

BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

NEWSLETTER

2nd February 2018
Week 21

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,

The poor pollution this week has meant that most play times and PE sessions have been taken indoors. How grateful we therefore are for our excellent indoor spaces that enable students to still have some recreational time and a chance to let off some steam. Our comprehensive pollution policy has also meant that student well-being is kept at the forefront. My midday AQI readings that I have taken inside the building, have never risen above 33 over the course of the week, which gives us confidence that students and staff continue to work in a healthy air environment, despite the challenges elsewhere and outside in the city.

On Wednesday, six of my colleagues and I enjoyed a lovely Coffee Morning with our Korean parents. Over twenty mums were in attendance and we were able to share a number of discussion points that will help us work even better together in the future for the benefit of our students and their families. After Chinese New Year, we will be holding a Coffee Morning specifically for our Japanese parents, to enable us to share with them too, on a more personal and individual level.

The big talk among teachers this week has been the lost dinosaur from Reception. We've all had lots of fun joining in with the hunt, with even Year 9 writing to Reception with ideas and advice on how to find the dinosaur. Do read more about that inside this weeks newsletter.

Today we have given our best wishes to Mrs Kate Calmeille, who starts her maternity leave this weekend. Joshua Carr, who has joined us as Mrs Calmeille's replacement, has been working alongside the 3B class this week to ensure a smooth and effective transition. We will be giving all his new parents an opportunity to meet with him after the Chinese New Year holiday. Good luck Mrs Calmeille and see you again in August!!!

Notices of future events and activities are currently in your possession, including initial details regarding our proposed student trip to Mallorca in the Summer Term. This is a very exciting new venture for the school and for Orbital, where we are trying to make the most of having a sister Orbital school on this beautiful Mediterranean island. We very much hope that parents will support the opportunity for their child to participate in this very special experience. Plans are still slightly flexible regarding this trip and some parents have asked if they too could also join. We see added value in this and would be very happy to accommodate this if some parents wished. The itinerary that Mr Benson and Mr Mckechnie have put together in collaboration with the Principal in Mallorca is very exciting and we know that students (and parents) will gain enormously from this cultural and educational trip.

Enjoy reading this week's other news.



Week in Pre-Nursery

This week children have enjoyed learning about the vegetables grown on the farm. Children learnt more about the world we live in with a PowerPoint presentation showing photographs of farms, farmers at work and vegetable plantations.

Children were introduced to the role of the scarecrow on the farm and developed an understanding of its use in scaring off birds to protect the farm's growing vegetables. Children danced and sang happily this week to "Dingle Dangle Scarecrow", moving with pleasure, enthusiasm, coordination and balance. Lyrics to this favourite song are pinned on our family notice board for your reference.

Our book of the week, The Giant Turnip, introduced our children to the language of size and action. Children acted out scenes of the book, working together to "pull and pull" the giant turnip out. We talked about how big the "enormous" turnip was.

Children used their senses to investigate and explore vegetables. We made vegetable shapes, painting with corn, carrots and capsicums; in role play we cooked and sorted our vegetables from the many other food types we have in our kitchen; we used our fine motor skills and investigation skills to find and dig up potatoes from our soil tray and delighted in the change we saw as corn was cooked and popped to make popcorn.

What a tasty and wonderful week of engaged discussion, communication, investigation, exploration, and learning.





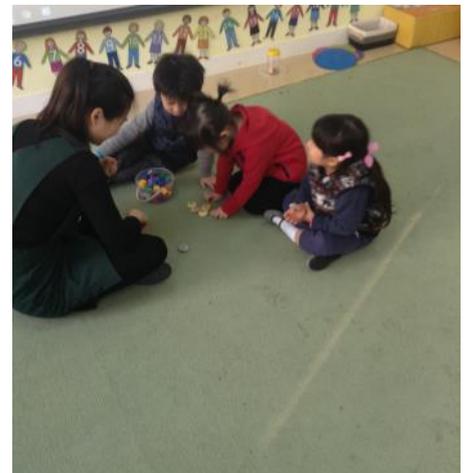
Week in Nursery

We have been doing lots of lovely indoor activities this week and we have found that playing inside is fun! We have been climbing under, over and through climbing equipment, practising yoga and playing with Beebots.

Nursery A have been making and tasting porridge, I wonder if it was too hot, too lumpy or just right? They have also been retelling the story using puppets- can your child retell the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears to you? Nursery B have been making houses for the little pigs using recyclable materials and testing how strong they can make a tower of bricks before it gets blown down!

Next week, we will be reading 'The Great Race' and preparing for Chinese New Year. Please remember to bring your child to School wearing National dress costume or a red outfit, for Thursday, 8th February.

The Nursery Team





Week in Nursery



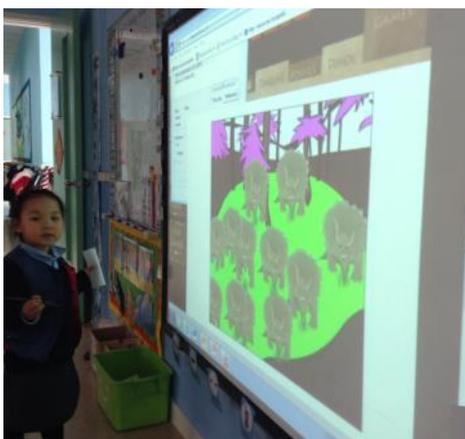


Week in Reception

Is it a T-Rex? Is it a Stegosaurus? Is it a Velociraptor? What fun we had in Reception this week as a giant hunt was underway to locate a missing dinosaur. Having hatched out of its egg three weeks ago, this Mesozoic creature went off to roam the school in search of fun and friends leaving a trail of half-eaten leaves and muddy footprints in its wake. Possible sightings emailed to the Reception children from other classes included bones found in the canteen to rather unpleasant dinosaur whiffs wafting along corridors. Like true detectives, the children pieced together all the clues until finally our friendly Stegosaurus was located on the third floor next to the French room, taking refuge behind a rather large plantand nibbling on some leaves. The children concluded that Stegosaurus must be jetting off to Europe for Chinese New Year and popped in to learn a few French words for her travels!

The children also had the chance to get their hands dirty this week as these budding paleontologists spent their time digging for clues, discovering how fossils and bones can provide us with so much information about the dinosaurs of the past. In Mathematics we focused on estimations, making clever guesses as to how many children can fit into a box or how many marbles we can fit into a boat before it sinks.

It has been a fun-filled week in Reception and we are sure that next week will be equally entertaining as we kick off our celebrations with Chinese New Year activities on Wednesday followed on Thursday by our Chinese New Year concert at 9.15am. We look forward to seeing all the parents there and all the children performing in their Chinese costumes.





Week in Reception





Year 1 Get Weighed

We have had a fun and exciting week in Year 1, weighing ourselves and different objects in the classroom. We have been using language to describe if something is heavier or lighter. Unfortunately for us teachers, it was estimated that we were the heaviest in the class and we then had to get on the scales to prove the children right. Thankfully the children moved on fast from this to weigh objects with blocks. They all had fun trying to balance the scales to find out how many blocks each of the objects weighed.



Year 2

There was some hair-raising activity in the Year 2 classrooms as we discovered static electricity as part of energy week. The atmosphere was electrifying with family and friends getting involved in our balloon experiment that we attempted. The objective was clear: make a plastic bag hover above the balloon. Some experiments were better than others, Mr Benson's class managed to positively charge their balloon and plastic bag so much that the bag stuck to the ceiling! Mr Read's ended up shocking as we struggled to create enough charge to repel the plastic bag! Aside, from the excitement of Friday, we have learnt so much about energy, and most importantly, how to conserve it. Overall, Year 2 had an entertaining week where everything they have learned should stick with them.





Year 3

Year 3 have had a busy week! We started the week exploring a range of non-fiction texts. We loved looking at all the colourful books with interesting facts! We identified a range of features for a non-chronological report, and looked at how and why they are used in these texts. We then chose the features we wanted to include in our own reports. From our topic research on a Chinese landmark, we designed, created and edited our own chronological reports. "I really like my report so far because I have included lots of different features and it is going to be really colourful and interesting to read" Yolanda, 3A. In Science, we have been exploring a range of rock types getting our hands chalky whilst touching a range of igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks. "It was really interesting to see the sparkles inside the rocks, some of them were really pretty!" Kyla, 3A. Finally, in Maths we have been learning about reading analogue and digital time as well as solving a range of time-related word problems.



Year 4

We have all been very excited this week in Year 4 looking forward to our Chinese New Year celebrations. In our English lessons, we have been working hard to draft and edit our own explanation texts, focusing firstly on our own morning routines. We have also been able to practise how to answer questions with detailed advice and information. Mental skills have been a big focus in Maths as we continue to learn times tables and key number facts. In our new topic, it has been great to learn about the structure of the earth and we used our ICT times to learn new interesting facts about the world that we live in.

A great effort from all children - well done! We continue to thank parents for their support with home reading-it really does make a huge difference. Have a great weekend to our Year 4 friends and families!





Year 5

Year 5 have been travelling way back in time to learn about the Ancient Greeks. We have been amazed at how clever they were, and how much our society has learned from them. Year 5 have also been demonstrating how clever they are by doing their own research on inventions we use that came from ancient Greece. They worked in groups to do their research and found out loads of great information. They then took on the role as teacher to tell the rest of the class what they had discovered.



Year 6

Year 6 are continuing with their China-Link project. They have researched information under headings such as Landmarks, Foods, Inventions and Traditional Games. They will write and record this to create an online blog which aims to introduce our school and China to students from outside the country. As part of this project, they have explored the negative effects of China's pollution on health, and are currently designing frames that will be used to house their Living Walls. In Science, children are enjoying discovering facts about the various body systems and have used an App called Kahoot to design and play quizzes about the human body. Did you know that similar to fingerprints, everyone also has a unique tongue print? Or that your body has enough iron in it to make a metal nail 3 inches long???





Year 11 Physics

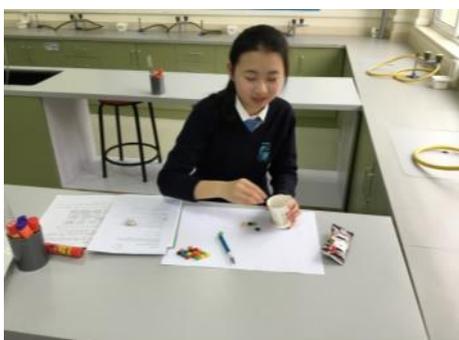
Our Year 11 pupils are currently learning about the fundamentals of nuclear radiation. Often people associate nuclear radiation with negative things, but our students are also focussing their studies on the useful purposes of radiation.

As it is impossible for us to bring 'radioactivity' into the classroom and make it visible, we have to rely on models. This week, our pupils studied a variety of simulations in our computer lab to investigate how the nucleus of an atom changes during decay.

Later in the week, our pupils used M&Ms as a model for the decay of unstable atoms.

Each dye represents one unstable atom. Like real atoms, it is impossible to predict when a particular dye will 'decay', but it is possible to predict the fraction of the M&Ms that is likely to decay in a given time.

They used this activity to make a connection to the rate of decay of atoms and used their outcomes to estimate the half-life of the M&Ms.



Year 7 PSHE

Year 7 students are becoming 'Newsreaders' on their latest topic in PSHE. They are creating their own Newsround shows where they will research, write and present the news. Here are some pictures of them in action...



Art House Activity – Chinese New Year

Students have been excitedly making beautiful paper animals during their time in art class. Original designs and origami animal shapes were cut from paper and then assembled together in the art room. They now hang majestically from the corridor roof for all to see. Well done to all of the Houses and look out for Chinese-style Dragons on the third floor!





Hong Kong Marathon Success

All at Britannica would like to send a huge WELL DONE to Miss Smyth and Miss Lee, who flew to Hong Kong last weekend to compete in the Hong Kong marathon. We are very proud of all their inspiring effort and hard work.

Music Department

In Year 9 Music we are looking at the traditional music from Africa. Students are practising playing a traditional Hatsiatsia and looking at how it is created. They will then be creating their own Hatsiatsia.



Saturday School

The first 14 week programme of Saturday school comes to an end this weekend.

It has been such a fantastic term for our Saturday Programme which I am pleased to say was full to capacity. For fourteen weeks students from Year 1 to Year 6 have been taking part in extra English language lessons and then blowing off some steam with our excellent multi sports facilities.

I am so pleased to see the Saturday School going from strength to strength and the feedback from parents has been fantastic.

You will have by now received a registration form for the next 14 weeks programme which will begin on the 10th March 2018 at 9.00am. Places are limited and we will operate on a first come, first serve basis so please return your registration forms as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

As ever, if you have any questions about the organisation of Saturday school then please feel free to contact me at saturdayschool@britannicashanghai.com

I look forward to another excellent 14 weeks.

Kind regards

Mr Donald



Next Week - Chinese New Year Celebrations

Everyone at Britannica is looking forward to celebrating Chinese New Year in style with a host of fantastic activities and performances in honour of the forthcoming year of the dog.

Next week, pupils and families can look forward dragon dances, singing, dancing, drumming and wonderful costumes to celebrate this special time of year. As always, a full list of events can be found in the school calendar on the final page of the newsletter, but here's a reminder of activities happening across the school in Week 22!

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS 2018

Monday, 5th February

Dress Rehearsal for Chinese New Year Performances (all school)

Tuesday, 6th February

Chinese New Year Performance for local kindergartens (all school)

Wednesday, 7th February

Morning Opening Dragon Dance (Parent & family event - 8:30-8:40am)

KS2 & Secondary Chinese New Year Performance (Parent & family event - 9:15-10:15am)

Chinese New Year Activities

Thursday, 8th February

Chinese Costume Day (all school)

Reception & KS1 Chinese New Year Performance (Parent & family event - 9:15-10:15am)

Reception & KS1 Chinese New Year Performance (Parent & family event - 1:30-2:30pm)



BRITANNICA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

SAILING TRIP MALLORCA, SPAIN

1st June - 10th June

Years 5 - 10

WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO BE ABLE TO OFFER TO THE STUDENTS OF BRITANNICA OUR FIRST INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL TRIP! IN SUMMER, WE PLAN TO TAKE THE STUDENTS TO MALLORCA, SPAIN, FOR A WEEK OF SAILING, SPANISH CULTURAL EVENTS AND ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES.

To register your interest, please contact either Mr. Benson at john.benson@britannicashanghai.com or Mr McKechnie at ross.mckechnie@britannicashanghai.com no later than by Friday, 2nd February.

Enrol in a week long beginner sailing course from Calanova Sailing School, one of the top sailing schools in Spain.

Experience the vast culture of Spain as we visit some of Mallorca's spectacular sites.

Meet with and join in activities with students from another Orbital school and create new friends that will last a lifetime.



BRITANNICA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

Poetry Competition

'Through the Looking Glass'



Are you a budding poet?

Get your thinking caps on, and your best pens out, to write a poem with the theme of *'through the looking glass'* for your chance to win a prize and have your poem printed.

Submit entries in electronic format to you class teacher.

Deadline for entries—Wednesday, 31st January 2018.



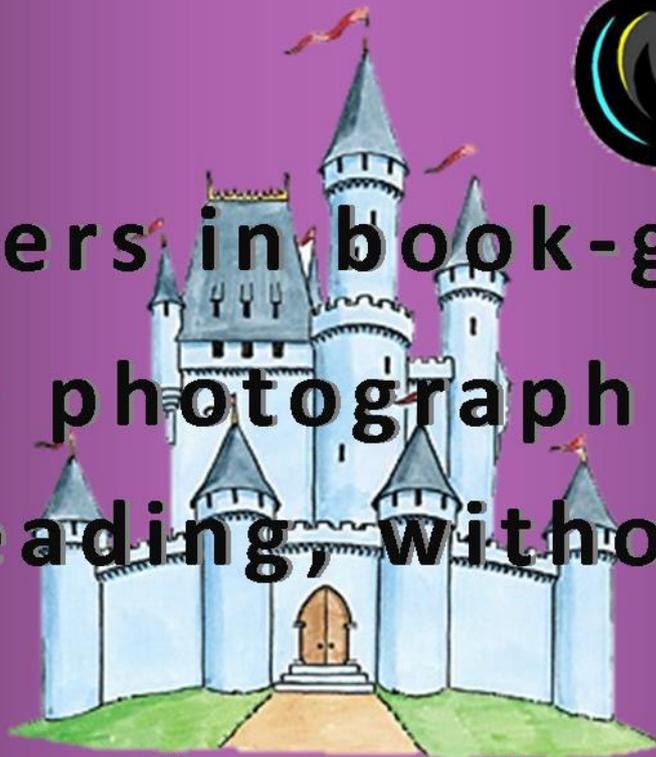
BRITANNICA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL,

Book Week 2018

Photography Competition



Readers in book-guise!
Take a photograph of you
reading, without



email your entries to

bookweek@britannicashanghai.com



2017 – 2018 SPRING TERM BRITANNICA SCHOOL CALENDAR



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

Wednesday 21st March — Britannica Spring Instrumental Concert

Tuesday, 27th March — Early Years Foundation Stage Open Day (9:15-12 noon)

★ Thursday, 29th March — EYFS Parents Open Morning 'Spring fun activity and giant picnic day'

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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