



BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

NEWSLETTER

12th January 2017
Week 18

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,

A very warm welcome back to all our returning students and their families. A special welcome to the 20+ new families who join us this term. How special it has been this week to share our lovely school with our new students. Old students have done a wonderful job in making sure that new peers have been welcomed into the classroom and in recreational activities outside lessons. I have enjoyed watching the new students from Year 1 up to Year 11 playing with their new friends in the playground at lunchtime and seeing how quickly they have settled. This has always been a characteristic of the school, with new students quickly feeling part of the Britannica family.

We have also welcomed back Ms Elaine Fu and Ms Emma Arnold, after the birth of their babies. Both Ms Fu and Ms Arnold have also quickly settled back into work-life at the school and have reconnected with pupils, parents and colleagues.

We have been very pleased this term to open up a second Pre-Nursery class to cater for the extra demand at Admissions and the popularity of our Early Years provision. We look forward to watching our Early Years continue to flourish under the leadership of our excellent and enthusiastic teachers in that phase.

Students have been straight back into their studies, with Year 11-13 carrying out Mock IGCSE and A level examinations. We wish those students especially, all the very best in their achievements over the course of this important assessment period. Younger students have started on new projects and topics and the curriculum overviews that describe their learning for this term will be available on our website from next Wednesday.

Good communication between home and school remains essential to maximise success for your child. We continue to therefore encourage you to keep in regular contact with your child's Form Teacher, at least on a weekly basis, through the many communication channels that we have. As a whole school, we invite you to read our regular WeChat posts and weekly newsletters as well as watch out for emails and hard copy letters coming home to you.

Various activities and events are already planned for this term and others are in the pipeline. There will be opportunities for you to attend whole school events, see your child in action in school or join one of our many social events. We look forward to a very good term working with your child and alongside yourselves.



Early Years

A warm welcome back from the whole EYFS team here at Britannica. It is an action-packed and fun filled Spring Term, with lots of developments and exciting topics throughout the Early Years phase. Our most exciting development has been the opening of our second Pre-Nursery class this week and welcoming back Miss Emma Arnold from maternity leave. Our Pre-Nursery children have been delighted with their new classrooms, settling into the rich environment with fantastic enthusiasm. Nursery B had a wonderful welcome from Miss Amy Coulling and team into their new classroom where they revelled in the new classroom delights.

This term, Early Years looks forward to learning through three stimulatingly and rich topics. Pre-Nursery will be 'down on the farm' where they will be exploring the animals, places and products that a farm produces for our communities. There are going to be lots of animal sounds and songs and maybe some mucking out of the farm shed.

In Nursery the children will be enjoying the delights of traditional tales such as 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and 'The three Little Pigs'. There is going to be lots of fun and interactive story telling using story props and imaginative role-play around the traditional tale characters and as you've probably guessed maybe some huffing and puffing to blow down a house!

Be careful in Reception this half term as Dinosaurs have come alive! There will be tons of stomping, chomping, roaring and soaring as Reception learn about all the different aspects of dinosaurs. They will explore where dinosaurs lived, what they ate and how they moved, alongside creating various dinosaur artwork.

With all this action-packed topic fun you would think there would be no more room for anymore events, however, there are. The children will look forward to taking part in the whole school Energy Week and Chinese New Year, events and we look forward to welcoming Reception parents to a 'Phonics and Reading' workshop on **Tuesday, 23rd January 3pm-4pm**.

We look forward to this term and hope you enjoy hearing from your children all about what they are learning.

Thank you from all the Early Years Team.





Primary

Welcome back after the holidays! We hope you all had a fantastic break.

The children and teachers have come back refreshed and recharged for another exciting and busy term at Britannica.

Very soon, we have our Energy Week beginning on Monday, 22nd January. Preparations for Chinese New Year performances are well underway and teachers are also busy making the last few arrangements with external providers for our residentials for Years 4 and above, which we hope to share with you as soon as possible.

In addition to all of these exciting activities, the children will be busy in classes learning about all kinds of fascinating things:

Year 1 are continuing with their Explorers topic, learning about Christopher Columbus and exploring objects that float and sink.

Year 2 are starting a topic on Clothing, finding out about the different materials and different clothes that various cultures wear. They will also be reading and writing non-chronological reports.

Year 3 will be visiting the Shanghai Museum of Glass next Friday to discover the magical possibilities of glass before beginning their topic about China for the first half of this term.

Year 4 will be learning about the wonderful world we live in and have various opportunities to work scientifically and explore different concepts about sound and states of matter.

Year 5 will be finding out about the Ancient Greeks, as well as learning about Space in Science and investigating the water cycle, rivers and coasts in Geography.

Year 6 are beginning a project, incorporating interviews, reports and research into an online blog which they hope will introduce Britannica International School, Shanghai and China to students from other countries. Year 6 will also be constructing their very own 'Living Walls' using plants and feeding systems to benefit the environment at school.

As you can see we are looking forward to a very exciting term across all classes in Primary!





Secondary

I would like to extend a warm welcome back to all our Secondary students and parents. I am looking forward to an exciting and fruitful second term. We welcome two new students into the secondary school; Gavin Wong in Year 8 and Nicholas Tan in Year 10. We wish the two boys happiness and success at Britannica and hope they settle in quickly.

Our Year 11, 12 and 13 students have started the term with mock exams; these are taking place over the next two weeks. Students will be taking exams in all their subjects; teachers will be supporting and guiding students as it can be a daunting and stressful time. We wish them all luck and success.

There are lots of things to look forward to over the coming months; Energy Week, CNY preparations and celebrations and a house activity day where our Secondary students will be working alongside our young students in art, sports, music, drama and team building activities.

As always, if you have any questions please get in touch with your child's form tutor or myself who will always be happy to help.

Miss Rebecca Hatton, Head of Secondary





School Parking

We are grateful to our parents for their ongoing patience with the challenges of traffic and parking in Shanghai while they drop-off their child at school and pick them up.

We would like to remind parents that we have a comprehensive bus service available that serves our parent body and will ensure that any parking challenges that parents currently have can be removed. Due to the issues that have recently arisen with parking in the school vicinity we are happy to accommodate **all** pupils on our bus service.

For parents currently parking outside the school, we ask that you continue to consider our neighbours, who have again complained to the local police about their perception of inconsiderate parking by school parents. We have been requested by the police to ask our parents not to park diagonally in the bike lane or double park on the road and thereby block the main lane of traffic.

Saturday School

Dear Parents,

I hope you had an enjoyable and restful holiday.

Our Saturday School staff are busy preparing lessons and activities for the beginning of this term's Saturday School Programme. Saturday School is designed to help our second language students, it allows them some more informal English practice with their friends while also engaging in a variety of different sporting activities. I am so pleased to also see members of the Shanghai Community who do not attend Britannica being welcomed to our school on the weekends.

This term, Saturday School programme will start on Saturday, 20th January at 9.00am. I look forward to seeing all of our current students.

If you would like to sign up for our next programme, which will be starting after the Chinese New Year holidays, you can now find registration forms at the Britannica's reception desk. For details on price and availability please contact me directly at saturdayschool@britannicashanghai.com

Mr. Donald



After School Activities

I'm happy to announce that all children are now registered for their after school activities. These will begin on Monday, January 15th, and run up until Friday, March 23rd. If your child is registered for a paid activity, please send the fees to the school. Please include your child's name and activity on the envelope. If you have any questions, please contact me at david.hunter@britannicashanghai.com

Mr. Hunter



Music Department

Welcome to the Spring Term. Both Miss Churchill and I hope that you have had a wonderful winter break.

This term we are focusing on the start of our Musical Production 'Honk'.

I would like to congratulate the following students who have been selected for major roles in our upcoming production. Below is a list of those students and their roles.

All of the parents of students involved were sent an email that included a score and a letter concerning the dates and a rehearsal schedule. If you did not receive the email, Please let either myself or Miss Churchill know.



We look forward to seeing all of the cast at our first rehearsal on Tuesday 16th January in Music Room 306.

HONK! CAST LIST

Ugly - Mahi Wadhwa

Ida - Izabella Benovitskaya

Drake - Vicente Franco

Maureen - Betty Onk

The Cat - Claire Crawford

Greytag - Riccardo Catani

Dot - Anna Piccinno

Barnacles - Lola Caro

Snowy - Lulu Hsueh

Pinkfoot - Lucia Chiodi

The Bullfrog - Eugen Rothermel

Penny - Larysa Guo

Father Swan - Erica Yonemitsu

Mother Swan - Sabina Akhunova

Bewick - Tiffany Wang

Grace - Charlotte Tibbott

The Turkey Headmaster - David Yang

Henrietta - Sylvie Crawford

Jay Bird - Isabel Lu

Billie (duckling) - Amber Yu

Beaky (duckling) - James Miller

Fluff (duckling) - Kyla Vaughan

Downy (duckling) - Molly Jeong

Ducklings (duckling) - Vivian Li, Eric Zhang, Sophie Ye

Mice - Eliane Kuppusami, Hanon Maruta



PA Welcome

This week we have welcomed Jessie Xie who has joined our Britannica staff team as the new PA to The Principal. Jessie takes over from Catherine Huang, who has now become the school's HR Officer.

Jessie has recently arrived in Shanghai, with her husband, having being previously employed at YCIS in Beijing.

For current parents with questions or concerns that can't be answered by their child's class teacher, then Jessie will be their best point of contact. Jessie can be contacted at Jessie.xie@britannicashanghai.com





BRITANNICA
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL,
SHANGHAI

OPEN DAYS

☐ Early Years

16th January (ages 2-5)

& Taster Day on request – 18/19th Jan



SCHOLARSHIPS

☐ Secondary Pupils

New students starting February (ages 11-18)

Sixth Form – A level

Cambridge IGCSE



The Best of British Education
Personalised Learning

To Reserve Your Place:

Email: admissions@britannicashanghai.com

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2017 – 2018 SPRING TERM BRITANNICA SCHOOL CALENDAR



January 2018

- Tuesday, 16th January — Early Years Open Day
Thursday, 18th January — EYFS Taster Day
Friday, 19th January — EYFS Taster Day
Friday, 19th January — Year 3 trip to Shanghai Museum of Glass
Monday, 22nd January - Friday, 26th January — Energy Week
★ Tuesday, 23rd January — Reception parents 'Phonics and Reading' workshop



February 2018

- Monday, 5th February — Dress rehearsal for CNY Performances
Wednesday, 7th February — Morning opening of CNY celebrations: Students' Dragon Dance
★ Wednesday, 7th February — KS2 & Secondary CNY Performance
Wednesday, 7th February — CNY Activities
Thursday, 8th February — Chinese Costume Day
★ Thursday, 8th February — Reception & KS1 CNY Performances
Monday, 12th February — Friday, 23rd February — School closed for CNY holidays



March 2018

- Wednesday, 7th March — Mother Language Day
Monday, 12th March — Friday, 16th March — Book Week / House Competition
Monday, 26th March — Friday, 30th March — Expedition Week



★ Parent Event All School EYFS Primary Secondary School Holiday Other

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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