



# BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

# NEWSLETTER

16th March 2018  
Week 25

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,**

Anyone visiting the school this week will have not left unimpressed with the breadth of activity and involvement among all students and their teachers, to make what has probably been our most successful Book Week yet. I have just left the second Assembly of the morning where we have enjoyed listening to all that students have been involved in and the learning that has taken place and the fun that has been had over the last five days. A testament to everything that makes Britannica special.

The week also coincided with other special events happening, including what parents tell me was a very informative and enjoyable Maths Workshop for parents in Year 1 on Wednesday afternoon. All four Year 1 classes were packed with parents, who spent time learning how Maths is taught and how parents can support their children at home in this important curriculum subject. A similar Phonics Workshop for Year 1 parents will take place very soon after the April holiday. Mr Michael Clack, the new Orbital Regional Head of Schools, was our special visiting guest this week, who took the opportunity to get to know the school better and meet staff, students and parents after having recently joined Orbital this term. We look forward to further working with Michael as we continue to develop the school. An important and exciting meeting took place with interested parents and students on Thursday night, where the final arrangements and itinerary for our Year 5-10 school trip to Mallorca was presented. This will be the first inter-school, inter-continental Orbital school trip that has taken place and we are delighted that so many of our parents are supporting their children, joining this very exciting and what we are sure will be an incredibly enriching learning experience.

This week's newsletter is packed full of the colour and excitement that has taken place at Britannica this week and we hope you enjoy reading it!





## Week in Pre-Nursery

We love reading! Book Week in Pre-Nursery has been an exciting week as we explore the lifecycle of a caterpillar using the fabulous book, 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle.

We explored food and enjoyed socialising with our friends over tea. We talked about the foods we like and don't like during our class tea party. We enjoyed sharing, taking turns, serving one another and asking each other simple questions.

We got messy and creative and explored the use of colour with symmetry finger painting to produce wonderful butterflies and exercised our mathematical problem-solving skills matching picture cards and sorting them on puzzles.

We spent much time outside enjoying the beautiful spring weather early in the week, role-playing in the mud kitchen and exercising our gross motor skills. We learnt how to use new tools and with good coordination we enjoyed wall painting with water.

Children have been captivated by our newly decorated classroom, using the art work to ask questions and share experiences. Book Week has been amazing and we will thoroughly enjoy the dress up and parade.







## Week in Nursery

Wow, what an exciting Book Week! In Nursery, it is Book Week every week, however, this week it is extra special as we have been busy with the events happening around School! On Wednesday, we were invited to a Year 7 drama play about Fairy tales and were able to join in with the story, by shouting out the magic word 'Abracadabra!' to help the lost Wolf back to his own story book of the Three Little Pigs.

The Nursery children have been very popular this week as lots of Teachers have wanted to read them a story! It has been a wonderful opportunity for the children to meet some of the other Teachers and listen to their favourite stories!

In our classrooms, we have been singing the rhyme Baa Baa Black Sheep and making up our own nonsense rhymes too! We are learning how to rhyme and we have been making portions of Silly Soup, by putting things that rhyme into the pot and stirring it, singing the Silly Soup song. Can your child sing it to you? It's very silly! We hope you enjoy our photographs from the week.

The Nursery Team







## Week in Nursery







## Week in Reception

Oh help, oh no, it's a GRUFFALO!

This week Reception have been learning about Julia Donaldson's most famous book 'The Gruffalo'. We have had so much fun acting, making junk model musical instruments and with the help of our wonderful parents we made some delicious Gruffalo crumble. Take a look at our photos to see some of the fun.







## Week in Reception







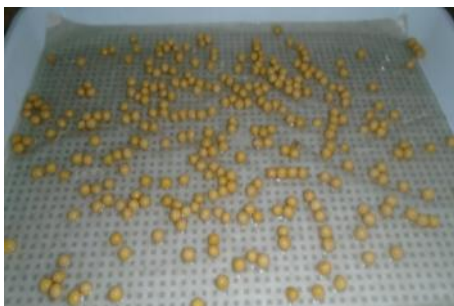
## Year 1 and their new reading buddies

Wow! What a great Book Week Year 1 have had. Our favourite day by far was definitely when we were invaded by Year 10 and 11 students. They took us round the book fair and helped us look for lots of interesting books that we would like to buy. We then headed back to the classrooms to listen to them read books to us. We even got to read to them and they were super impressed with our reading skills.



## Year 1 and the beanstalks!

In Science continues this week as the children have enjoyed planting magic beans and watching them begin to grow into beanstalks. We have had fun getting our hands dirty and planting the seeds in soil discussing what we think might grow from them. They were very excited on Monday morning when they came in to see some of the magic beans had started to spout and have enjoyed taking in turns to remember to water them every day. Hopefully, it won't be too long until we get our magic hen which can lay golden eggs!



## Year 2

Year 2 have had a busy time this week with plenty of activities to get stuck into! Classes have been showing their competitive side as they race through the last week of the Reading Race. The start of Book Week has filled the children with excitement and curiosity, discovering more about Roald Dahl and some of the spectacular stories he wrote.

The most colourful part of the week came when the year group dyed their t-shirts with tie dye! All to support our learning on the topic lessons of 'Clothing' this term. We spent time making sure our elastic bands were tight on the t-shirt then dipping them into a range of colours. After spending time drying the plain white t-shirts have become a vibrant summer collection, watch out Armani!







## Year 2



## Year 3

The students have had a fabulous Book Week, enjoying a huge range of activities from reading books to making their own potions (including Mr Hunter's exploding potion). The week all started with an assembly in the School Theatre where we got to find out about all the cool things we would be doing during Book Week. Since then we have made our potions, visited the book fair, created our own supervillain / superhero, listened to some fabulous stories from some teachers we do not normally get the chance to work with, and most of all had lots and lots of fun! As well as all of these activities, we have been focusing our attention on King Arthur, our Book Week theme, and have enjoyed hearing the story. As well as this, we have created our own castles to demonstrate the features normally, and have been retelling the story of King Arthur through drama. It has been a great week and it is also great to see how much the students love to read!







## Year 4

This week, Year 4 have fully immersed themselves into Book Week! Everyone has had lots of fun and enjoyed the different activities and events that have taken place. On Tuesday, all of Year 4 went to the book fair where we were able to indulge in our love of books. Children were amazed by the number of different types of books on offer and were enthusiastic to sit down and be able to delve into the selection of genres available. Captain Underpants and Dog Man were some of the favourites along with Geronimo Stilton. Each child had a wish list where they could then pick their most favourite. It was a pleasure to watch all of Year 4 celebrate their love of literature together as a year group. Thank you to all parents for their continued support with reading both at school and at home. It really does make a difference! One more week to go now before the residential-so nearly time to get packing! Wishing you all a restful weekend!



## Year 5

Throughout the week Year 5 have had opportunities to work with their friends and peers from across Key Stage 2 to make potions, create book covers on ipads, make their own wish/dream catchers and draw a portrait of a combined hero/villain! On Tuesday, Ms Gillespie came to read 'Stick man' by Julia Donaldson and had the opportunity to browse all the wonderful books in the Book Fair. On Wednesday, we celebrated pi day and had a go at some tricky puzzles that Mr Rosenberg had set the teachers and continued to write our Greek myths. On Thursday, Mr Donald led Years 4, 5 and 6 in a Drama activity about Cinderella using no words. Then, of course, today we have celebrated by dressing up as different book characters.

What a very busy week!

I must also add how impressed I have been with how well Year 5 have worked collaboratively to design and decorate the outside of our classroom as part of the 'Book Week Classroom Door Decorating Competition'; teaching each other to create origami dragons, supporting each other to make a nest for the dragon's eggs and of course making the central dragon with its smaller friends.

Well done Year 5!!

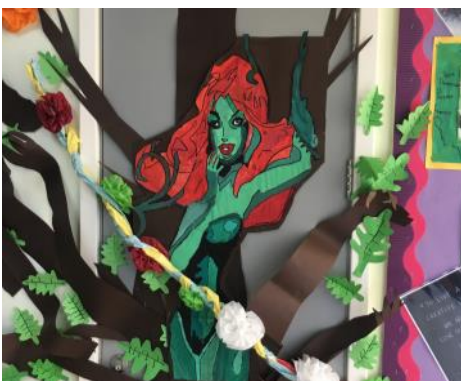






## Year 6

This week has been extremely busy. Year 6A are currently nearly finished writing a discussion text of their own choice whilst Year 6B have finished writing a discussion text about the question of school uniform. This raised intelligent arguments, both for and against, and in the end, we came to the conclusion that school uniform was a good idea on lots of different fronts: both practically, socially and academically. We are sure many parents would agree with this, especially with the amount of paint that some children take home with them on their uniform. Year 6 also hijacked Mr Rosenberg's Pi Day (3.14) and used his wonderful questions to challenge the children in our Maths lesson. The children were fully engaged and worked quickly to try and answer all of the questions independently. Book Week is upon us and the children have been working tirelessly to adorn classroom doors and corridors to compete with the rest of the school. The school is looking fabulous and there is a buzz about the place. We are extremely excited to get dressed up in our costumes. Look out for 6A Pirates as well as 6B Heroes and Villains such as Super Girl, Wonder Woman and maybe even a Penguin walking the halls.







## University Fair at SSIS

Earlier this week our Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students spent the morning at Shanghai Singapore International School. Over 80 universities from all over the world were in attendance; students had the chance to find out all about the different universities and began to think about what subjects they would like to study in the future and where in the world they could study. A university library is being created on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor at school with prospectuses and information from each university; students are free to go and look and use these whenever they want. This visit will be followed up with careers and mentoring talks during PSHE and form time.

## What is happening in French this term?

Year 7 have been learning the vocabulary related to their school timetable and their favourite subjects. They made amazing posters where they talked about their favourite school subjects; it was interesting to see all subjects in the spotlight. Geography, Sciences and Sports seem to be amongst the most popular!

Year 8 have rediscovered the city where they live; Shanghai. In French, of course, they have learnt how to present information about their city; the facilities, activities, and places to practice sport or hang out. Students have also been talking about their favourite thing to do in the city. Students are preparing presentations titled, 'Our Shanghai'. I cannot wait to discover the new places the children have told me about!



Year 9 are thoroughly in the media. Through French music students have been immersed in musical genres and famous French artists. They are now exploring TV programs and preparing a presentation about their favourite French TV show.

Well done Secondary students, you rock in French now!



## The Big Debate

Year 9 tested their debating skills in an official setting for the very first time this week, debating the controversial topic of the legalisation of Marijuana. They were put into debating teams and given two weeks to research their topics and plan for the debate. The team captains had to ensure that everybody on their team received a good amount of speaking time.

The debate was structured so that there was a 1 minute point made, followed by the opportunity for a 1 minute reprisal, this reprisal could then be countered by another 30 second reprisal. The teams sat facing each other and were timed to ensure their speeches did not overrun.

Both teams were polite and avoided any interruptions and both sides made very relevant points that had clearly come from in-depth research. The debate was very close throughout and the team who were against legalisation narrowly won right at the end when they made a point that could have been countered but was overlooked by the opposing side.

Some students already had an opinion on the issue and felt they were on the wrong side of the debate, but this gave them the opportunity to be able to practice their debating skills rather than just getting consumed by the topic itself. At the end, the students were given feedback by both Mr Barclay and myself and we look forward to seeing them incorporate this feedback into their next controversial debate. **Mr Clifton**



## Pupil Profile

Hi, I am Sam. I have been at Britannica for 4 days. I am from Hong Kong. I have been in New Zealand. I was in New Zealand for 6 months. I like football and computer games. I enjoy travelling to different countries. My favourite country is China. My favourite place in China is Xian because I like the food. I am studying Maths, English, Business studies and Mandarin. My favourite lesson is Maths.

**Sam Sit, Year 10**





# The DAILY PROPHET

★ THE WIZARD WORLD'S BEGUILING BROADSHEET OF CHOICE ★

spellbind conjure enchant divinate  
spellbind conjure enchant divinate

SHANGHAI

MARCH 15, 2018

VOL I No I

## Britannica exchange with Hogwarts

After catching the Hogwarts Express from platform 9 ¾ this morning, all Year 7 and 8 Muggles from Britannica arrived safely at Hogwarts, very excited to start the day. For the first time ever, special Muggle students from Britannica have been authorised by the Ministry of Magic to take the O.W.L examination. All students have honorably fulfilled all the requirements in the study of potions and completed the level 1 O.W.L assessment. Congrats to Year 7 and 8!



### Minor Story

Hanon's favorite potion was the potion to make things grow. "We used dragon blood and green bug juice. The bubbles

## Magical potions

were getting bigger and bigger." Fletcher's favorite potion was the secret snitcher potion. "We mixed ground unicorn horn

with troll blood and June bug juice. "It turns out Philip has a big secret"



### Burning Basilisk skin

Experienced wizard Professor Chen began the class by demonstrating burning Basilisk skin. It looked like little snakes were coming out of the fire! Student Kevin said: " This was really awesome, I have never seen something completely transforming into black skin".





## Expressive Arts Department

The Expressive Arts department have been busy with drama activities being done during Book Week, Sing Up being filmed for music, and the Art department learning about watercolours. We also have a concert coming up next week too!

## Music Department

In Music, Our Sing Up event this week was very successful with all of Britannica Voices One and Two getting together to produce the song – Be the Change. Part of the video that we recorded will be sent to the UK to be made into one big video with a lot of other schools who also sent in a video. Hopefully, we get to see ourselves in amongst lots of others from different schools around the world. Well done, Miss Churchill, for all your hard work with the choirs!



## Britannica Spring Instrumental Concert

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March - 1.40pm in the Theatre

Just a quick reminder about our concert next week when we are going to feature students from our Concord Music 1:1 program. Come along and listen to the students perform and if you're interested in having your Son or Daughter learn an instrument, then this concert is a great opportunity to find out what's involved in being part of this program. Maybe your Son or Daughter is learning an instrument in class as they are in year 5 and 6? Then maybe they may want to enrol too!

The concert starts at 1.40pm and will be finished by 2.45pm

Students performing will have time to catch the bus home but we are hoping parents will come along and invite their friends to the concert. There will be refreshments after the concert just outside, a Concord representative to answer any questions, and you can come and meet the teachers too!

Please let us know at reception if you think you would like to come and stay for refreshments, we would love to see you there.

**Estelle Owens, Director of Music and Expressive Arts**







## Book Week 2018

What a (Book) week it's been! This year's Britannica Book Week has gone by in a flurry of fun and excitement. The school has been abuzz with students and staff getting stuck into reading, culminating in a great final day of celebrations. Throughout the week students have taken part in an array of fairy tale and fantasy story themed activities, promoting our community's love and appreciation of reading. Everyone has been super impressed with how Britannica's students have thrown themselves into the week and they should all be incredibly proud of their achievements.

Even though Book Week has come to an end, remember to keep on reading!







# Book Week 2018







# Book Week 2018







CONCORD  
MUSIC

# *Britannica Spring Instrumental Concert*

*Parents welcome!*

*Date: Wednesday, 21st March*

*Time: 1.40 pm - 2.45 pm*



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## 2017 – 2018 SPRING TERM BRITANNICA SCHOOL CALENDAR



### March 2018

★ **Wednesday, 21st March** — Britannica Spring Instrumental Concert

**Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March** – Last day of After School Activities

**Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> March** — **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March** – Expedition Week for Years 4 to 10

**Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 2 Trip to Textiles Museum

**Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March** — EYFS Open Day for prospective parents (9:15-12 noon)

**Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March**—Year 1 Trip to Shanghai Botanical Gardens and Year 3 Trip to Jump360

★ **Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> March** — EYFS Spring Tea Party (all EYFS parents welcome)

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March**—End of Term 12:00noon



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

**ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

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