

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014



Our Chinese Curriculum Workshop for Parents

## KEEPING EVERYONE INFORMED

By Lisa Milanec, Principal

It may only be the second week of school, but it has certainly been a busy one. Children have continued to come to school each morning excited about the day ahead and the classes have been buzzing with the introduction of new topics and new learning.

It was also the week in which we had our first Parent Association meeting of the year, and it was great to see so many faces, both familiar and new, attend and seek to get involved in the various activities led and supported by the Parent Association. We will of course keep all parents informed about PA activities through the monthly PA newsletter, which will be made available on our website.

We have also held two further events at school this week - our Meet and Greet event on Wednesday evening and our Chinese Curriculum Workshop for Parents which took place this morning. Both events were held to ensure that all parents, returning and new, have appropriate information for the start of the school year regarding their child's year group as well as more detailed information about the curriculum we offer. This is only the tip of the iceberg of course, and we will be hosting a variety of Parent Workshops in the coming weeks which will focus on specific areas of the curriculum.

As always, we ask that if you feel there is something missing that you would like to know more about, then please do get in touch with us and we can arrange to facilitate a workshop on that specific topic.

Have a super long weekend, and don't forget that there is no school on Monday!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

8<sup>th</sup> September  
School closed for  
Mid Autumn Festival

9<sup>th</sup> September  
ASAs begin

10<sup>th</sup> September  
Reception Reading  
Workshop

12<sup>th</sup> September  
PA Family Welcome Event

18<sup>th</sup> September  
KS1 Maths Parent Workshop

19<sup>th</sup> September  
Flu Vaccination

21<sup>st</sup> September  
BSB Family Outing

24<sup>th</sup> September  
Pastries with Parents  
followed by  
Phonics Workshop  
for Reception parents

25<sup>th</sup> September  
Pastries with Parents  
followed by  
Maths Workshop  
for KS2 parents

26<sup>th</sup> September  
Pastries with Parents  
followed by  
Phonics Workshop  
for KS1 parents

## RECEPTION EXPLORES NUMBERS IN THE SUN!

By Louise Bateman, Reception Whales Class Teacher

Reception have been really enjoying the new playground markings this week. We have incorporated outside provision into our maths lessons and the children have been exploring various number and counting activities in the playground.



We painted a huge number line on the wall with paintbrushes and water; we made ourselves into a human clock to tell the time; we played 'What's the Time Mr Wolf'; we practised writing numbers in the sand; we used bouncy hoppers to have counting races and we went on a 2D and 3D shape hunt!



The new markings on the playground including grids, clocks and a compass have really inspired the children to bring maths into all parts of their school day. It also helps them to review what they have learnt during their playtimes. Finding practical ways to apply number in Early Years has been lots of fun and the children are extending themselves and showing us what they are capable of already!



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION LESSONS AT SANLITUN

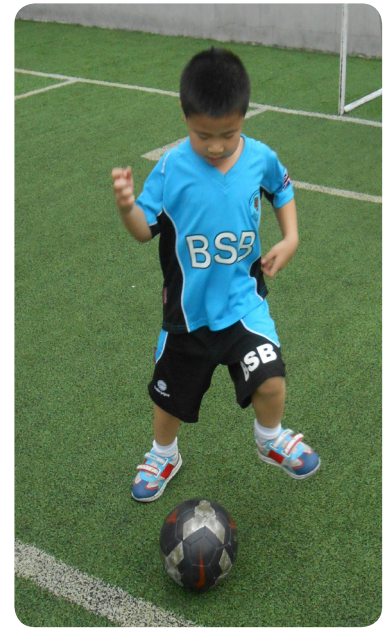
By Rachel Spencer, Head of P.E.

There has been lots of exciting activities going on in Physical Education over the last two weeks. Reception and Key Stage 1 have been focusing on fundamental movement skills, working on their agility, balance and coordination in a variety of running games and movement activities. Key Stage 1 have also started football, where they have been working on ball control, dribbling and passing.



*Year 1 Panthers concentrating on their dribbling skills*

*How many toe taps can you do in 1 minute?*



The Key Stage 2 children have been involved in a lot of group work in team building exercises. They have been working on cooperation activities, problem solving and leadership. All the classes have worked collaboratively to solve challenges and have shown confidence, creativity and perseverance when working together. This unit covers a lot of our HPL values and it has been fantastic to see individuals step up and take on leadership roles and demonstrate some excellent fluent thinking.



*Year 5 Pelicans working together in the group hoop exercise*



*Year 4 Herons performing 'trust' activities*

Key Stage 2 have also started their football unit during the Lido sessions. They will be working on this for the next four weeks and during the term there will be football tournaments for U9, U10 and U11 children. Our house football starts next week with Year 6. This will run on Friday lunchtimes and each year group will have the opportunity to play in a house football match from Year 6 to Reception.



## SETTLING INTO SCHOOL

By Claudia Valdes, Tadpoles Class Teacher

This week the Pre-Nursery team has been focused on settling in all of our children!

As you might know, separation anxiety is a very common occurrence especially in our programme as young children coming to school are worried about the unknown and what is going to happen and this is the reason why daily routines are so important in our classes.



*Pre-Nursery children sitting so smartly*



*Snacktime in Tadpoles*

Through repetition of events, children become able to anticipate what will happen next and that provides them with a sense of safety; some of the daily routines you will see in our classes would be: morning circle time, singing songs to get children to tidy up or wash their hands, how do we eat our snacks and lunch, times to play outdoors, etc.

In such short time it is incredible to see how fast they have adapted to their new settings and are slowly getting to understand the daily routines.



*Enjoying breaktime*



*Singing class songs*

## USING PERSUASIVE TECHNIQUES IN YEAR 3

By Michael Aryiku, Year 3 Toucans Class Teacher

This week saw the Year 3 children receive a letter from none other than Mr. Howard Carter!

Hand delivered by Ms. Milanec, Howard Carter asked for her help in recruiting some children, with a passion for archaeology, to join him on his next expedition to Egypt. Having heard how well the former Year 2s had settled into Year 3, he expressed a desire from children from the Toucans, Parrots and Puffins classes.



*Year 3 Toucans and their letter from Howard Carter*

With the aim being to persuade the other side, the children were split into two groups in each class and had some time to come up with reasons for and against the argument. Whilst those 'for' believed that using electronic devices could support their learning in class, those 'against' felt that the increased use of electronic devices would result in children being less focused. In all the classes, the children were able to share their views democratically, but in the end, agreed to disagree (at least in the Toucans class)!

Thoroughly excited at the prospect of joining Howard Carter on his expedition to Egypt, the children began writing their letters to Howard Carter, whilst learning about the features of persuasive writing.

Who will be chosen to join Mr. Carter on his adventure? We shall wait to find out.

In preparation for writing their letters to Mr. Carter, the children thought about what it meant to persuade someone. The children could recall several times when they had tried to persuade their parents to buy them their favourite snack, a new toy or allow them to stay up late on a school night. Using their own personal experiences, the children were then presented with a statement which they would have to share their point of view:

'Children should be allowed to bring electronic devices to school'



*Are you 'for' or 'against'?*



## APP ATTACK

By Christine Armstrong, Deputy Headteacher

Are your children constantly on i-things? Ipad, iPhone, iNano, iPad mini? Sometimes it can seem like all your child lives for is an i-thing. I have two children, a boy and a girl. Their approach to i-things is very different. Whilst my daughter is happy to play music, watch videos and text friends, my son is glued to games like Minecraft and Temple Run. It is much easier to extract my daughter from an i-thing than it is my son!

I've come to the conclusion that i-things are here to stay (for now anyway) and it is time to make them work for me, not against me. We have our 'i-rules' in place already so the children know when i-things can be used and when not. If our routine is normal then there are no i-things Monday to Thursday, leaving Friday evening and the weekend as available times. We also have rules on how long 'i-play' can be and when on the weekend.



Phase 2 of my i-pad plan was to add a number of games that have educational value. It can be argued that most games have some educational value if you look hard enough, and I certainly think games like Minecraft have taught my children a huge amount. It improves reading skills; maths to work out the inventory requirements and geometry for construction, basic technological science and more. In addition to games that the children choose, I keep slipping new ones on there that focus on areas where they would benefit from further practice, eg. times tables. My children are still trying to figure out how apps are magically appearing on the iPad.

Overall I love i-things. For travelling long distances and those times when you are waiting around they are indispensable (how did we live without them?). However in our day to day living it's all about balance; sticking to your limited access rule for i-things - even if your child is staring at you with puppy dog eyes begging for more time - and making sure you slip in some focussed education apps that are fun for your child and help them develop their knowledge, understanding and skills.



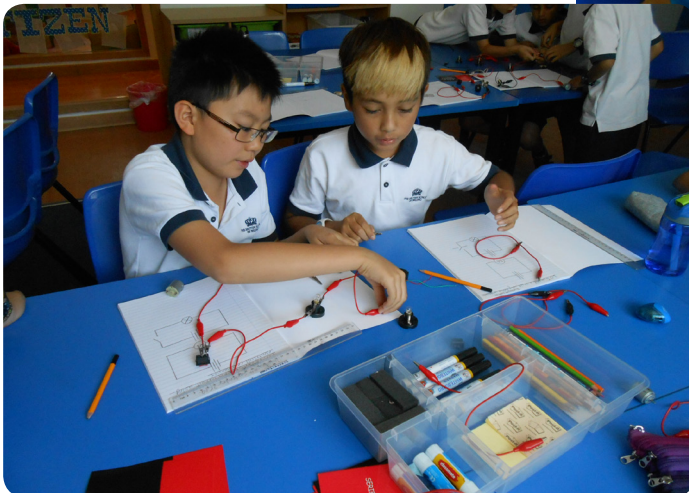
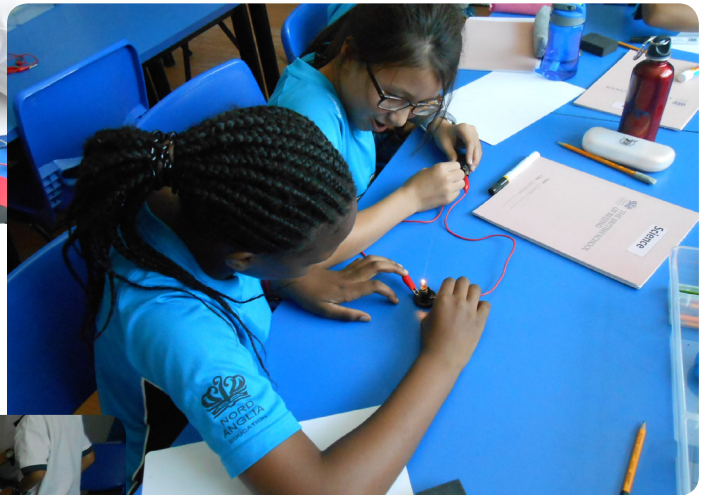
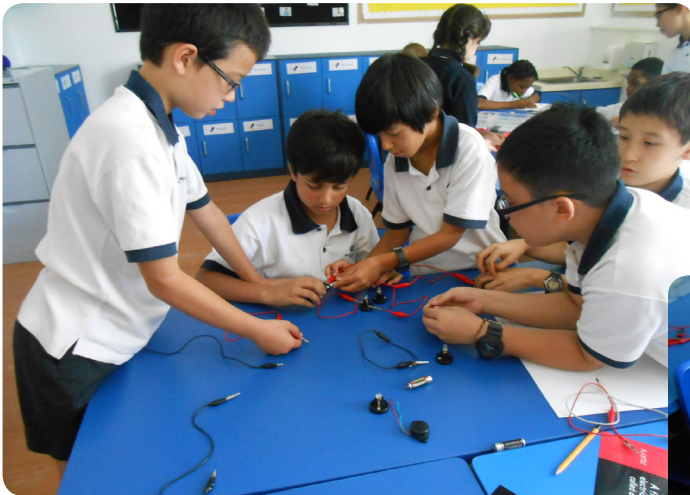
## AN ELECTRIC START TO YEAR 6!

By Beth Dopson, Science Subject Expert

Science has definitely begun in UKS2! This week, Year 6 have been experimenting with creating circuits. They have used bulbs, buzzers, motors and switches to create series circuits. The children have commented on how we use electricity and that we rely on it in the modern world.

We have experimented with the effect of increasing the amount of components in a circuit versus the amount of cells used. The children have found that they needed more power when adding more components and that the thickness of the wires can have an effect on the brightness of the bulb. They have recorded the circuits they have made by drawing circuit diagrams and used scientific symbols for the components. Next we will look at the difference between series and parallel circuits.

This unit of science links well with Year 6's overall topic of Fairgrounds. We hope to design and create our very own electrical game or ride that could be used at a fairground!





WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER  
9.00AM TO 10.00AM, PRIMARY CAMPUS

The Reception Team will discuss how they deliver phonics to the Early Years children and advise you on how you can help at home



# PHONICS WORKSHOP



THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER  
2.30PM TO 3.30PM, PRIMARY CAMPUS

Teachers from Year 1 and Year 2 will discuss  
how Mathematics is taught across KS1;  
demonstrate the strategies they use and offer  
advice on how you can help at home



KS1 MATHS WORKSHOP