



# BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

# NEWSLETTER

13th October 2017  
Week 8

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 were delighted to welcome our Nursery parents on Tuesday to join their children and their teachers for a Teddy Bear 's Picnic. It seemed that good fun was had by everyone and we are, of course, committed to finding more opportunities this year for parents to come into school and see their children in action. Year 4 currently have a session arranged for them next Friday morning at 9:00am to attend a morning activity in class and we hope they also enjoy that opportunity. Next week also sees a full week of House Sport activities taking place, between 3:00pm and 4:00pm, as an alternative to the normal after school activities. Parents are welcome to come along and cheer for their child's House. With the colder weather now finally approaching we ask that parents remind themselves about the requirements for school uniform. All trousers, shirts and jumpers should be regulated school uniform, as should school shoes. Form teachers will be advising parents if they are concerned about a child's uniform. We have also been enthusiastic this week about some parents coming into school to assist in lessons, using their cultural knowledge and experience to better educate our children. Where these presentations tie into our curriculum we are always keen to take advantage of such opportunities. A few of our older students have started the October examinations at A level this week and we wish them all the best in their achievements on these and all Year 10 to 13 students have been part of a data collection exercise across all subjects so that we can track the progress they are all individually making on their respective courses. This data will help inform Parent-Teacher discussions that will take place on Wednesday next week, for which you will already have received details of your appointment times. Do enjoy reading about other events that have taken place at Britannica this week.



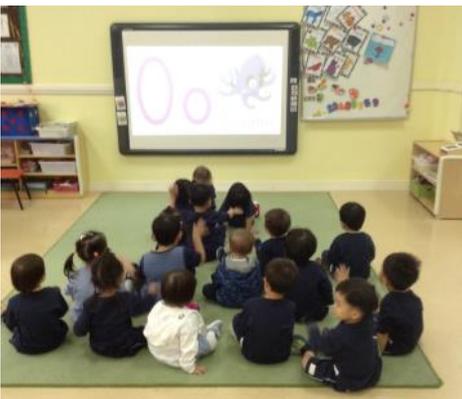
## Week in Pre-Nursery

Welcome back Pre-Nursery families! We have had a very busy first week back in Pre-Nursery. To help children settle back into school life and a return to class, we have introduced some new interesting and engaging learning areas and activities for them to explore, including: our life-size tree full of falling, colourful Autumn leaves; a sensory table of gel beads; a social tea party set; magnetic art boards and weather-inspired mobiles to motivate curiosity and promote conversation with children.

Children managed our "lockdown" drill exceptionally well this week. The drill was rehearsed together as part of an exciting game, "Hide and Be Quiet". Children enjoyed this new game and during the drill were quick to respond and huddle into our safest, group hiding space. Pre-Nursery children are now well-equipped with new skills in the instance we face an emergency. Well done Pre-Nursery!

This week we began our new topic for the term, "My School". Children were introduced to new vocabulary to help them identify tools we use in the classroom and enjoyed learning about the school bus through art, music and creative expression. Our focus song this week was, "Wheels on the Bus" and focus book, "Biscuit Goes to School" by Alyssa S. Capucilli.

Parent interviews will be conducted next week and I would like to thank you all for promptly returning your slips with your preferred meeting times. I look forward to seeing you all for discussions next Wednesday.





## Week in Nursery

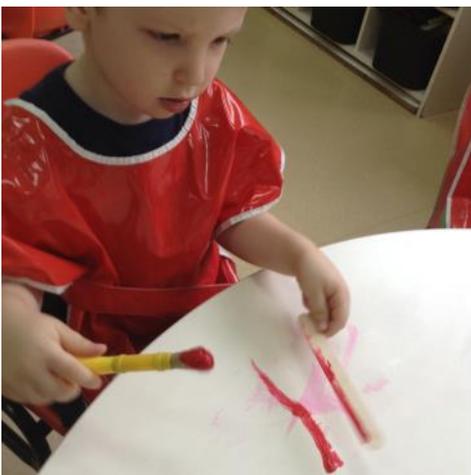
We had a wonderful time during the Teddy Bear's Picnic on Tuesday. Thank you to all those parents and carers who were able to attend, it made the morning very special! It was a lovely opportunity for you to see your child in action and hopefully you found the time spent in the classroom as enriching as we did. The Nursery Team will organise another Stay and Play next term, so if you missed this one you will have the opportunity to attend another session.

This week, we have been talking about our emotions. We have been naming emotions such as happy, sad, angry, excited, scared, hot and cold and talking about why we might feel those emotions. These are now on display in the classroom for children to access at all times. We will continue to talk about our feelings and actions throughout the year.

The children have also been getting messy in the shaving foam! They have been using their index finger to make emotion faces, and some children have even began forming the letters in their name!

We have had another exciting and jam-packed week in Nursery! Thank you for your continued support.

The Nursery Team





## Week in Nursery





## Week in Reception

Reception are in full swing again, it has been wonderful to see all of the children back eager and keen to learn. Reception have become mathematical wizards this week as we introduced the concept of addition using interactive practical activities. We have been counting groups of objects out into two groups then finding the total. Our new topic 'Opposites' has begun with lots of talk about emotions, colours, and size. Children have been busy looking at how emotions make us feel and with faces making the opposite emotion to their friends. In art, this week Reception have explored how to make a colour change in shade from dark to light. All the children loved this activity and were able to explain what was happening as a lighter colour was added.

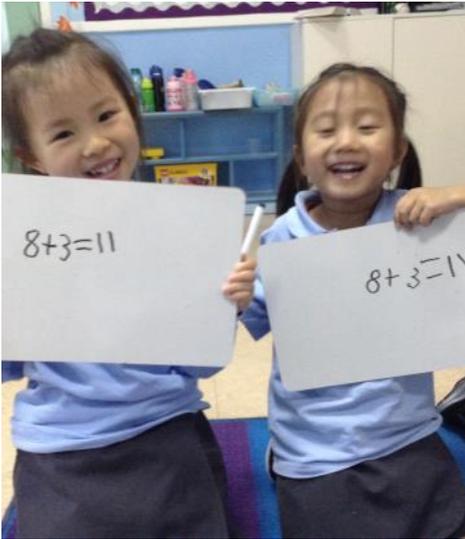
It has been wonderful to see how all the children have been practising their letter sounds and tricky words over the half term. We added four new sounds this week 'h', 'b', 'f' and 'l' and have begun to create some simple sentences together as we use some more tricky words, such as 'l'. Please continue with all your hard work with your sounds at home.

Next week, we look forward to continuing our topic 'opposites' and watching Reception take part in the inter-house sports activities. Please remember to bring your PE and house top everyday next week.





## Week in Reception





## Year 1

Year 1 began their exciting new topic 'Light Up The World' with a thought-provoking investigation into how we use light. In pairs, they looked at a range of resources designed to identify the main themes and create questions which they will hopefully answer within the upcoming topic.



The use of light and bright colours are key in most celebrations from around the world, and knowledge of these will help the children appreciate and be tolerant of each other's differences. A big thank you goes to Mrs Entes, a parent within 1A, who gave a fantastic presentation to the children about the celebration of Sukkot. We then made our own Sukahs and what a great job the children did.



## Year 2

Year 2 have been the rulers of the school this week as we have been learning all about measurement. We have been measuring the length, width, and height of different objects around the classroom using our hands, feet, bodies and fingers. However, we found that measuring the length of the classroom using our fingers was not the most efficient or accurate way of measurement. This led us to the "ruler" of straight lines, the ruler. Which we then found much more accurate as we used centimetres to measure objects around the classroom.

In English this week we have been focusing on capital letters and full stops; where we use them and all the different times we have to use capital letters. We have also been mini teachers, correcting each other's sentences, adding in capital letters and full stops in the correct places.

Topic this week has been learning about living and non-living. Mrs Nerg has helped us learn about the special things something needs to do to be living; movement, respiration, sensitivity, nutrition, excretion, reproduction and growth. We have also been learning about what a plant needs to grow and the different parts of a plant, all in preparation for our activities next week!





## Year 3

Year 3 have had a busy week, investigating, experimenting, and getting sticky! This week in Science, we discussed the different conditions and necessities plants need in order to grow and survive. We debated various topics about plants and eventually used our investigative skills to prove how plants absorb and transport water to the rest of the plant. We used blue food colouring, water, and a celery stick to show how water enters the roots (or base of the stem) and is transported to the leaves. Our celery has turned blue! We have also started making our giant peaches. To do this we used paper Mache, which is made from newspapers and PVA glue, to cover our balloons. In the next couple of weeks, we will begin painting and decorating our giant peaches!



## Year 4

This week in Year 4 we have been working incredibly hard using our skills of multiplication and division. All children have been able to find fractions of number, and many have also been able to find equivalent fractions. This is a high level skill and all children have been working really hard to perfect this during the week's maths sessions. Year 4 has also been very busy this week putting final preparations in place for our Exhibition Tea Party, which will take place next Friday. The Year 4 corridor really will be a hub of excitement, with some traditional British treats on offer for family and friends. We are really looking forward to welcoming parents into school to showcase our fabulous finished story books. Roll on next Friday!!





## Year 5

Year 5 are thoroughly enjoying reading and discussing Eva Ibbotson's story 'The Abominables'. Earlier in the week, we planned and wrote letters to persuade Ambrose the yeti why taking a reckless young yak from the heart of the Himalayas across to England would be a terrible idea! We will be continuing to develop our persuasive writing skills, and have begun to consider whether it is a good idea for animals to be kept in zoos. Today we wrote down our initial thoughts and sorted different arguments into 'For' and 'Against'.



## Year 6

Year 6 have just started their new unit on Fables. We compared the different genres of Myths, Legends, and Fables in order to know the difference between them, and then decided which features we will need to use in our work. To do this we used the iPads to research information about the three genres and recorded our findings using a true/false grid. Children were given the opportunity to compare a variety of traditional fables in order to identify similarities and differences between them. Examples of anthropomorphised animals (animals with human characteristics) were used to explore adjectives and adverbs. In Science, we explored the parts of plants and are now beginning to classify species according to their features.





## Year 12 English

After a fantastic start to their English studies last term, Year 12 have returned to Britannica following the mid-Autumn break with lots of energy as they begin their studies of the novel 'Noughts and Crosses' by Malorie Blackman.

The novel confronts issues of racism and prejudice in a world set in an alternate society. Light skinned Noughts serve the dark-skinned Crosses. Sephy, a Cross, and Callum, a Nought have been friends since early childhood. They can only ever be friends, but this too has its challenges in a world where being friends across the racial and social divide brings danger.

"I am enjoying reading the book because the story is so original." Anson

"The opening is very interesting as it makes me want to know more about the characters." Jessica

Year 12 will be using the novel as a stimulus to create a range of written pieces. They will create fiction and non-fiction work based on the novel's plot, characters and the issues raised within it. They will also examine Apartheid, prejudice, and equality.

## Smartphone – Friend or Foe

This week, the Year 12 and 13 students presented to the secondary school about the dangers of social media. Whilst there were some humorous parts to their presentation, it made me critically analyse my journey on social media. Although their message differs from mine, this is something that I believe needs to be highlighted.

The first social media website I joined was Hi5 back in the early 2000's. This was a phenomenon at the time for a young teenage boy. I was able to gain the attention of not only my friends but strangers who would often leave kind messages and therefore feed my ego. Back then it was still new and the vast majority of people were not on it and those that often came online every 2-3 days.



In 2017, social media is a life changer. It has created businesses, entrepreneurs, multimillionaires, but also egotistical, selfish and surprisingly unsociable beings. Before social media, or at the very beginning, going out with friends was always a thing to savour and, whilst this is the case, the dynamics for most of us has changed. We are fighting for the attention of our friends with a small device called the smartphone. Yes, that pretty little phone that is supposed to make our life easier. Just so happens it causes many arguments amongst friends.

I am an active social media participant and see the vast benefits of it, however, I also see the dangers of how it can strain our relationships. One day I was out with a friend from University and we went for dinner. Every time our conversation paused, I would go onto my phone and back on either Facebook or Twitter. He said to me "next time you take your phone out you will have a forfeit". The forfeit was irrelevant, but I learnt just how much time I spend on my device. It was something I needed because quite frankly we can all just hide in our phones.

I do not want to make this a long and boring article, but one challenge I have for you all is when you are travelling, I want you to look at other people and see how they are interacting. If you are in seated places like restaurants, have a look round. Where are their phones situated? How many people are on their phones? Is there a scenario of a few people talking but one or two people on their phones? I am not suggesting smartphones are not great because they make our lives easier. However, I am saying that we need to be careful just how much time we spend on them because they could end up being the very reason we become less sociable and lose friends. **Mr King**

## Student profile

I've loved Secondary from the day I started; it's just so much fun! I think you get much more freedom in Secondary than in Primary, so it's been a wonderful experience for me to be in Britannica!

I love all my teachers and classes and I am doing really well, everything I do is really fun and I love moving around all the time to get to different classes and see a different face every hour or so!

- Fletcher, Year 7A





## House Sports Week

From the 16th to 20th October, there will be no regularly scheduled After School Activities. In their place, Britannica's Sports Department has a huge range of inter-house sports competitions planned, giving all pupils the chance to earn house points in a variety of sporting activities.

Our younger students in Reception to Year 3 will be competing in mini athletics style events focusing on running, jumping and throwing. Years 4, 5 & 6 will be involved in swimming and mini-games, such as basketball shooting or dribbling challenges. Secondary students at Britannica will be competing in full versions of sports, such as basketball, football, ultimate Frisbee, and athletics. These active, fun and inclusive activities will conclude on the final day of House Sports Week with a closing event where the house points will be counted and there will be one last opportunity to win extra points with a giant tug-of-war competition!

Britannica International School, Shanghai is committed to promoting inclusivity and we look forward to seeing our students demonstrating the leadership and teamwork skills they have learned in class through healthy, inclusive sporting competition.

We kindly ask that parents and families ensure that pupils bring their PE kits and their house T-shirts to school every day next week.



## Calling all Tennis stars!

Students of Britannica who have past experience playing tennis are being offered the chance to benefit from world-class coaching and represent their school in competitions locally and nationally. This opportunity has arisen from our partnership with CE-TA as they look to uncover and develop the next big thing in tennis. If your child has experience playing tennis and would like to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity, please contact our Sports Department for more information.



## Japanese School Visits Britannica

Today, Britannica was visited by senior representatives from Aoba-Japan International School, Tokyo.

The visitors were welcomed to the school by our Head of English Faculty, Shaun Couchman, and Yoko Ikeyama, Britannica's Japanese Teacher and School/Parent Japanese Liaison Officer.

Our guests enjoyed a full tour of Britannica's facilities and learning more about the outstanding education that our school provides for pupils of all ages and backgrounds.



**Got a talent?  
Think you've got what it takes  
to share it with a live audience?**

**Well now is your chance!**



# **★ BRITANNICA'S GOT TALENT**

**Wednesday October 25th**

**All talents will be considered!**

**Juggling; performing a magic trick; singing a song; dancing; snapping;  
speaking in different languages; solving difficult equations quickly...**

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Book your ticket now by contacting  
Britannica's main reception on  
(+86) 021 6402 7889.

**Tickets are free of charge and are available  
via reservation only.**



## 2017 – 2018 AUTUMN TERM BRITANNICA SCHOOL CALENDAR



### October 2017

- ★ Monday, 16th October — Friday, 20th October — House Sport Week
  - ★ Wednesday, 18th October — Parent- Form Teacher Meetings
    - ★ Friday, 20th October — Year 4 Exhibition
  - Tuesday, 24th October — United Nations Day
  - ★ Wednesday, 25th October — Britannica's Got Talent
  - Friday, 27th October — Key Stage 1 Maths Day



### November 2017

- ★ Wednesday, 1st November — 12:00noon to 3:00pm Pumpkin Palooza
- Monday, 6th November — Friday 10th November — Anti-bullying Week
- ★ Wednesday, 8th November — Pre Nursery + Reception Parent Event
- Friday 10th November — School closes at 4pm for mid-term break



### ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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

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