



# NIS

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

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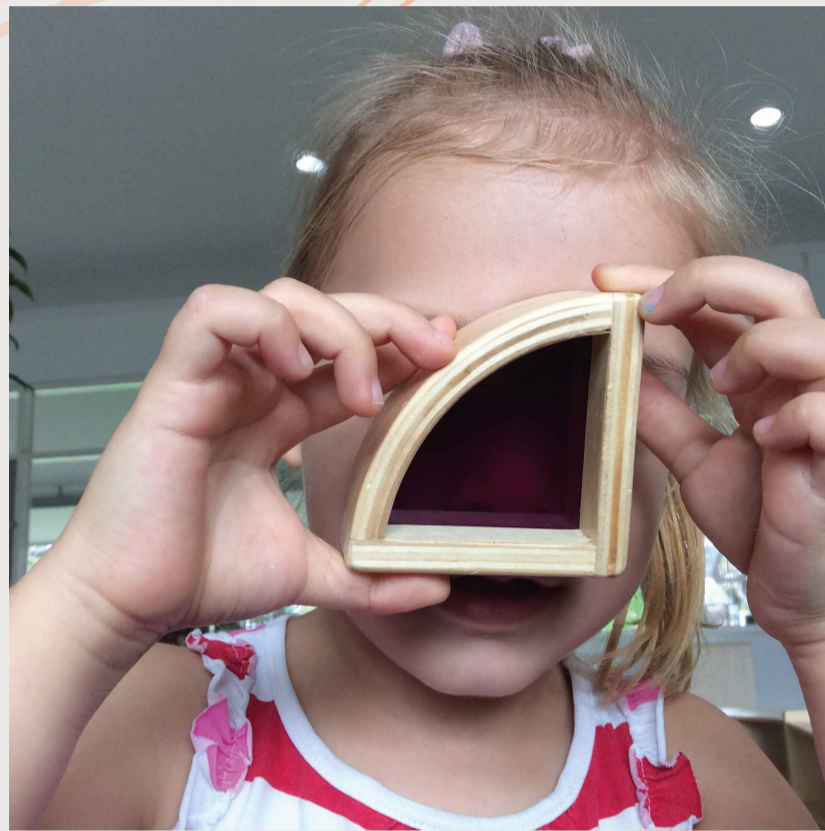
## Inquiry and Creativity

*"We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing."*

*George Bernard Shaw*

The notion of learning through play is now commonly accepted as an impactful approach for Early Years where a child's early learning experience is stimulated by, and guided by inquisitive, free play. However, with older students there is often a belief that there is no place for "play"; that they need to have more explicit and concrete tasks and that there simply isn't enough time as they need to get through the syllabus content. Here at NIS we do believe that, whatever the age of the students, it is essential to retain the agency and creativity inherent in play and to use "play" in a constructive and exciting manner as a tool to enhance and liberate the learning process. It might look different for older students but the spirit of enquiry and excitement in learning and making sense of new concepts is there whether you are in Nursery or Year 6. Our approach is to create opportunities and tasks to challenge and deepen children's learning; to get them to think in different ways, to question, to learn through exploration and imagination, while working individually or collaboratively – many of the same principles as Early Year's play.

Whenever students are engaged in active learning, outdoor learning, creating, problem solving, storytelling, designing experiments and testing their theories about a subject area



- they are learning through a kind of 'play'. In different contexts we open the learning tasks so that students can take their learning in different directions – exploiting their individual strengths, interests and existing knowledge. We provide opportunities to extend this learning in ECA's and projects. This is 'play' as the great philosophers understood it: the experience of being an active, creative and a fully autonomous person.

The world is changing and is more uncertain than ever and so creativity is a critical component in enabling us to cope, to find

pleasure, and to use our imaginative and innovative powers. Of course, we need our students to gain excellent subject knowledge and key skills, but we also want them to develop their creativity and curiosity skills.

We will continue to embrace inquiry and creative exploration as valuable teaching tools and advocate that parents encourage their children of all ages to play and to be inquisitive. In their busy lives it is important that children of all ages get the chance to have time and space to play – they are not wasting time! Well not all the time, and the tricky job of parenting is to know your own child, and as they get older, to help them to manage the work-play balance.

Please enjoy reading about how some of our students are being good enquirers and developing their creativity.

Regards,

**Niki Meehan**  
Principal

## Science as Art

Ms Kerry Holmes



Year 6 have been applying their scientific knowledge of light to create beautiful 'light painting' effects. Armed with their scientific knowledge of light, they undertook an inquiry project that led them into dark cupboards of the school where they experimented with a variety of translucent, transparent, opaque and reflective materials. They were curious about how they could create different light effects and so planned and undertook investigations using different light sources and long exposure camera settings to create different effects. They have been amazed by the results. In this Light project the children have been challenged to learn about and apply different scientific skills and concepts, and make connections between Science with Art.

## What a Wonderful World

Ms Julia Lannary



Year 1 children are learning how to be Inquirers. Each day they explore the natural environments in the playground to find weird and wonderful creatures. Together they ask and answer lots of questions and look very carefully at the features of their animals or bugs, to help them identify what it is and how it adapts to its environment. They are so curious to find answers that they excitedly use lots of research tools to find their answers; looking at books, searching on the iPad, asking adults as information sources....and then, as with all true inquiry, these answers lead to more questions.....

## 4 Elements Art Projects

Ms Esther Coumans

In advance of the launch of our new House Teams; Earth, Water, Air, Light, every class has been engaged in an art project related to one of the elements. The children have been exploring their allocated element and then used different art skills and techniques to make fantastic art works that will form our first "Art in the Park" exhibition. The art projects are progressing well – with lots of creativity, problem solving, collaboration and arty fun on the way. We are excited to share this artwork with you and hope you will attend our exhibition opening on Monday 8 October at 07:45-08:45 AM. The exhibition will then form a permanent display around the school for children and parents to access.



## Mud Kitchen Fun

Ms Tara Mehta

The children are loving exploring the science of mud making. Just like in a real kitchen, they are exploring which ingredients make the best cakes, what quantity of sand to mud gives the best texture for chocolate brownies or milkshakes, and which tools are best for scooping, stirring, mixing, spreading and chopping. And just like in the kitchen at home, cooking can be a messy business!



## Diary Dates

### 2018-2019 Term Dates Calendar

You can find 2018-2019 Term Dates Calendar in our website

### Learning Overview

Weekly for each class

### Class News & School Newsletter

Every two weeks (alternating)

### Parent-Teacher Conferences / Target Setting

Wednesday 10 - Thursday 11 October  
(14:30-19:30)

### Learning Showcase Week

Wednesday 31 Oct - Friday 2 November  
(7:45-8:45)

### Students Reports Issued

Monday 10 December

### Parent Workshops

DUTCH LANGUAGE TEACHING (F1-Y1):

Friday 28 September (7:45-8:30)

MATHS: Friday 26 October (7:45-8:30)

READING: Friday 16 November (7:45-8:30)

### Art in the Park Exhibition Opening

Monday 8 October  
(7:45-8:45)

### Early Years Cubs School Performance

Monday 10 December  
(7:45-8:45)

### Primary School Performance (Year 1-6)

Tuesday 11 December  
(13:00-14:00)

### Family Fun Day

Saturday 27 October 2018