

Friday 10th October 2014



Early Years parents enjoying coffee and pastries this morning...

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

By Lisa Milanec, Principal

A warm welcome back to the second half of the autumn term and a very warm welcome to all of our families who have joined BSB Sanlitun following the Mid Autumn holiday. It has not been the best of weeks weather wise, but we know that the children have enjoyed being back at school and the teachers have commented how keen and eager to learn the children have been this week. What a great start to what will be a busy 10 weeks leading up to the Christmas holidays!

Mrs Armstrong and I have enjoyed going into classrooms this week to see the teaching and learning happening throughout the school. We have been very impressed with how the children in Early Years have settled into their routines, even after a week's break, but also how mature and responsible our older students are in their approach to learning. We are looking forward to seeing many more lessons over the coming weeks.

We ended the week with our final Pastries with Parents event of the autumn term. This time it was the turn of our Pre-Nursery and Nursery parents to enjoy a tea or coffee and pastry with their child before morning learning began. It was fantastic to see such a great turnout and super to see families with children in the same class meeting each other and forming friendships. Please don't worry, there will be more Pastries with Parents events to come in the spring and summer terms as well as lots of family events where you can have the opportunity to meet with other BSB families.

I hope you enjoy the following pages where you can find out what has been happening in school this week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

22nd October
U10/11 Football Invite
@ BSB Shunyi

24th October
KS2 - Y2 Football
@ BSB Shunyi

29th October
Maths Workshop
for Reception Parents
9.00am-10.00am
@ Primary Campus Hall

31st October
Halloween Dress Up
(Optional)

3rd - 7th November
International Week

4th November
PA Meeting
@ Primary Campus

7th November
International Day

11th - 12th November
Parent Consultation
Evenings

13th - 14th November
School Closed
for Staff Training

YEAR 4 HOUSE FOOTBALL

By Rachel Spencer, Head of P.E.

On Tuesday afternoon Year 4 participated in the house football tournament during their Lido PE lesson.

All the children took part in the event and it was great to see them getting involved in the games, and putting into play what they have been learning and practising over the past 5 weeks.



Year 4 in their houses ready to compete!

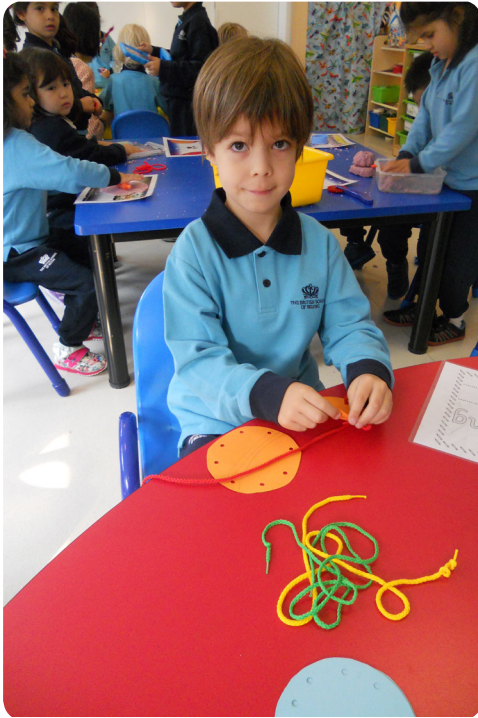


There were some very close games with many score draws. In joint 3rd place with 3 points each was the blue and red house. In 2nd place with 6 points and a 1 goal difference was the green house. And in 1st place, again with 6 points but with a 4 goal difference was the yellow house.

Well done to all players!

SPACE

By Charlotte Cummins, Reception Sea Lions Class Teacher



5...4...3...2...1 Blast Off! This week Reception children started learning about our Space topic. Some children chose to make googly-eyed aliens with dangly legs and others built rockets and space ships with play dough, construction and junk modeling.

The children have started to learn about life in space and to label different parts of a rocket. They have also had the opportunity to develop their fine motor skills using fabric to thread into planets.

Over the course of our topic children will learn to explore information about different planets and what it will feel like to walk in Space!

Using fine motor skills to thread the fabric



Concentrating hard to make it stick!



Reception children proudly showing off what they have made



KEEPING MRS ARMITAGE DRY!

By Paul Hollidge, Year 2 Elephants Class Teacher

Year 2 enjoyed reading Mrs Armitage on Wheels in the week before half-term. The children were then very excited to receive a personalised letter from Mrs Armitage herself! Mrs Armitage explained that she gets soaked whenever it rains whilst she is riding her bike and asked the children to investigate which material would be most suitable to make a waterproof jacket.

The children worked collaboratively as they discussed how they could use the materials and equipment provided for them to plan out this challenging scientific investigation. It was very interesting to hear original ideas from each group and lots of fluent thinking was evident!

After agreeing on the best way to complete the investigation, the very excited children went off and again worked collaboratively to find out which material was most waterproof.

When the results had been analysed by each group, feedback in front of the class was then given. The children agreed on results and also made suggestions on how they could improve the investigation.

Each child then responded to Mrs Armitage in writing, and their return letters are now on the way back to the UK!

Want to know what we suggested? Ask a Year 2 child!



Planning our investigation collaboratively



Sharing ideas as a class



Collecting accurate results

ALL CHANGES AND CELEBRATIONS IN PRE-NURSERY!

By Jonathan Dove, Pre-Nursery Seashells Class Teacher

Following a refreshing break last week, the Pre-Nursery children have returned eager to learn so much more! This half term is an extremely busy but fun time for Pre-Nursery.

Our main focuses will be on CHANGES and CELEBRATIONS. For changes, we will be observing the weather, hot and cold, light and dark, life cycles and colours. As the term progresses we will move on to learn about different festivals including Diwali, a German Christmas and Christmas celebrations.

This week the children had great fun searching for leaves. After we went on a leaf hunt we carefully observed the different colours and noticed that there are many changes that occur during Autumn. For example, now it is colder, so we are all wearing our winter uniform. We also had great fun leaf rubbing and printing, as well as making a fantastic leaf collage. During music and movement we thought carefully about the weather and made rainy, stormy and sunny actions.



Pre-Nursery exploring the changes that are occurring as the weather gets colder

YEAR 5 ENGLISH - WRITING INSTRUCTIONS

By Elizabeth Jurgensen, Year 5 Pelicans Class Teacher

In English lessons, Year 5 have been studying instructional texts. After looking at the structure and features of this type of text, the children brought into school an electronic device which they used to write a series of instructions for its use. They had to work very carefully as their instructions were later given to another child who had to operate the device using only the instructions given. They realised how important it was to sequence instructions correctly and use imperative verbs to tell the person what actions to take. It was also important to not assume that the person operating the device has the same knowledge about it as you do so instructions need to be accurate.



Year 5 creating detailed written instructions



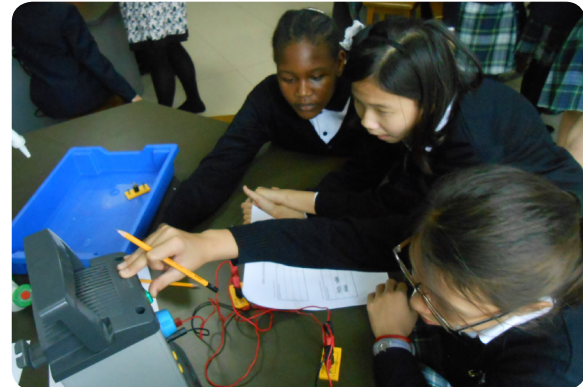
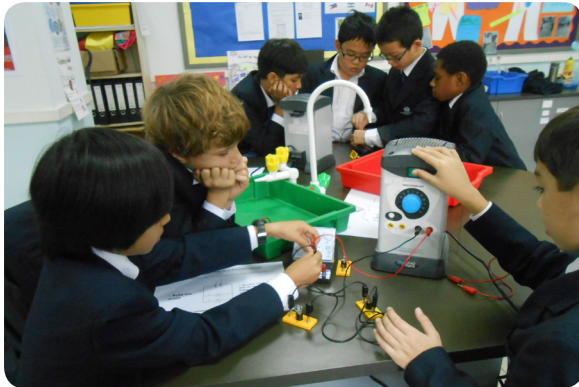
Students testing out the instructions using an electronic device

ELECTRICITY IN SHUNYI!

By Beth Dopson, Year 5 Flamingos Class Teacher

Year 6 visited BSB Shunyi earlier this week to use their secondary school science lab. In Year 6 we have been learning about electricity and this trip consolidated and extended the work we have done here at Sanlitun.

Once we arrived at Shunyi we were taken to the secondary science lab by Miss Illingworth. In the science lab the children enjoyed sitting at the science lab tables and looking at all the displays on the walls! They even had taps, sinks and gas pipes at the table – although we weren't using these. The teacher went through some science safety rules and then we began our lesson.



We learnt about atoms and electrons. We found out that electrons are the things that make the electricity move and flow. In class we had already explored, created and experimented with series and parallel circuits but at Shunyi we got to use amp metres and power packs too! Our aim was to find out what happens to the current in a series and a parallel circuit? We had an amp metre to measure the amps at different points in the circuit to see if the amps changed as the electricity flows around the circuit. We found that in a series circuit the amps stay the same at different points in the circuit but in parallel circuits once the electricity moves through the components and splits around the circuit in different ways the amps are reduced. Then we went outside and made a model of a series and parallel circuit.

It was a fantastic experience and we would like to thank BSB Shunyi for having us!

AROUND THE CLOCK LEARNING FOR EAL STUDENTS

By Keith Olive, EAL Specialist Teacher

Learning English doesn't stop in the classroom or in the school but continues around the clock, at play, at home and on holiday for our EAL students. Every new word and phrase helps when it comes to learning the language quickly.

Some of our Year 3 students have been assembling their daily routines for display and using the giant playground clock to discuss the times when things are done.

"Am I in class at 9.30 or am I in bed?" asks John.

"Well, are you talking about 9.30 am or 9.30 pm" replies David.

"You mean is it morning or is it night?" calls out Adrien.

And so we learn how to communicate the important details of time.



Playing snakes and ladders - our Year 1 students have been learning the language of cooperation before introducing a question and answer element involving new vocabulary and grammar to make it even more challenging and fun. Before you can go up a ladder, you must answer a question correctly. For example, 'What did you do last week?' If you don't want to slide down a snake, again, you must answer a question correctly. You can make up suitable questions yourself and put them on cards. DO TRY THIS AT HOME!



EAL children taking part in a variety of activities that help them to develop their language acquisition

Year 2 students have watched the story about Mike the Monkey, who made Gina the Giraffe, Polly the Parrot and even Leo the Lion scared by casting shadows of monsters from a tree onto the ground using his hands and the light of the moon. After watching, they each take a role and act out the story using the language of emotions: happy, sad, scared, angry. One of the benefits of learning English in small groups is that everyone gets to join in and practise their speaking. But, 'What happens to Mike at the end of the story?' Ask your child to find out.