

WHAT'S NEW AT BANANA ISLAND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

ISSUE NO. 01

ISSUE
ONE



Welcome to our Newsletter!

With the start of the term, it was lovely to welcome our pupils and families back to school with renewed energy and enthusiasm. The opening weeks were filled with hands-on learning experiences across the school, encouraging curiosity and active participation. From engaging classroom activities to practical projects that brought learning to life, pupils explored, discovered and grew in meaningful ways. It has been a wonderful start to the term, marked by collaboration, connection and memorable learning moments within our school community.

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

SPOTLIGHT ON



Laugh, Connect, Celebrate!
Our Mums' and Dads' Hangouts are back! This time, they promise even more fun activities, light-hearted challenges and plenty of opportunities to connect with fellow parents. We can't wait to see you there!



UPCOMING DATES

26th Jan - Year 2 Open Morning.

30th Jan - BIIIS vs Greenwood House Football Friendly. (TBC)

Key term dates on page 8

GREEN LEARNING HUB DEVELOPMENT

Work to prepare the site is scheduled to start at the beginning of February once some initial pre-stage projects are completed.

We have already begun to drain the small swimming pool and, once completely empty, it will be demolished to make a new space for the temporary relocation of the Music and Art Centre. This work is expected to take 30 days from the start of February and so, during this time, we will not have the use of the building for teaching purposes or assemblies. Any assemblies that should take place during that time will be reorganised to fit into the available spaces we have on the Prep Department space. Confirmation of these arrangements will be sent out to the affected parents nearer the time.

Naturally, every effort will be made to ensure that the safety and well-being of the children will be maintained to our usual high standards and that the construction work will not interfere with the normal daily running of the school.

PARENT HANGOUTS!

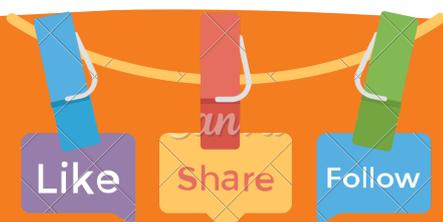
Mums' Hangout Is Back!

We are excited to announce the return of our much-loved Mums' Hangout 🎉 A relaxed space to connect, unwind, share laughs and build community over good conversation. We absolutely love the warmth and energy these gatherings bring and we can't wait to welcome everyone back.

Dads' Hangout Returns Too!

Great news for our dads — the Dads' Hangout is back as well! 💡 A chance to catch up, connect with fellow dads and enjoy some well-deserved downtime. We are looking forward to reviving the laughs and conversations that make these sessions special.

Stay tuned for dates and details!



Follow us on social media to get up to date content about the school and fresh content.

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 Banana Island School



TODDLERS



Happy New Year!

We were delighted to welcome our **toddlers** back to school and to receive our new friends joining us this term. The children settled in happily, filling the classroom with smiles and excitement. Our learning began on a healthy note as we explored Fruits and Vegetables through fun, hands-on activities. The children enjoyed listening to stories such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *Handa's Surprise*, which helped them learn about different fruits while building early literacy skills.

Counting activities supported numeracy as the toddlers counted fruits from the stories, while flashcards and fruit models helped develop vocabulary and confidence in communication. A nature walk around the school allowed the children to spot butterflies, caterpillar trails and signs of nature in action. Fine motor skills were strengthened through tracing and caterpillar-making, while a throwing game using fruit models supported gross motor development. The toddlers also created colourful fruit collages and discussed the importance of healthy eating.

It has been a lovely start to the term and we look forward to more exciting learning moments ahead! 🍓🌿

Healthy Bodies, Happy Toddlers!

Building early counting and number awareness;
Developing vocabulary and communication skills;
Encouraging healthy eating habits.



STAR OF THE WEEK
No star this week.



PLAYGROUP

The **Playgroup** children were excited to be back at school as we began our new theme on animals. We explored *Old MacDonald's Farm*, learning about farm and pet animals, their sounds and using simple prepositions like "under," "on top," and "behind" through fun games and activities.

In Maths, the children enjoyed counting eggs in *The Little Red Hen* and spots in *Dog's Colourful Day*, while Physical Development activities involved moving like different animals. The children also created animal crafts, made sounds with instruments and talked about caring for pets. They were especially proud to help feed and look after the school tortoise.

It has been a joyful and engaging start to the half-term!



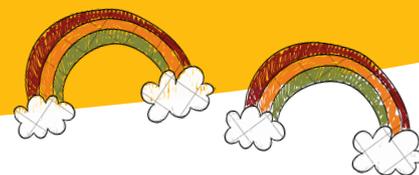
BIS Playgroup Has A Farm..

Identifying common farm animals; Expanding Vocabulary; Encouraging responsibility by learning how to care for pets.



STAR OF THE WEEK
Sphiwesihle





NURSERY

What a joyful start to the term! We welcomed our new friends with warm introductions and our returning children with big smiles, helping everyone feel safe, settled and part of our **Nursery** family. The children have jumped straight into their new theme - "Building and Construction."

As part of the theme, the children explored materials used in building and enjoyed moulding their own "bricks" using sand, pretend cement and water. Story time with The Construction Worker introduced exciting new vocabulary such as "Architect," "Carpenter," "Electrician" and "Engineer." Teamwork was also on display as the children made playdough together, building cooperation and communication skills.

In Phonics, Nursery 2 children began blending sounds to read simple words, while Nursery 1 children were introduced to their first sound, /m/, through songs and actions. In Numeracy, counting, number formation, and recognising quantities continued in fun, hands-on ways.

A fantastic start to what promises to be a very exciting term!



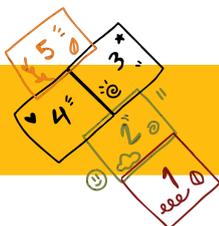
Little Builders, Big Learning!

Encouraging teamwork, communication and problem solving; Strengthening numeracy skills through number formation; Developing vocabulary.



STAR OF THE WEEK
Aviah

RECEPTION



Roaring Learners!

Developing number sense through identifying and representing numbers 6-8; Building curiosity and vocabulary.

Our **Reception** pupils have returned settled, confident and ready to learn, quickly re-establishing routines and reconnecting happily with their friends and teachers.

The focus has been on revisiting key skills. In phonics, children revised familiar sounds and applied them in reading and writing, while in maths they explored numbers 6, 7 and 8, finding one more and one less and learning different ways to make each number. In writing, pupils continued to develop correct letter and number formation, showing improved pencil control.

Alongside academic learning, the children have thrived socially, working well together and using "words, not worries" to express their feelings. Our theme, Wonders of the World, began with an exciting focus on dinosaurs, sparking curiosity and developing storytelling and new vocabulary.

We are proud of Reception's positive start and enthusiasm for learning this term. What a roar-some start to the Lent Term! 🌟



STARS OF THE WEEK
Taimada & Hazel

IN KS 1...

YEAR 1

Year 1 has made a fantastic start to the Lent Term, settling quickly back into school routines and reconnecting confidently with one another. The first two weeks focused on revisiting prior learning to refresh skills and build confidence.

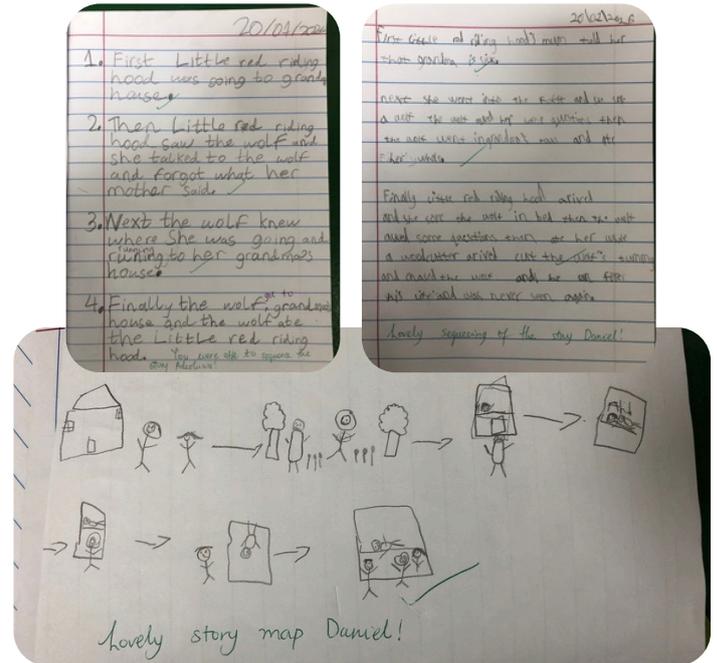
In Phonics, children reviewed sight words, learnt new sounds and applied these by writing sentences. In Maths, they practised addition and subtraction within 10 and 20, using practical resources and different methods to solve number sentences. In Literacy, pupils began their new unit, "The Little Red Riding Hood," enjoying reading, sequencing, retelling and role play.

We are proud of how well they have settled and look forward to an exciting term ahead!



STARS OF THE WEEK

Jafar



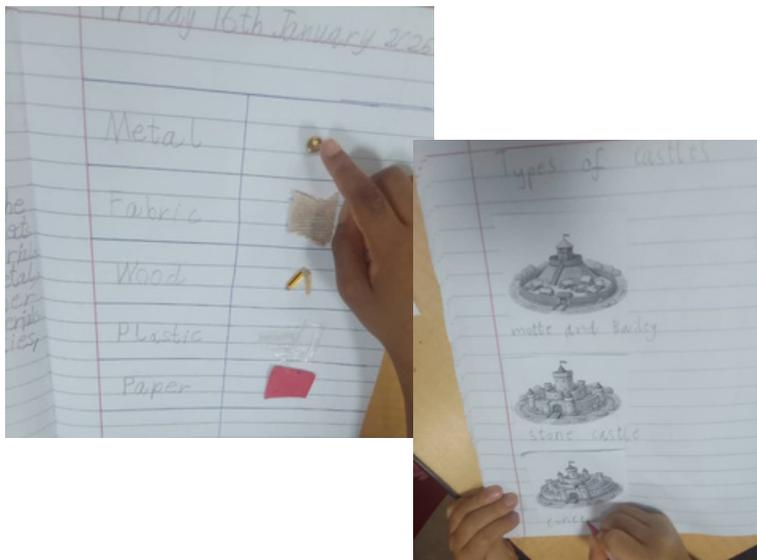
Bringing Stories to Life.

Building comprehension and storytelling skills through sequencing and narration; Developing creative thinking.

YEAR 2



Year 2 pupils explored different materials and their properties in Science through hands-on investigations of their environment. In Mathematics, they strengthened multiplication skills using grouping and arrays to support understanding and recall of times tables. In Spelling and Grammar, pupils learnt to spell compound words and write compound sentences using conjunctions. In History, they studied castles, exploring their types, purpose and timelines. Geography lessons focused on identifying and classifying physical and human features around home and school, while in PSHE, pupils learned how to set short- and long-term goals and confidently wrote their own short-term goals. The busy bees are well and truly back in business. **Buzz Buzz** 🐝



1, 2, Hands On

Identifying different materials through observation and investigation; Understanding the purpose, structure and historical significance of castles.



STARS OF THE WEEK

Tesia-Rae

SCIENCE



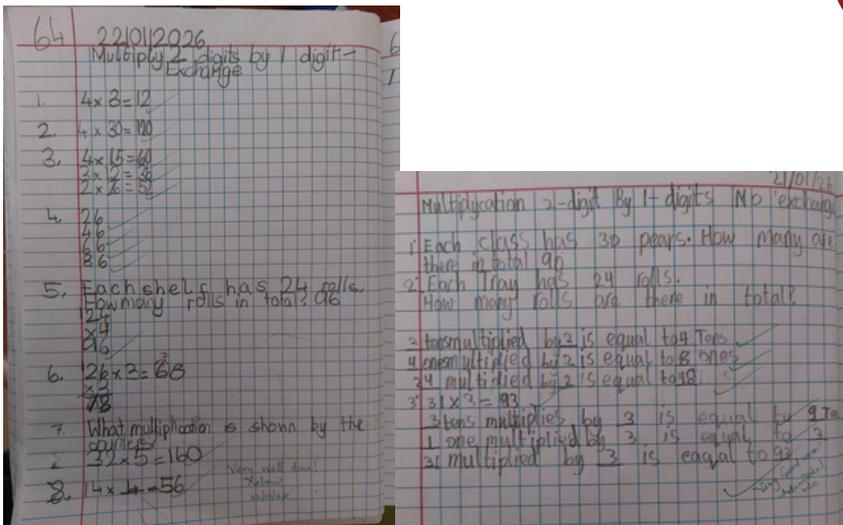
The new term in Science began with an exciting range of hands-on investigations across the school. **Year 3** started a new Physics topic on magnetism, learning about forces and preparing for practical investigations into magnetic materials. **Year 4** continued their work on forces by investigating friction, testing how different surfaces affect movement and exploring water resistance through diagrams. **Year 5** revised key ideas about forces before moving on to more detailed investigations into magnetic fields and different magnet shapes. **Year 6** began with Chemistry, learning about acids, alkalis, neutral substances and using litmus paper to test colourless liquids. **Year 8** revisited forces through practical experiments, measuring magnetic strength and preparing to investigate friction using Newton force metres. A great atomic start in science class so far this term!



MATHS



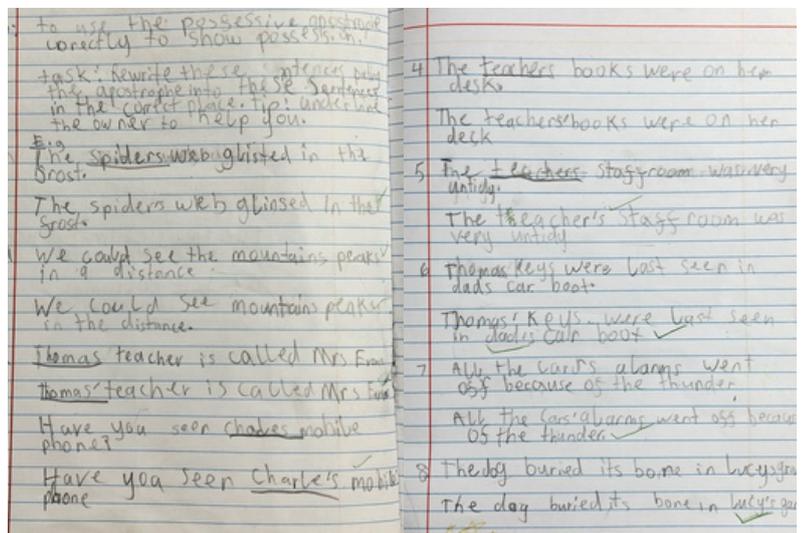
Year 8 strengthened their understanding of algebra, confidently working with algebraic expressions, directed numbers and the distributive property when expanding expressions. **Year 6** showed strong skills in converting between ratios and fractions, forming and interpreting ratios from quantities and applying scale drawing in practical contexts. **Year 5** focused on multiplying 2-digit by up to 4-digit numbers, using arrays and the area model to support clear visual understanding. **Year 4** demonstrated a solid grasp of the link between multiplication and division, confidently finding factor pairs and using patterns when multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100. **Year 3** explored multiples of ten across counting, money and SI units, applying repeated addition and the breakdown method in multiplication. The BISS Maths geniuses are truly back!



ENGLISH



The Lent Term began positively across the school, with pupils settling quickly back into learning. **Year 3** focused on developing dialogue writing, learning how speech punctuation and reporting verbs bring stories to life. **Year 4** revised the use of possessive apostrophes, building accuracy and confidence in their writing. In **Year 5**, pupils explored perfect verb forms to clearly show time and sequence in their work. **Year 6** started the term with focused revision of key grammar and punctuation skills in preparation for the term ahead. Meanwhile, **Year 8** began an engaging poetry unit, exploring how language is used to express meaning and emotion. This lent term is off to a great start and we cannot wait to see what fun adventure lies ahead!





The first two weeks of resumption have been a great success in Geography, with pupils settling in confidently, engaging positively in lessons and showing enthusiasm for learning.

Year 3 are exploring weather around the world, focusing on life in hot and cold places and how climate affects daily living. **Year 4** began with revision before moving into a new unit on weather patterns, examining extreme weather and its impact on people and the environment. **Year 5** have strengthened their skills through past exam questions and are now preparing to study seasons and their influence on weather and human activities. **Year 6** are learning about local weather, discussing the conditions needed for different activities and environments. **Year 8** are studying settlements, comparing urban, rural and suburban areas while exploring how these communities developed over time.

We look forward to an engaging and enriching term ahead in Geography, filled with discovery and meaningful learning!



HISTORY



How Stone Age Humans Made Hand Axes

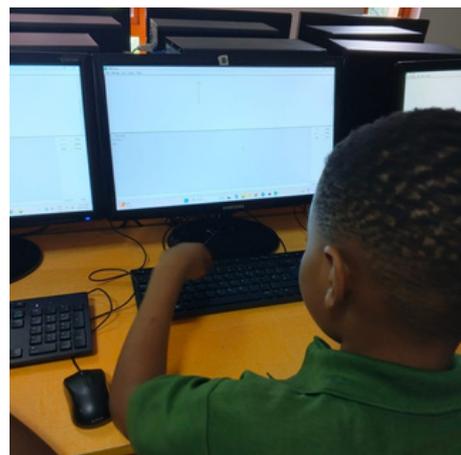


The History students have made a strong and positive start to the term, with pupils across all year groups showing enthusiasm and curiosity as they explore the past. **Year 3** are learning about local history, focusing on significant events in Nigeria and how they have shaped life today. **Year 4** has begun an exciting journey from the Stone Age to the Iron Age, exploring how early developments influenced tools, settlements and ways of life in Britain. **Year 5** have travelled back into Ancient Greece, studying daily life, gods and goddesses, the Olympic Games and the lasting impact of Greek civilisation. **Year 6** started with revision to strengthen key skills and are now exploring the rise of the Benin Kingdom, examining the role of the Oba and the cultural significance of Benin artwork. **Year 8** are investigating the growth of the British Empire in India, with a focus on key events such as the Siege of Lucknow, encouraging thoughtful discussion around empire and power. We look forward to a term filled with rich discussions, critical thinking, and exciting historical discoveries.

ICT



Nursery and **Reception** revisited how technology helps make everyday tasks faster and easier. **Year 1** students are learning that robots follow human instructions, using BeeBot simulations to run and predict simple commands. **Year 2** are practising how to give clear, sequenced instructions to control a simulated BeeBot. **Year 3** are creating simple programmes in Scratch, learning how commands control sprite movement. **Year 4** were introduced to FMSLogo, programming a screen turtle to draw basic shapes. **Year 5** explored paper-based and computer-based databases, learning about records, fields and sorting. **Year 6** are using variables in Scratch to design simple scoreboards for basic games. **Year 8** are learning how the internet works and have been introduced to HTML after online safety lessons. It has been a great start to ICT lessons this term. We look forward to a learning-filled term!



STARS OF THE WEEK

PLAYGROUP

Sphiwesihle Xulu: for showing positive attitude and enthusiasm towards learning.

NURSERY

Aviah Balogun: for great recall of previously taught topics and for number formation progress.

RECEPTION

Taimada Lamah: for improved independence in all areas of learning.

Hazel Akabeli: for improved communication and attitude towards learning.

YEAR 1

Jafar Sulaiman: for a wonderful start to the term and finishing his tasks on time.

YEAR 2

Tesia-Rae Fantodji: for improved academic performance and completing tasks on time.

HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

YEAR 3

Xolani Waswani: for an impressive start in English lessons and for topping the class in weekly spelling tests.

YEAR 4

Tara Ayeni: for a brilliant diagram in science.

YEAR 8

Faramde Oshinowo: for impressive techniques used in composing a beautiful poem.

UPCOMING KEY DATES

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

26th January

Year 2 Open Morning (9 am)

30th January (TBC)

BIIS vs Greenwood House Football Friendly

30th January

Dad's Hangout - Banana Island Boat Club (5 pm)

2nd February

Year 1 Open Morning (9 am)

5th February

Playgroup Class Open Morning (9 am)

6th February

Mums' Hangout - Herel Play (5 pm)

11th February

Reception Class Open Morning (8:45 am)

13th February

BIIS Sports Day

16th - 20th February

Half-term break

17th February

Chinese New Year

4th March

Holi Festival

5th March

World Book Day (UK/Ireland)

5th - 6th March

Prep Assessments

8th March

International Women's Day

12th March

Nursery Class - Circle Time with Parents

16th - 18th March

Art & Music Week

18th March

Art & Music Exhibition

20th March

International French Day

27th March

Easter Egg Hunt/Hat Parade

27th March

End of LentTerm