



BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

NEWSLETTER

11th May 2018
Week 32

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.



DAVID GOODWIN
PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

This week I am writing my letter to you from a hotel in Cheadle Hulme, which is the small town just outside Manchester where ORBITAL EDUCATION has its headquarters.

I am attending the annual conference of the Orbital School Principals. This is an opportunity for us to talk about the group's and schools' achievements since last time we met and set the objectives for the schools as a group for 2018-2019.

This morning we will listen to an opening presentation from our Chairman, Mr Kevin McNeany, and will then break off into workshops looking at various aspects of the group's core values in education. Yesterday we listened to a presentation on Orbital's most recent school development in Doha and an update on the state of the art Oryx International School that Orbital is building in partnership with Qatar Airways.

Back in Shanghai, I know that teachers and students have been busy preparing for this Friday's Mother's Day celebrations that also link in with our Open Day for Secondary. As I am having to write this newsletter a day in advance (with England being 7 hours behind China) I await to hear updates on these events when I wake up on Saturday morning. They certainly look very exciting in their planning and as always, a big thank you to all staff who have been involved in planning and delivering these events. Do enjoy reading the rest of this week's news and as always sporting your child in action in one of the many photos.

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Week in Pre-Nursery

This week in Pre-Nursery it was our last week learning within our theme, *Nursery Rhymes*. Through the exploration of this week's Nursery Rhyme, *Baa Baa Black Sheep*, we enjoyed revisiting some of the concepts from our Farm topic and the children were introduced to wool and its uses. Many children enjoyed feeling wool and describing its texture and then looked for other things in our environment which were 'hard' and 'soft'.

Mathematics based activities were a popular choice within Pre-Nursery this week, children engaged with the exploration of weight, shapes and sorting. Our Pre-Nursery children were all excited to prepare special gifts for their mums for Mother's Day, squeezing paint and decorating cards. Next week we begin our topic, *At the Beach*. We are asking families who have one, to please email their class teacher a photo of their child/family at the beach. Many thanks to those parents who have already sent in a photo, we look forward to sharing these next week!

The Pre-Nursery Team





Week in Nursery

Fe Fi Fo Fum! The Nursery children have been using language from the story of *Jack and the Beanstalk* to retell the story and to act it out during their play. We have used talk partners to discuss whether Jack should have taken the giant's golden harp and the hen that lays the golden egg; we came to the conclusion straight away that Jack was wrong to take the giants possessions! We have used the story of *Jack and the Beanstalk* as a springboard to teach the children about planting and what plants need in order to grow- sunshine, water and soil. Over the next week or so we will be planting our own seeds and monitoring them to see how tall they grow, encouraging children to use size language, such as tall, taller, tallest, big, biggest, and small, smallest.

We would like to thank you for joining us for our Mother's Day activities; it was wonderful to celebrate your special day with you here at Nursey.

Happy Mother's Day to you all!

The Nursery Team





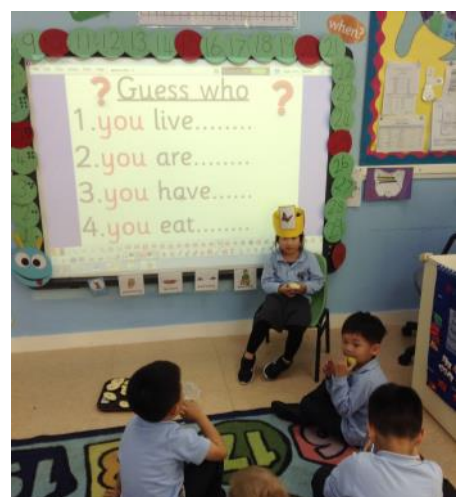
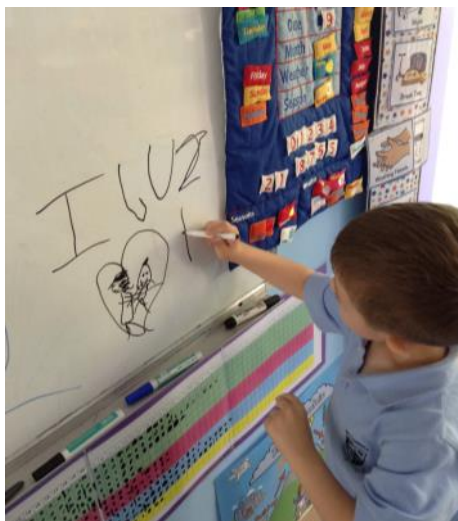
Week in Nursery





Week in Reception

The Reception boys and girls have had a whale of a time this week learning about animals and their different habitats. We have been matching animals to habitats, talking about similarities and differences and playing fun games such as 'guess who'. In our Maths lessons, we have been seeing double as we practised halving and doubling objects and numbers. Have a look at this week's photo's to see some of the fun!





Week in Reception





Year 1

In Year 1 this week, the students worked on creating a special poem for their mums. Mother's Day is a celebration honouring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. The students, who have never written a poem on their own before, looked at and discussed different poems. This assisted in them feeling supported and guided during the activity. We also looked at different rhyming patterns and began to realise that not all poems need to rhyme. However, we also made it a fun activity by trying to spot rhyming words in the poems we read, written and presented to the class. We are really looking forward to sharing these with you very soon!



Year 2

How many bones does an adult have? What are the names of the bones in the leg? Or arm? Or even your chest? How many can you name? These have been some of the questions posed (and answered) by our Year 2 students over the last couple of weeks – certainly no lazy bones here. We have tried making our very own skeleton but have not started to move on to other parts of the body. In Maths we've been thinking about data, in particular, how to collect it and how to show it. We have come up with tally charts, pictographs and bar charts. We have managed to produce some great looking graphs and collect some interesting data! In English this week, we have started to look at extended (or chapter) stories. We have been looking at Mountain Mona, the goat that appears to be not very good at things. We've started to break each of the chapters down to look at the detail that we need to include. Our Year 2's have done an excellent job of pulling apart the story!





Year 3

The past week has been another busy and productive week in Year 3.

We had an exciting lesson learning about how easily germs can spread and used our fun experiment to help our teachers and other children in our school to understand the importance of washing your hands!

In Maths the children have been learning about money. 3C worked very hard as shopkeepers; converting money from pence to pounds, and adding different values. In English, the children completed their biographies on Tutankhamun, editing their work and checking them against their Writing Targets.



Year 4

What a great week it has been in Year 4 here at Britannica. In Topic, children have been working collaboratively to research and locate information under a given heading, such as food, Beijing and Xi Jin Ping, in order to create further pages for our books about China. Working together, listening to one another's ideas and reflections has been lovely to see. In our English lessons we have been focusing on skills within comprehension and asking questions. A big area that we have also been working on is presentation and handwriting. Children work hard to be given a handwriting pen that they can use in class, therefore empowering themselves through determination and perseverance. Within our Internationalism lessons we have continued to explore and delve into the theme of 'Peace' with children drafting and editing their own version of Jill Murphy's story *Peace at Last*. During this time children have been able to fully reflect on how lucky we are to have such peaceful and safe lives, thinking thoughtfully about people all over the world who may live in a state of unrest. Well done Year 4 for being so honest and open to learning about this complex theme. Finally at the end of this very busy week, we welcomed mums onto our lovely corridor where we were creatively making photo frames and special Mother's Day bead bracelets. Thank you mums for coming in and celebrating with us. Again, we thank all parents for their continued support and kindness.





Year 5

On Wednesday, Year 5 were presented with a diagram of a complicated machine. We had to decide what it was used for and explain how it worked. Then, we walked around the room to look at each other's ideas and decide which idea and explanation was the best; there were some very imaginative and entertaining explanations. Eventually we found out its real name - 'The Teacher Pleaser'! We read how it works and began to identify the different features of an explanation text. We are looking forward to reading and writing our own explanation texts over the next few weeks.



Year 6

As the continuation of our science topic of Body Systems, children recently finished their section on digestion and are now exploring healthy eating. They learnt about the various food groups and how it is vital to balance these to maintain well-functioning bodily systems. The entry point to this involved children identifying key food stuffs from each group. They then organised these on a pie chart in order to build necessary vocabulary and demonstrate amounts required to maintain a balanced diet in daily life. This tied in very well with recent work on proportion and ratio in Mathematics. We will continue by creating various surveys to gather data about our lifestyles and use this to present and interpret information on a range of types of graph. In English, Year 6 continue to work on writing suspenseful paragraphs and are selecting appropriate vocabulary and using speech to enhance the atmosphere of their pieces.





Year 7 PSHE

For the last few weeks in PHSE Year 7 have been exploring the ideas of equality and fairness. We have really focused on the Fairtrade movement. Fairtrade is a simple way to make a difference to the lives of the people who grow the things we love. We do this by changing the way trade works through better prices, decent working conditions and a fair deal for farmers and workers in developing countries.

Year 7 have learnt about the impact of Fairtrade in local communities and have taken part in a variety of activities such as, writing a letter to Mr Goodwin asking him to consider using only Fairtrade products in the canteen and designing a new chocolate bar that has an emphasis on sustainable farming and Fairtrade practices. As always Year 7 have explored this new idea with maturity and insight. Well done year 7 and let's see if we can really make a difference.



Saturday School

Saturday school this term has been a huge success, and we have happily been welcoming more students from the wider Shanghai community than ever before. Our students have been working incredibly hard in improving their English language skills and I am pleased to see so much progress taking place.

This week saw for the first time our Key stage 1 and 2 students working together during their English class. It was wonderful to see our older students helping our younger students. Their task was to design their dream car and pitch it to the group; I was very impressed with the level of imagination and creativity on show early on a Saturday morning.

Saturday school is still welcoming students to join our Key stage 1 group in the morning. If you would like an application form then please email saturdayschool@britannicashanghai.com.

Mr Donald





Secondary Open day

On Friday this week, our Secondary School opened its doors and invited the students and parents of Years 5 and 6 to take a look at the excellent learning taking place. We also welcomed the parents of our current secondary students. This was a chance for students and parents to experience hands on some of the learning activities that our Secondary Students do every day.



Year 9 Student Profile—My Duke of Edinburgh Experience

In March we had a trip to Yaolin. Our Duke of Edinburgh members were ready to go. We had practised making tents and how to use sleeping bags. Everything needed for the hike was prepared.

When we arrived there, we were mapping and pointing the coordinates which helped us to know the way we were going; estimating the time that we will take during the hike. Then we separated our stuff in everyone's backpacks, making sure the difference of weight on each person would not be too big. After that, we made our lunch, had dinner and got ready for tomorrow's hike.

Next day, our group woke up early, at 8:30 am, we packed our stuff and went on our way.

During the hike we saw lots of beautiful scenery on the top of the mountains; we could clearly see the distance that we hiked was very long. But there were some difficulties that we had to face, such as the rope part, where we had to catch the rope to lift ourselves up, using teammates' legs to support. That part was very tiring.

In the campsite, we learnt how to do the first aid, and we practised on the teacher and our friends together. We were told there would be a first aid test the next day. At night we made our tents and cooked pasta for dinner. The interesting part was that Seven and Yejun made peanut butter pasta with their crazy creativity, although it tasted nice!

Next day we were hiking back to the hotel, in the morning we tidied our stuff then left the campsite at 8:30 am. In the middle of the hike there were some small roads that were very hard to find with the map and we struggled for a while. Also, Mr Barclay pretended to be injured for our first aid test. We successfully used the first aid to fix his broken leg and cut arm and continued our journey!

Finally, we arrived at the hotel. We all got an award from Mr Barclay for being the fastest walkers. Seven and Yejun also got one for inventing peanut butter pasta!

Jerry, Year 9





Mothers Day Celebrations

Today we have been celebrating Mother's day at Britannica International School, Shanghai. Mothers have been invited to spend the day in school and enjoy a number of activities with their sons and daughters. Pupils and their mothers have been relaxing together and practising yoga. Students have also been learning etiquette and how to take care of their mothers. There have been some wonderful spa day activities for pupils and mothers to pamper themselves. Pupils and mothers have even had the opportunity to cook together and take a cooking lesson with an amazing chef. Pupils then served the delicious meal to their mothers. The day ended with a Secondary Open Day where parents could learn more about life in Secondary school. We would like to thank everyone who contributed and took part in any way and we wish you all a very happy Mother's Day.





Mothers Day Celebrations





2017 – 2018 SPRING TERM BRITANNICA SCHOOL CALENDAR



May 2018

- ★ 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
- ★ Tuesday, 22nd May— Coffee Morning for all parents
- ★ 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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