around them. The little fluffy visitors sparked some wonderful conversations and provided us with the chance to talk about the changes that occur in the chick life cycle. This led us to mark making the life cycle onto paper, which gave our young writers a deeper understanding of what they were learning!

Next week, we will be observing the changes that occur in the life cycle of a butterfly, focussing on the story of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.





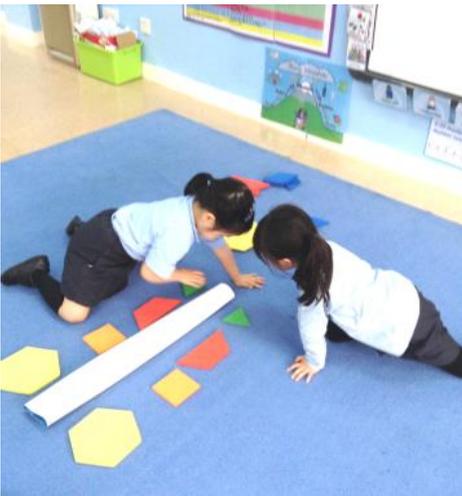
# Week in Nursery





## Week in Reception

There has been a buzz in the air as busy bees have been productive all week in Reception. The children have been enthusiastically learning about bees, what they do and how they contribute to nature. We have had flying swarms of bees as children have learnt about drone bees, worker bees and most importantly the queen bee. There has been fun as we have role-played being bees collecting nectar and taking it back to the hive to make honey, learnt who keeps bees and how they stay safe. But the most fun was had learning about how bees dance to communicate with each other. In phonics using their tricky words 'they are' Reception have been busy writing verb sentences about their craft bees. Are they buzzing? Are they flying? Or maybe they are dancing? Not only have bees helped us with our writing this week they have been busy showing us about hexagons and patterns through investigating a bees hive. Did you know bees can work out angles and that is why their bee hive is made of hexagons!





## Week in Reception





## Year 1

Another fantastic but busy week has come and gone at Britannica and Year 1 have been actively launching themselves into our new topic of Travel and Transport. The children have begun investigating and labelling modes of transport from the past and looking at how they have evolved over time. In English we have continued to learn how rhythm and rhyming words are used in poetry, creating their own version of a poem called *The Teddy Bear*. To enhance their speaking and listening skills, they have bravely recited poetry to the whole class. In Mathematics we have been learning strategies for mental addition and subtraction; how their knowledge of doubles can be used to work out 'near' doubles sums, while continuing to reinforce the concept of place value and the properties of 3D shapes. In Science lessons the pupils have been extending their understanding of the structure of plants and the function of their different parts, whilst looking at how the structure of deciduous and evergreen trees differs. This is linked to the global issue of climate change and what small part we can play as individuals to reduce our carbon footprint. Busy, busy, busy!



## Year 2

Year 2C have been very busy this week and working extremely hard. We have been preparing for our class assembly in which we did some acting and reading from the book *Rumble in the Jungle*. The children practiced their lines at home and tried their best to speak in a loud and confident voice. It is always scary to get on stage in front of so many people but the children did a great job.

During English we have been exploring the world of poetry. We have learnt all about rhyming words, alliteration and onomatopoeia and written our own poems about shoes and the sounds they make as we walk down the street. The children also had great fun sharing their poems with each other and other students.

Maths has been all about direction and co-ordinates. We created our own treasure maps and made questions to give to our partner. Some of us found it a little difficult, especially when we had to find more than one set of co-ordinates.





## Year 3

This week in English, Year 3 have been looking at biographies. We identified features of a biography then created our own. We used the iPads to record and interview each other, and asked a range of open and closed questions to get as much information as possible. In Science, we continued to investigate and test different surfaces for friction and analysed our results. We learnt new vocabulary such as predict, surface, friction, investigate and analyse. 'I predicted that the carpet surface would have the most amount of friction because it is not smooth like the lino or plastic surface. It feels very rough' Chad, 3A. In Maths we continued looking at recording and analysing data, and answered a range of statistical word problems.



## Year 4

This week in Year 4 we have been exceptionally busy. As part of our new collaborative topic where children across both classes have been able to work closely with pupils that they wouldn't normally work with, all children have made a super start to the 'Ni Hao Zhong Guo' topic. Whether it has been working in the ICT suite, or using laptops on the Year 4 corridor, it really has been a buzz of energy and excitement. Children have developed their research skills to locate key facts about China as a country, furthering their understanding of the country that they live in. They have then worked together to design an 'All about China' picture page, practising their knowledge of editing, copying, pasting and inserting images into a Word document. It is great to see children affirming their understanding of a complex set of ICT skills that continue to expand each and every term.

In Maths this week, we have been focusing on shape and fractions, whilst also continuing with our mental recall skills. Everyone has been trying exceptionally hard in preparation for assessments next week. Likewise in English we have been continue to work hard looking at issues and dilemmas within different stories, whilst practising our skills of comprehension within guided reading time.





## Year 5

Year 5 have been excitedly preparing for their class assembly which will take place on Monday morning. Year 5 parents are invited to attend with the other Key Stage 2 classes so I don't want to give too much away... But I have been pleased to see that many of the children have already learnt their lines and brought in costumes, some have even helped make some of the props! Many of the children are showing a real talent for performing and saying their lines loudly and clearly. Here are some photos from our rehearsal to whet your appetite...



## Year 6

Year Six are continuing to examine how tension and atmosphere can be developed within their paragraphs. They have used the *DASH?* mnemonic to assist them when structuring what to include: **d**escription, **a**ction, **s**peech, **h**ow (characters) feel, and a **?** rhetorical question. Within these stages, the classes were able to use adventurous adjectives, verbs and adverbs, as well as incorporate direct speech to enhance their writing. Classes will now gain more exposure to this style of writing by identifying effective language use in a range of texts. They will then have the necessary skills to begin writing their own cliff hangers to add suspense to a part of their overall compositions. In Science, children have used an online app called quizlet to create their own flashcards with detailed descriptions of scientific vocabulary to test one another's comprehension.





## Year 9 – PSHE

This Monday, our year 9 students presented an assembly to the rest of Secondary. Their topic was about Drugs: The Effects and Misconceptions.

In preparing for the assembly the students had to research the facts, prepare questions and then film an interview with multiple participants in pairs. Some groups focused solely on interviewing their teachers, whilst other focused more upon their peers. The questions they asked were not designed just to find out people's opinions on the subject but also to draw out common misconceptions. These misconceptions were then addressed in the assembly. The videos were created in many different styles, from true or false quizzes to interviews that looked more into people's perceptions.

The range of the topic was left up to the students and included illegal drugs as well as alcohol, nicotine, prescription drugs and drugs which are legal in some places and not others.

The assembly made many people, both student and staff alike more aware of many of the common false misconceptions involving drugs. The presentation went very well and the entire audience paid very close attention to the facts given.

Mr Clifton



## Are QR Codes the future?

This week in IGCSE Year 10 discussed the phenomena of the QR code, which is vastly becoming the primary payment method for citizens in China. The students had a good discussion that asked the question, 'could this transactional method become as popular in Europe as it is in China?' The class were split into two groups to discuss the advantages and disadvantages for both methods. In a light hearted but equally competitive environment both groups represented their sides very well. For QR codes one student argued that she no longer needs a wallet to hold all her physical cash which makes her pockets lighter. However, another student rebutted those claims by stating that physical cash gives him insurance when paying for things on the go. He stressed that anything can happen with QR codes such as transaction failures, system failures and digital fraud. Conclusively, when students were asked if they believed QR codes will eventually replace physical cash there was some apprehension amongst them all but conceded that it is becoming more and more popular with foreign citizens living in China.

Mr King

## Year 9 – Geography

Students have been learning about how to measure a country's development. They were given information cards for over 30 countries around the world and had to work in pairs to put these countries in order of development. This was challenging as not everyone agreed on the best indicator to measure development and this meant compromise. It was interesting for students to learn how one indicator could change their perception of a country. It helped us to realise that looking at many indicators is the best way of measuring development.

Miss Brown





## Expressive Arts Department

This week in Music we are looking at the younger children, to find out what they have been doing in class. It looks like they have been having fun experimenting with the different sounds. We have been very busy in our **HONK** rehearsals in the last couple of weeks and things are really starting to shape up. Students are working hard to learn dance routines as well as singing at the same time.

Our other ASA's have started again with gusto, having some younger members join our Britannica Orchestra, Britannica Voices 1, and the Year 6's moving into our Britannica Voices 2 choir. Welcome to all those new members.

If any student is still interested in moving into either of our choirs there is plenty of space for extra students. Please let us know as we would love to have you there.

## Honk Production

In our production we are planning to include all Year 3 to Year 6 students in our opening number and our closing number. Students will not have to attend the ASA but will be required during the weeks leading up to the show for a rehearsal during the school day. A letter will be going home shortly to outline what students will be doing and we hope you will all come along and support your Son and Daughter in the production.

We will be dividing classes into two groups, as we will be performing on two nights and we would like every student to have an opportunity to be part of this. We are also starting to put together a backstage crew to help with the props and costume changes. If you think your son or daughter would be interested in being involved please contact myself or any of the other staff – Ms Mayes, Ms Churchill, or Mr Donald and we will put together a short list for the two performances.

**Estelle Owens, Director of Expressive Arts**

## KS1 Music — Instruments and Composition

Years 1 and 2 have started off the Summer term by exploring the different timbres of various classroom instruments. They discovered why instruments made of wood, metal and skin produce different sounds and experimented with several examples from each category. These instruments include the djembe, bongos, castanets, claves, agogo bell and triangle.

Next, they will compose their own music to match a story and draw a graphic score to symbolise their pieces. These pieces will be refined over several weeks and prepared for performance during assemblies. I look forward to guiding the students through the compositional process and am excited to hear the results of their hard work!

**Leah Churchill, EYFS and KS1/2 Music Teacher**





## As Movie Night Approaches

As Movie Night approaches, it is great to see ticket numbers selling quickly. The School Council have been working hard to make preparations for the evening, which includes poster and ticket designing as well as pricing sweets, drinks and popcorn! There are still spaces available for the night, so be sure to hand your reply slip into Miss Wilcox before the 24<sup>th</sup> May.

A big well done for all pupils who have already participated in the Tube Challenge by placing coins in their House tubes. It looks like it's going to be a close competition! Remember the winning House will receive a special House activity at the end of term!

Both the Movie Night and Tube Challenge initiatives are both 'student-centred' ideas that were developed directly from students as members of the Student Council.

In the spirit of entrepreneurship, all money raised is going towards the new play equipment that was voted for across the school. This enterprise project shows both creativity and initiative by the students. We are a well-resourced school that is more than able to fund pupil activities and resources, but the value in pupils coming up with plans to raise money for themselves to purchase resources of their own choice for their own activities can't be ignored and is indeed very good education for them.

There are many other activities that the school and pupils participate in that raise money for charity, which of course has just as valid but different educational value.

As always, with all fund-raising events, parents may choose to opt in or out of participating according to their thoughts on the activity. Rest assured though, that this activity is not trying to replace the school funding resource purchasing, of which it is more than capable and willing to do, but is offering in our opinion a worthwhile educational opportunity for our students.



## Friends of Britannica —Teachers Appreciation Day

*Teachers Appreciation Day is a special day to celebrate, honour and show appreciation for all of our teachers and teaching staff at Britannica. This year, Teachers Appreciation Day will take place on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> June.*

*If you would like to participate and get involved please contact Mr Botha at [Conrad.botha@britannicashanghai.com](mailto:Conrad.botha@britannicashanghai.com) and he will get you in touch with the organisers of this year's event, The Friends of Britannica.*



## Sports Day

### EYFS Sports Day

On Tuesday morning the students in Nursery and Reception had a great time taking part in a variety of different sporting activities. They were able to test their skills and demonstrate their running jumping and throwing that they have been working hard to develop in class. Despite the weather being against us the students still managed to complete 8 different activity stations and they were all rewarded for their hard work at the end of the day with a certificate and medal. We are all looking forward to seeing how much we can improve in time for next year's event!

### KS1 Sports Day

On Wednesday our KS1 students arrived at school in their house t-shirts ready for an exciting day of sporting activities. Despite the Shanghai weather being against us we managed to set up 14 different activity stations inside the school for the students to work around in the morning. They were able to test their skills in events such as Beat the Goalie, Sprinting, Long Jump and Hockey to name but a few. The students were all working to achieve different sized balls to add to their house totals, which were accumulating all morning. In the afternoon fortunately the bad weather cleared and we were able to move the day outside, where the students were able to sit under the tents that they had decorated the day before. The afternoon's activities saw some intense tug of war battles and an exciting relay race in which all students gave everything for their houses. At the end when all the points were totalled the Green Dragons managed to snatch the title of 2018 House Sports Day Champions from the Blue Lions! Well done Dragons! I'm sure the students had a great day competing and we are all looking forward to next year's event now.

### KS2/Secondary Sports Day

A jam-packed week of sport at Britannica culminated today with our KS2 and Secondary Sports Day Event. The event saw students work through a variety of sporting activities in the morning; some qualification heats, some house competitions and some just for fun. The students had a great time in the morning working in their groups adding to their house totals. In the afternoon, our individual athletes who qualified for the finals competed in the high jump, shot put and 60m for the chance to further add to their house totals. The afternoon featured some unbelievably closely contested finals that were full of excitement for the students taking part and those watching. Congratulations to all our students who competed today and a special congratulations to the Yellow Tigers who won the overall house award for Sports Day 2018!





# Sports Day



# Sports Day





# Mother's Day

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May



## *Cooking Classes and Spa Day*

AN INVITATION TO STUDENTS AND MOTHERS FROM  
YEAR 5 TO YEAR 10 TO PARTICIPATE IN A SPECIAL  
BRITANNICA CELEBRATION  
TIME: 11AM TO 12:45



## *Secondary Open Day*

INTRODUCTION TO OUR SECONDARY PROGRAMME  
LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SECONDARY SCHOOL SUCCESSES  
EXPERIENCE EXAMPLES OF SECONDARY LEARNING  
LOCATION: THEATRE / TIME: 1PM TO 3 PM

*Lunch to be provided for participating parents  
in the Secondary Learning Centre at 12:30.*

Email [conrad.botha@britannicashanghai.com](mailto:conrad.botha@britannicashanghai.com) for details

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# Meet our Mother's Day Chefs

## *Luciana Rizzo from L.A.L.A. la cucina di Luciana*



Luciana Rizzo is an amateur chef and teacher at L.A.L.A. la cucina di Luciana.

Grown up in a Southern Italian family, she learned cooking and tips from her grandma from who she inherited the love of genuine food and family traditions.

She then moved to Veneto where she worked in a restaurant for 5 years. This is where she learnt as much as she could from watching and helping the chef.

Her cooking studio in Shanghai started in 2012 with the aim for sharing her passion with other people. Lessons include pastry course, western basic cooking and advanced fine dining, young chef courses, themed workshops for birthday parties, Christmas, Halloween, Easter...

She works as a teacher with other cooking studios and constantly improves her cooking skill, collaborating with several executive chefs in Shanghai.

She also provides services as a private chef, consultancy and catering for banquets and parties

## *Smita Singh from Curry Connection*

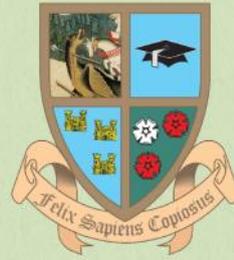


Starting off as an MBA working in two of the largest news and entertainment network companies in India, something was always amiss and soon I learnt that my place was not behind a desk but in front of eager students with whom I wanted to share my culinary skills, experiences as well as tips and tricks that I had learnt in the kitchens of my wonderful mother and my super chef grandmothers. Raised in New Delhi and hailing from Calcutta, my taste buds learned to explore, love and experiment with cuisines, from all regions across the country. And it is this love for the food that inspires me to cook.

The touch of various ingredients, kneading the softest dough, the fragrance of freshly minced mint leaves, the sound of mustard seeds cracking in hot oil, the vibrant colour of spices, the golden glow of saffron, the chopping of onions and even the watering of my eyes while doing that. I love it all.

Apart from running my own cooking class by the name of Curry Connection, I have been honoured to be associated with Community Center Shanghai, Sprout Lifestyle and Geneva as their culinary instructor and guest chef. And now my heart and eyes are set on the dream and an opportunity to open an Indo-world cuisine restaurant rooted deeply in traditions.

**Chef Smita Singh**



Britannica school is pleased to invite you to join Lu Ming Tang Experts for a fun beau-tea experience including:

- Preparation of your customized organic tea-powder mask  
*(please come without make-up)*
- Learning tips to get a healthy & radiant skin
- Fun games

*Complimentary event*

*for year 5 - year 13 - daughters & mother's only  
All participants to receive a Lu Ming Tang goodie bag  
One session in English - one session in Chinese*

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Friday May 11<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 12:45 pm  
@ Britannica International School



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## 2017 – 2018 SPRING TERM BRITANNICA SCHOOL CALENDAR



### May 2018

- ★ Thursday, 3rd May 8:45am to 10:00am — Coffee Morning for our Chinese Parents
- ★ Friday, 4th May 8:45am to 10:00am — Coffee Morning for our Japanese Parents
- Monday, 7th May—Open Day for prospective Primary Parents
  - ★ Friday, 11th May — Mothers Day special events
- ★ Friday, 11th May—Secondary showcase and Open Day for current secondary parents
  - ★ Tuesday, 15th May—KS2 Swimming Gala
  - Tuesday, 15th May—Year 8, 9,10 Mandarin trip to water town
    - ★ Wednesday, 16th May—KS1 Swimming Gala
    - ★ Thursday, 17th May— Reception Swimming Gala
    - ★ Friday, 18th May—Secondary Swimming Gala
    - ★ Thursday, 24th May—Honk Performance
    - ★ Friday, 25th May—Honk Performance



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

**ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

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