WHAT'S NEW AT BANANA ISLAND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

ISSUE TWO



Welcome to our Newsletter!

This week has been full of exciting hands-on learning and growing confidence across the school. In the Prep Section, pupils explored practical activities that encouraged creativity and problem-solving, while in EYFS, the children continued to build confidence and independence through fun, play-based learning experiences.
Across the school, classrooms have been filled with energy, discovery and joyful learning.

In this newsletter, you will find: Class activities & photos for the week, SOTW, reminders and many more. Keep reading!

SPOTLIGHT ON

Something special is coming for our amazing mums!
Get ready for a fun-filled Mum's Hangout packed with laughter, connection and beautiful moments together. It's the perfect chance to relax, mingle and be celebrated!

Official flyer and full details coming soon... stay tuned!

UPCOMING DATES

20th May - National Numeracy Day
20th May - Reception Class Open Morning

Key term dates on page 9

SCHOOL NEWS

CHESS MASTERS TOURNAMENT SUUCESS

Our chess team made an impressive debut at the Chessmasters Tournament, winning 4 out of 6 games and proudly representing the school. It was their first inter-school competition, yet they rose to the occasion with confidence and determination, truly showing up and showing out.
This experience has not only boosted their confidence but also equipped them for even greater success in future competitions.



SUMMER CAMP! SUMMER CAMP!! SUMMER CAMP!!!



Excitement is already building for this year's Summer Camp, and trust us, you won't want to miss it! From creative arts and outdoor adventures to sports, games and hands-on activities, we have an action-packed programme designed to keep children engaged, inspired and having endless fun right through the holidays.

Want to be the first to hear about themes, dates and special highlights? Be sure to sign up to our mailing list for exclusive updates and early access to registration. Spaces will be limited so stay connected and get ready for a summer full of fun, friendship and unforgettable memories!

SUBSCRIBE now >>> **SIGN UP!**



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SCHOOL NEWS

GET INVOLVED!



We are excited to share the next step in our journey of growth with the unveiling of our proposed Green Learning Hub, a forward-thinking space designed to inspire creativity, sustainability and hands-on learning for our pupils.
This new development reflects our commitment to providing an enriching environment where children can explore, discover and connect with the world around them in meaningful ways. From eco-friendly features to flexible learning spaces, every element has been thoughtfully designed with our learners in mind.

As valued members of our school community, your voice matters greatly to us. We invite you to engage with the design and share your thoughts, ideas and feedback as we work together to bring this vision to life.

Tap the green circle below to access the brochure and leave your feedback.

Together, we can build a space that truly supports and inspires every child's learning journey.

GO!



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IN EYES...

TODDLERS







Tiny Homeowners

Identifying common household items found in familiar rooms; Developing imaginative role play through simple representations using drawing, colouring and collage,

Our **Toddlers** had a fun and enriching time exploring different rooms in a house, building confidence through hands-on learning and play. In Literacy, they learnt to identify everyday items found in the living room and kitchen using flashcards. In Mathematics, they explored size and comparison (sofas vs armchairs) and practised number recognition (0–9) by creating their own telephone keypads. Role play brought learning to life as the children sliced bananas in their "kitchen," developing fine motor skills while happily making monkey sounds along the way!

They also designed TV screens, coloured remotes and engaged in imaginative play. Over in Art, they created living room collages, confidently identifying and selecting familiar items.

Discovery and playful learning are the themes of our toddler class!

STAR OF THE WEEK
Oluwatoni.

PLAYGROUP

The **Playgroup** had a bright and busy week packed with colour, movement and teamwork!

The children explored rainbow colours and learnt about traffic lights, while enjoying the story Brown Bear, Brown Bear and confidently naming animals and colours. A popular activity was the traffic light game, where the children practised listening, waiting patiently and taking turns. They also worked together to find "Teddy Lost in the Jungle" by listening carefully to sounds and clues. In Role Play, the children enjoyed shopping for food and clothes, using their imagination and practising communication skills. During Maths, they created colourful traffic light patterns, while Science lessons introduced the concepts of heavy and light using scales.

Physical activities kept everyone active as they crawled through tunnels, collected colourful balls and took part in relay races. In Arts and Crafts, the children created "emotional traffic lights" to help express their feelings using colours.

A joyful week full of colour, laughter and little learners on the move!

STAR OF THE WEEK
Sphiwesihle.



Red means stop... but the fun just kept GOING!

Exploring heavy and light objects using simple tools.; Using colours creatively to represent ideas and feelings; Improving communication through role play exercise.

IN EYFS...

NURSERY

Nursery children continued their exciting journey through "The Continents," exploring different landscapes around the world.
They loved the story Slowly, Slowly, Slowly, Said the Sloth, which introduced them to life in the Amazon Rainforest. They discovered that it was a warm, vibrant habitat full of fascinating animals like monkeys, parrots and jaguars.
Creative time was a highlight as the children made colourful macaw crafts, exploring patterns and colours and strengthening their fine motor skills. They also danced Limbo style, just like in South America. The story also reminded them that it's okay to take things slowly, building patience and confidence.
In Phonics, Nursery 2 practised blending simple words, while Nursery 1 explored the /o/ sound through fun activities. In Numeracy, the children built confidence through counting, number formation and matching numbers to quantities using hands-on games and songs.
What a confident group of little learners!



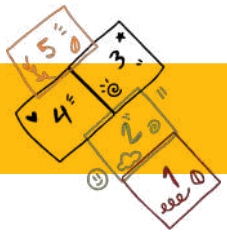


Taking it slow... but learning fast

Building animal-related vocabulary; Exploring colour, pattern and creativity through craft activities; Strengthening understanding of the world through continent-themed activities.

STARS OF THE WEEK
Jadesola & Khuthula

RECEPTION





Ready to Grow!

Understanding number formation representing numbers 11–19 in different ways.

Reception children have had a wonderfully busy time balancing exciting Open Day rehearsals with lots of meaningful classroom learning! In Maths, the children explored numbers beyond 10 by breaking down 11–19 into smaller parts through fun, hands-on activities. In English, they learnt about instructional writing and created their own instructions. They also continued learning about plants, labelling the different parts and deepening their understanding through stories and poems. Oliver's Vegetables was a class favourite, with the children confidently retelling the story and sequencing events correctly. They have also been working hard on writing more independently, showing fantastic progress and growing confidence every day.
Well done to these bright stars for all their hard work!

STARS OF THE WEEK
Amirah & Talia.

IN KS 1...

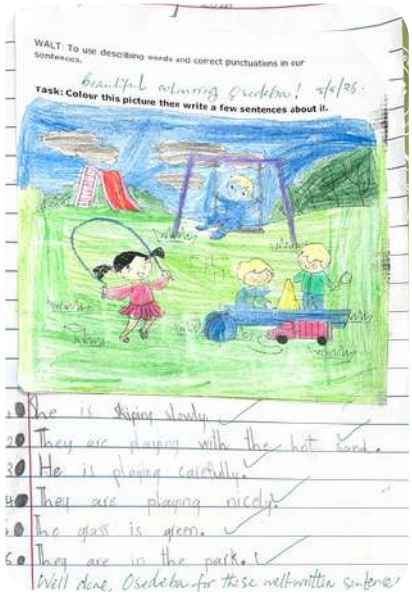
YEAR 1

It's been a lively and productive time in **Year 1**, with lots of hands-on learning and excitement! In Maths, arrays helped bring multiplication and division to life, with plenty of energetic debates about sharing fairly! The focus has now shifted to fractions, as children explore halves and quarters through practical activities. In Literacy, The Jungle Book has sparked great discussions about courage and friendship, with pupils confidently sharing ideas and supporting them with evidence. Writing continues to improve and phonics sessions-especially "alien words"-have been full of fun and laughter! Science lessons on electricity really deepened understanding as they took on a hands-on session on how electrical circuits work, while Geography has taken learners on a journey through local and global landmarks. With PE, Swimming and Music keeping everyone active and expressive, it's been a well-rounded and engaging stretch of learning.
A brilliant mix of energy, curiosity and growing confidence!

STARS OF THE WEEK
Alisha & Jedidiah.



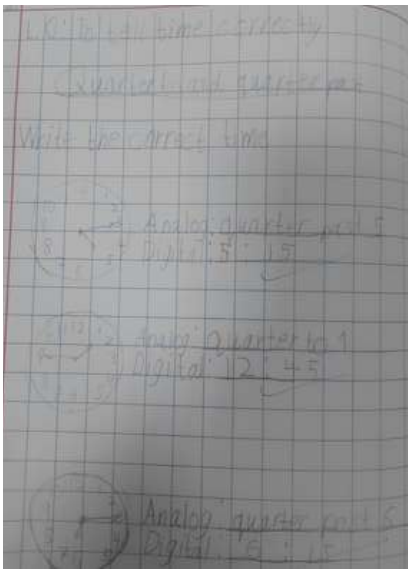


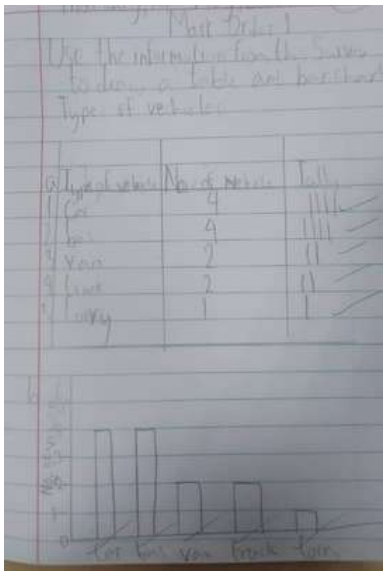


Big Ideas. Busy Minds

Understanding basic concepts of electricity and how it is used; Developing comprehension skills by identifying themes and supporting ideas with evidence, while improving sentence structure and grammar.

YEAR 2





Growing Smarter Everyday

Improving time-telling skills; Building data representation skills.

It's been another exciting time of learning across the subjects in **Year 2**. In Maths, the children learnt to tell the time confidently, exploring half past, quarter to and quarter past. They also solved real-life time problems, calculating how long journeys would take.
In Literacy, pupils became mini detectives as they created interrogation questions for witnesses linked to The Diary of a Killer Cat, leading to lots of thoughtful and imaginative discussions! In Geography, the children explored different types of farms and identified their key features, while in Science, they carried out surveys and learnt how to present information using bar charts. Creative skills also shone in Art, where the children carefully practised drawing detailed eyes and ears by observing shapes and features closely. The busy bees are well and truly back in action!

STARS OF THE WEEK
Eiliyah & Victoria.

IN KS 2&3...

SCIENCE





Year 3 began a new topic on Materials and their Properties, exploring how objects can be described by touch and observation. A fun mystery experiment challenged pupils to identify hidden objects using only their knowledge of material properties, bringing Science and English together brilliantly! **Year 4** explored Chromatography, investigating how colours can be separated into different dyes. Pupils were fascinated to learn that the lateral flow tests used during the COVID-19 pandemic are connected to this scientific technique. In **Year 5**, pupils began learning about chemical changes, discussing examples such as cooking and burning. A practical experiment introduced the term "combustion" and sparked excitement about future investigations involving gases and energy. **Year 6** focused on pressure, exploring how it affects everyday life
They also carried out experiments investigating how water pressure changes with different water levels. Meanwhile, **Year 8** revised important separation techniques, including chromatography and distillation, through practical investigations as part of their exam preparation. They are now preparing to explore the Law of Conservation of Energy in Physics.
A fantastic week of practical learning and scientific thinking.

MATHS

It's been another exciting week of practical learning and problem-solving in Mathematics across the year groups!
Year 3 explored the concept of time, learning how to calculate start times, end times and durations between events through fun, real-life activities. **Year 4** focused on money, estimating costs, calculating totals, change and solving everyday buying-and-selling problems with growing confidence. In **Year 5**, pupils entered the world of coordinates, learning how to plot points accurately on a plane and even using coordinates to create geometric designs. **Year 6** concentrated on accurate shape drawing, using rulers and protractors to construct precise shapes and apply scale drawing techniques to real-life scenarios. Meanwhile, **Year 8** tackled areas of sectors, confidently applying formulas and mathematical reasoning to solve circle-related problems. Across all classes, learners showed enthusiasm, confidence and excellent participation while applying their mathematical knowledge in creative and practical ways.
A week filled with measuring, plotting, calculating and plenty of "aha!" moments!

ENGLISH

English lessons across the classes have been full of imagination and exciting opportunities for pupils to express themselves through language.
Year 3 explored the key elements of poetry, including rhyme, rhythm, lines and stanzas, while also enjoying their class text, Oliver and the Seawigs. **Year 4** explored different types of poems and the use of similes and metaphors, bringing their writing to life with vivid imagery. *Look out for copies of their poems in the next issue!* In **Year 5**, pupils focused on performance poetry, using rhythm and expression to present poems with confidence and flair. **Year 6** experimented with acrostic and sonnet poems, while also revising important grammar skills such as adverbs of time, manner and place. **Year 8** sharpened their imagination through creative writing, exploring the features that make writing engaging and expressive.
A wonderful week of rhythm and words that truly came alive!

THIS WEEK IN KS 2&3

PSHE

Year 3 learnt about different types of communities, including families, schools and neighbourhoods, while discussing how kindness, teamwork and cooperation help communities thrive.
Year 4 focused on rights and responsibilities, exploring fairness, respect and accountability through role-play and classroom discussions. In **Year 5**, pupils explored what it means to be a good citizen, discussing ways people can contribute positively to society by helping others, respecting laws and caring for the environment. **Year 6** took their learning further by examining the qualities of responsible citizens, including leadership, equality, diversity and community service. Pupils reflected thoughtfully on how they can make a positive impact both now and in the future. **Year 8** rounded off their topic on diversity, engaging in meaningful discussions about inclusion, empathy, stereotypes and the importance of creating accepting communities where everyone feels valued.
PSHE lessons have been filled with thoughtful conversations, growing empathy and future leaders in the making!

HISTORY

Year 3 travelled back to the Stone Age, learning about ancient tools and weapons while creatively building their own Stone Age homes. **Year 4** explored the rich culture of the Yoruba people, learning about traditions, food, clothing, music and leadership. Through storytelling and discussions, pupils gained a deeper appreciation for Nigeria's cultural heritage. In **Year 5**, students stepped into the Victorian Era, comparing Victorian schools and homes with life today. They were especially fascinated by the strict classroom rules and daily chores children once had to follow! **Year 6** focused on the inspiring story of Queen Amina, exploring her courage, leadership and impact on the growth of Zazzau. Pupils reflected on how her story still inspires young people today. **Year 8** continued their study of the First English Civil War, examining its causes, major battles and lasting impact on England. Debates and source analysis activities encouraged thoughtful discussions and critical thinking.
A wonderful time of powerful stories, cultural discovery and history truly coming alive in the classroom!

ART

The **Year 8** students have been practising their drawing techniques and learning how to use different grades of pencil for different purposes when drawing life objects or individuals. They went on to try blending pencil shading with their fingers to produce a different look in their drawings. They produced some encouraging results.



STARS OF THE WEEK

TODDLERS
Oluwatoni Afolahan: for impressive recall of concepts taught in class.

PLAYGROUP
Sphiwesihle Xulu: for completing tasks on time.

NURSERY
Khuthala Xulu: for commendable progress in her number formation and great phonics sound blending skill.
Jadesola Oyekan: for accurately retelling stories read in class.

RECEPTION
Amirah Kareem: for commitment to improving her academic performance.
Talia Fantodji: for beginning to work independently on class tasks.

YEAR 1
Jedidiah Obinna: for commendable input during French lessons.
Alisha Etineruba: for noticeable progress in her spelling and writing tasks.

YEAR 2
Eiliyah Ojobaro: for remarkable improvement in maths lessons.
Ekansh Jain: for demonstrating understanding of the times table.
Victoria Ama Moore: for her excellent participation in French and quick grasp of concepts.

HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

YEAR 3
Xolani Waswani: for completing tasks quickly and presenting neat work.
Kharisa Assah-Nwajiuba: for exceptional participation during History lessons.
Olukoye Ogundeyi: for consistently producing neat and legible work.

YEAR 4
Macario Nobei: for commendable participation during History lessons.
Omotara Ayeni: for consistent participation during French lessons.

YEAR 5
Jacob Fernandes: for consistent performance during Maths lessons and for working cooperatively with others.
Dev Gupta: for his positive contributions in PSHE lessons.

YEAR 6
Kevin Mulya: for exceptional improvement in written and oral French skills.
Isabella Okeowo: for steady progress in attempting tasks during Maths lessons.

YEAR 8
Faramade Oshinowo: for excellent pencil drawing in an Art lesson exercise.

UPCOMING KEY DATES

Please note that the dates are subject to change and any changes made would be communicated via mail/WhatsApp!

11th May
KS2 SATs Week

20th May
National Numeracy Day

20th May
Reception Open Morning (8:45 am)

20th - 22nd May
DELF Prim (International French Exams)

21st - 22nd May
Whole School Class Photo

26th May
Year 1 Open Morning (8:45 am)

27th May
Children's Day (School Holiday)

27th - 28th May
Eid-al-Kabir (Public Holiday) – TBC

1st - 5th June
Half-Term Break

8th June
KS1 SATs Week

12th June
Democracy Day (Public Holiday)

16th June
Year 2 Open Morning

21st June
Father's Day

22nd - 24th June
Prep Assessments Week

26th June
School Mud Day

29th June
International Mud Day

30th June - 3rd July
Parent Teacher Consultation Week

9th July
Reception Class Celebratory Assembly

10th July
Whole School Production

10th July
End of Term

20th July - 28th August
BIIS Summer Camp