



THE BRITISH SCHOOL
OF BEIJING, SHUNYI
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

Performing Arts in the Primary Curriculum



- Gemma Robinson – Y5B
- This year's Primary Performing Arts Leader
- Qualified in 2013 with a specialism in Performing Arts
- Theatre background – Royal Shakespeare Company, Theatre A Levels and personal acting experience
- Dissertation in the role of Performing Arts in the classroom

Play in a week: What are the benefits

- A year group performance means it will be more inclusive, therefore every child will be given more stage time and a chance to speak and perform.
- Gives each teacher an opportunity to get to know the children in a different setting other than the classroom.
- Gives the children and teacher a chance to have fun in a more relaxed atmosphere.
- Gives the teacher an opportunity to understand the children's speaking and listening targets.



ASA Season 1: The world through Drama.

The world through drama is a drama scheme that helps children to understand more about an event, aspect or idea in the world we live in and investigate this through drama and role play activities.

This year's theme is World War 2.

- Understand the term 'Evacuees'
- Talk about the differences between children in WW2 and children today
- Think about social status, emotions and relationships through freeze frames and games to develop body language
- Use what we have learnt to understand and perform as a character from WW2.



ASA Season 2: The works of William Shakespeare

The Y6 children will get a chance to be exposed to plays by the late William Shakespeare and a chance to learn about how we read and understand the colloquialism of Shakespeare's texts.

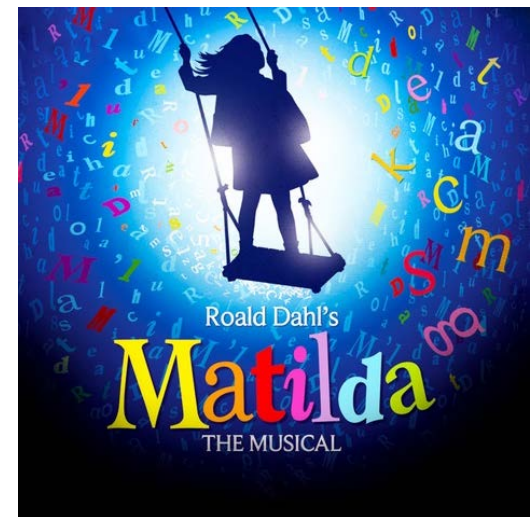
- Understand the Iambic Pentameter
- Discuss the emphasis of words that link to the themes of the play
- Talk about love, tragedy and comedy linked to the plays
- Discuss cross gender roles
- Watch and practice monologues and duologues
- Perform some Shakespeare in a charity event



ASA Season 3: Musical Theatre - Matilda

Have fun with theatre and music by learning songs and choreography for a well know and loved story by Roald Dahl.

- Learn the most popular songs from the musical
- Learn dances from the musical
- Practice small scenes between characters
- Perform to an audience



ASA Season 4: Traditional Tales

Year 1 and 2 will have an opportunity to use drama to have fun with some of their favourite stories.

We will start with the Gruffalo and will do activities as Meet a Creature, Sounds of the Forest, Exploring the Woods, Funny Faces, Story Moments, Gruffalo's Footsteps, Meet the Mouse and Advice Line .



Other Events Throughout the year

- Stay and Learn events:
 - We will invite experts in Performing Arts to come and do some activities with the children that will teach them new ways to use drama and have fun with performing. It will also help the children to use speaking and listening to ask questions, discuss new concepts and work together to create original pieces.
 - Saturday Morning Masterclasses:
 - We will work with the parents to help to understand how drama can help their children become better writers. Invite parents and children into school to be part of a Drama through storytelling event and hold one off workshops in which parents and children can be part of drama activities together.
 - BSB Has Talent:
 - A celebration of dance, drama, poetry, art, music and much more that gives children the opportunity to perform just for the love of performing.
 - Poetry Slam:
 - An opportunity for some of the Year 5 and 6 children to share what they have learnt in the curriculum and practice presentation skills by performing a piece of well-known or original poetry.
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Drama in the classroom: What are we going to do?

- Drama is a fantastic way to help children build confidence and social skills in order to find it easier to communicate in the classroom. By using drama games during morning activities, PSHE and guided reading, we can help the children to have fun with drama and in turn help them to be less shy when communicating in core subjects.
 - Drama is also a fantastic way to influence and improve writing skills, particularly in with EAL and children with additional needs. It gives them a place to go to help communicate their ideas and through performances and videos, they can look back on the ideas they had and use this to build a bank of vocabulary.
 - Project based learning, titled 'Mantle of the Expert, is way to use drama as a hook for the children when learning a new topic. By giving the children a theme to become an expert in, they have to take on the role of a writer, author, publisher, explorer, astronaut etc and put together a presentation based on their learning throughout the topic to present as the expert at the end of the topic.
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The Evidence

- In a recent study conducted about Drama as teaching in Primary schools, the conclusion read: *According to our research good teaching is based on confidence, rich interaction and creative passion, which can be taught through drama and improvisational exercises such as verbal spontaneity games, role playing, and physical movement. Drama work and improvisational exercises also train our interaction skills. Training can be done through activities that develop teaching skills, new ideas and thoughts about teaching and deeper interaction skills and that are pleasurable. By training our interaction skills we have new experiences using our sense organs. These can reshape our mental pictures and representations of reality - often in a creative way.*
 - Drama education and improvisation as a resource of teacher student's creativity (2018)
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Questions?