



WELCOME TO OUR Weekly Newsletter

We hope everyone had a refreshing and enjoyable half-term break! As we step into this new half of the term, our students have jumped right back into learning with enthusiasm. This week, Nursery children are exploring a new theme filled with exciting hands-on activities, while Year 3 mathematicians are continuing their fraction adventures. Year 4 students are exploring new concepts in literacy and science. Year 8 is tackling more advanced problem-solving in maths. With engaging lessons, creative projects and plenty of discoveries ahead, we're excited for all the learning and growth this half of the term will bring! Stay tuned for more updates.

In this newsletter you will find:



Class activities & photos for the week, SOTW, after school updates, reminders and many more. Keep reading!

TODDLERS

That's a wrap on our Nursery Rhymes learning adventure! Our toddlers had a phenomenal time learning through songs and rhymes this half-term. In Literacy, they explored flashcards and successfully identified images related to weather, "Marvellous Me," their environment, homes and mini-beasts. Physical Development was all about preparing for Sports Day, building excitement as they got ready to showcase their skills. For Art and Craft, they created adorable snail cards with heart collages to celebrate Valentine's Day. In Understanding the World, they explored mini-beasts like cockroaches, flies and butterflies, joyfully flapping their little hands to butterfly rhymes. It's been a wonderful and engaging half-term and we can't wait for more fun ahead!



"Marvellous Me"

Improving number sequencing; Celebrating valentine's and encouraging creativity through shape collages.



PLAYGROUP

In **Playgroup**, our fairy tale adventures continued with Goldilocks and the Three Bears! The children explored household objects- where they built a chair for baby bear; family roles- where they made pretend porridge. What great little actors in this class! In Physical Development, they had a blast navigating a ribbon fence, going over and under to fetch a toy. They also enjoyed watering plants, getting a little messy along the way! For Literacy, we took a listening walk, tuning into different sounds and identifying objects from both the classroom and home. Maths was all about size and sorting, as the children matched bowls, chairs and beds to the right bear, figuring out which was the biggest and smallest. In Personal, Social and Emotional Development, they took turns playing matching games and discussed which objects belonged to each family member. During music, they experimented with soft, medium and fast tempos, imitating the bears' movements and Goldilocks' escape! To wrap up, they got creative with bear crafts, painting and assembling adorable artwork. They also honed their gross motor skills while preparing for inter-house sports. It was a wonderful way to end the half term—full of learning, creativity and fun!



"Role playing"

Understanding family relationships; Themed art and craft work; Identifying initial sounds.



Brrrr! The **Nursery** children embarked on an icy adventure to the polar regions where they discovered a world covered in snow and ice, meeting polar bears, arctic foxes, walruses, emperor penguins and seals. Through the story Big Bear, Little Brother, they learnt that kindness doesn't depend on looking alike. In Art, they created beautiful bear collages, while in PSED, they explored the theme of compassion and resilience, understanding that falling during a race is just a chance to rise again. Their Sports Day preparations were filled with enthusiasm and they learnt the importance of perseverance and teamwork. Numeracy lessons continued with number recognition, formation, quantifying objects and exploring shapes and their properties. In Phonics, they practised new letter sounds, blending them into simple words, while also refining their fine motor skills through proper pencil grip, colouring within lines and creating patterned mark-making. The half-term concluded with a thrilling Sports Day, where the children proudly represented their houses, embraced the joy of participation, and celebrated their efforts with great excitement!



"0 Degrees"

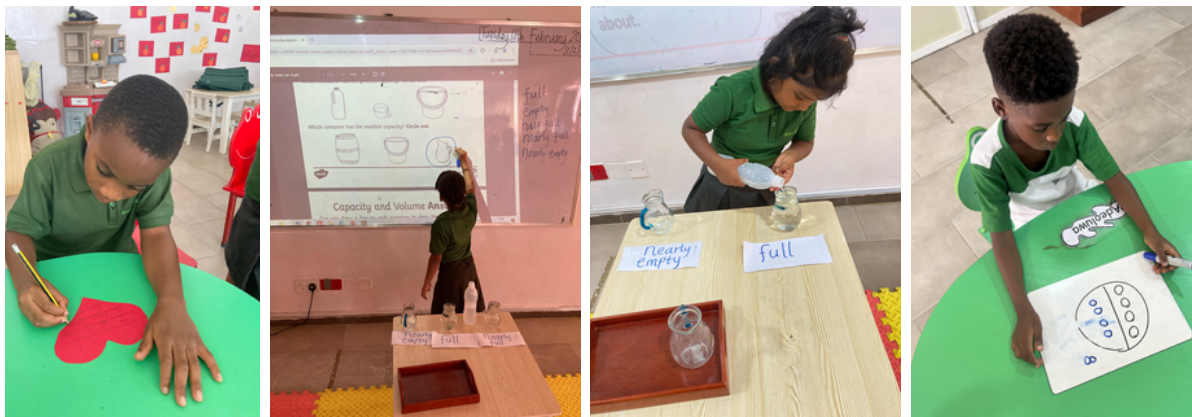
Developing vocabulary; Improving number quantification; Exploring arctic animals.



Eliana

RECEPTION

The week kicked off with excitement and a hint of nervous energy as we prepared for Sports Day—our last big event before the half-term break, which fell on Valentine's Day. The big question on everyone's mind was, *"Which house will take home the trophy?"* Our young learners gave it their all, perfecting their march-past routines and pushing themselves in their individual events. Despite the thrilling preparations, learning remained in full swing in the Reception classroom. In Maths, the children practised doubling numbers, explored capacity and compared length and height. In Literacy, they read 'Wakey, Wakey' and used their phonics skills to write short sentences about spring. The Valentine's spirit was alive as the children designed heartfelt cards and wrote sweet messages for their loved ones. In Understanding the World, they learnt about the changes that happen during spring, adding another layer of discovery to their learning journey. What an amazing six weeks it has been! Well done, Reception class—you were brilliant!



'Busy Bees'

Grasping maths concepts; Valentine themed craft.

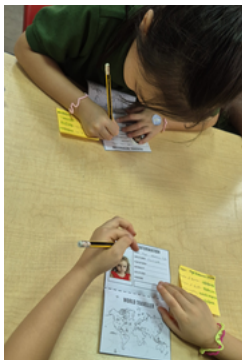


Deba

THIS WEEK IN KEYSTAGE 1..

YEAR 1

This week was packed with excitement as our **Year 1** learners prepared for Sports Day, perfecting their march-past skills with enthusiasm and teamwork. The spirit of Valentine's Day filled the air as they crafted heartfelt cards for their loved ones, using colourful paper, stickers and sweet messages. Their curiosity soared as they went on a classroom journey around the world, learning about passports and even creating their own, complete with drawings and stamps! In maths, they explored 2D and 3D shapes through an interactive clue-based game, distinguishing between flat and solid figures in a fun and engaging way. Our little grammar champions tackled conjunctions, joining sentences in a quiz challenge to strengthen their writing skills. To top it all off, they made a splash in the pool, polishing their swimming strokes with confidence. It was a fantastic week filled with creativity, movement and hands-on learning. We can't wait for more exciting adventures ahead!



"Jack Of All Trade"

Improving vocabulary and world knowledge; Valentine themed art craft; Strengthening and developing muscles through swimming.



Mya



Anna

YEAR 2

We've had an exciting and enriching week of learning! In history, we explored the inspiring life of Mary Seacole, focusing on her bravery and the impact she had during the war. Her story reminded us that hard work and compassion can lead to great rewards. In maths, we practised handling money by calculating total costs and finding change—a valuable real-world skill! Our literacy lessons challenged us to write from different perspectives, helping us refine our vocabulary, spelling and punctuation. Science was all about change! We experimented with freezing and melting water; burning paper in order to understand reversible and irreversible changes. Meanwhile, in geography, we travelled back in time to compare medieval life with the way we live today. To top off the week, we wrapped things up with an exciting sports day, filled with fun and teamwork! What a fantastic week of learning and discovery!



"Putting It To Test"

Experiments to test and understand scientific theories.



Joshua



Atharv

Year 3 continued their investigations into forces, experimenting to observe how weight and texture affect the speed of falling objects. Dropping balls from a first-floor balcony provided fascinating insights and they will soon repeat the experiment from a second-floor balcony for comparison. **Year 4** explored sound by experimenting with the different noises they can make using their bodies. They described these sounds using creative sentences and adjectives—an excellent cross-curricular link to their English lessons. **Year 5** investigated materials, heating and combustion. They examined the structure of a bunsen burner, created detailed diagrams and learnt the difference between a yellow and blue flame. **Year 7** continued their work on acids and alkalis, using red cabbage leaves as a natural indicator to test household substances. Next, they will explore the pH scale and how a universal indicator provides a more accurate measure of acidity and alkalinity. **Year 8** built on their knowledge of acids and alkalis, learning how acids can neutralize alkalis to form a neutral solution. Through practical experiments, they tested their results using universal indicator paper. It has been an exciting and interactive term so far and we look forward to even more scientific discoveries ahead!



MATHS

This week, our students explored exciting new concepts. **Year 3** started on a fraction adventure, learning about numerators, understanding wholes and comparing non-unit fractions. **Year 4** mastered mixed numbers by breaking them down into whole and fractional parts and placing them accurately on number lines. **Year 5** tackled fraction multiplication, focusing on multiplying mixed and non-unit fractions by whole numbers. **Year 8** jumped into indices, simplifying expressions using powers, mastering addition and subtraction laws and solving indicial equations. It's been a fantastic week of learning!

Let's test your problem solving skills ...

1. How many one-fifths are there in 200?
2. The product of $\frac{9}{7}$ and a number is 63. Find the number.
3. Six-sevenths of a number is 36. Find the number.
4. $\frac{3}{5}$ of a class of 45 are boys. Find the number of girls in the class.

This week, our students wrapped up the first half of the term with exciting lessons! **Year 3** reviewed word classes, focusing on nouns and their types through interactive games. **Year 4** explored speech punctuation by turning a live conversation into reported speech, mastering punctuation conventions. **Year 5** strengthened their grasp of the perfect verb form by converting sentences between past and present perfect tenses. **Year 7** explored figures of speech, creating their own examples to see how they enhance language. Meanwhile, **Year 8** honed their poetry analysis skills, annotating poems and identifying key literary features. From prose to poetry, structure to syntax, our learners were super engaged.

HISTORY

This half term was filled with historical discoveries across different year groups, as students explored key events that shaped nations and cultures. **Year 3** embarked on an exciting journey into Nigeria's past, diving into "Significant Events in Nigeria." They discussed major historical moments, from independence to cultural and political milestones, gaining insight into the country's evolution. **Year 4** explored the Aborigines of Australia, learning about their deep connection to the land, Dreamtime legends, rock art and the impact of European settlement. Their curiosity was sparked by the unique traditions and storytelling techniques of the Indigenous people. Meanwhile, **Year 5** explored the British Empire, examining its expansion, trade, culture and societal influence across continents. They debated both the positive and negative impacts of British rule, reflecting on how it shaped the modern world. **Year 7** turned their focus to the Indian Empire, particularly the Siege of Lucknow, analyzing British rule in India, the causes and consequences of the 1857 uprising and its lasting effects on colonial history. Finally, **Year 8** continued their study of global conflicts, concentrating on the Second Congo War. They explored its complex causes, humanitarian impact, political shifts and international intervention efforts. Across all classes, students engaged in discussions, research and creative projects, fostering a deeper understanding of history's influence on the present.

RE

This week in Religious Education, students explored diverse faiths and their teachings. **Year 3** reflected on kindness and compassion through the story of the Good Samaritan, while **Year 4** studied key Buddhist festivals and their spiritual significance. **Year 5** analysed Sikhism, learning about its beliefs, traditions and the values of equality and service. **Year 7** examined the ethical teachings of Jesus and their impact on moral choices today, while **Year 8** explored Jewish daily life, focusing on Halakha (Jewish law) and Ummah, understanding how faith shapes everyday actions and community. It has been a thought-provoking and enriching term, deepening students' appreciation of different religious traditions.

STARS OF THE WEEK

TODDLERS

Fiyinfoluwa Filani: For being more expressive in-class activities and providing great feedback.

PLAYGROUP

Nathan Asuelimen: for showing active engagement with class activities.

NURSERY

Eliana Mario-Ghae: for tremendous improvement in her communication.

RECEPTION

Osedebamen Okojie: for consistently presenting good pieces of academic work.

YEAR 1

Mya Slade: for impressive creative work in “Mural art.”

Anna Hu: for consistent improvement and enthusiasm in French class.

YEAR 2

Joshua Fernandes: for excellent performance in French lessons.

Atharv Sunil: for improvement in his handwriting and numeracy skills.

Head Teacher's Commendations

YEAR 3

Siu Choi: for maintaining exceptional outcomes in literacy and commitment to improving her performance in the English Language.

SCHOOL NEWS

SPORTS DAY SUCCESS

What an exhilarating day it was at BHS Sports Day! Students, parents, and staff came together for a thrilling celebration filled with determination, enthusiasm and unforgettable moments. The cheers, the victories and the sportsmanship on display made it an event to remember.

Here's a quick recap of some of the highlights:

- **Mums' 75m Dash:** Our energetic mums took to the track with determination and smiles showcasing impressive speed and enthusiasm. Their participation added a wonderful spirit to the event!
- **Children's Sack Race:** Laughter echoed across the field as our students hopped to the finish line in the classic sack race. The joy was truly heartwarming.
- **Fill the Basket:** This fun-filled activity had participants race to fill their baskets with various items, testing speed and strategy. It was a delightful sight to see everyone engaged and enjoying themselves.

Here's a snapshot of the final standings:

- **1st Place:** 🏆 Green House – 112 points
- **2nd Place:** 🥈 Blue House – 110 points
- **3rd Place:** 🥉 Red House – 106 points
- **4th Place:** Yellow House – 100 points

Congratulations to Green House for retaining their title as Champions! 🎉 **GO GREEN HOUSE!** ❤️

A massive thank you to everyone who participated and supported the event. Your energy and enthusiasm made this Sports Day a resounding success! Here's to many more spirited competitions in the future. 🥳

RAMADAN MUBARAK

As the holy month of Ramadan begins, we celebrate this special time of reflection, kindness and togetherness within our school community. It is a season of gratitude, compassion and self-discipline, values that we encourage in our students every day.

We extend our warmest wishes to all our Muslim families observing Ramadan and look forward to fostering a spirit of unity and understanding throughout this month. May this Ramadan bring peace, joy and countless blessings to all! 🌙 ✨



UPCOMING EVENTS

6th March - World Book Day

8th March - International Women's Day

PLEASE SEE PAGE 10 FOR KEY DATES

REMINDER

- Follow us on social media to get up to date content about the school. Also get some fresh pictures/videos of class activities as they happen! What are you waiting for? find us

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READ MORE AT

www.bananaislandschool.com

SPORTS DAY GALLERY



LENT 2024/25 TERM KEY DATES



6th January	-	School resumption for Michaelmas
20th January	-	Martin Luther King Day
24th January	-	Dads' Hangout
29th January	-	Chinese New Year
31st January	-	Parent Workshop (Academic Rigour - Core Subjects)
31st January	-	Mums' Hangout
13th February	-	Celebration Assembly @ 8:30am by invitation
14th February	-	Valentine's Day
14th February	-	Sports Day
17th - 21st February	-	Half-term break
27th February	-	Nursery Circle Time with Parents
28th February	-	Father's Hangout 2
4th March	-	Shrove Tuesday – pancakes cooked in school (volunteers required)
5th March	-	Ash Wednesday (No requirements)
6th March	-	World Book Day – dress up theme 'Book an Adventure'
7th March	-	Celebration Assembly @ 8:30am by invitation
7th March	-	Mother's Hangout 2
8th March	-	International Women's Day (No requirements)
8th March	-	Open Day (9.00 – 11.00) – Year 3 – 8 . Some students are required in school.
13th March	-	Toddlers Circle Time with Parents
14th March	-	Holi Festival (Artwork in class)
17th March	-	St. Patrick's Day (No requirements)
17th-21st March	-	Assessment Week
21st March	-	Celebration Assembly @ 8:30am by invitation
28th March	-	Father's Hangout 3
31 March– 4th April	-	Art/Music Week
4th April	-	Celebration Assembly @ 8:30am by invitation
4th April	-	Art/Music Exhibition
11th April	-	Easter Hat Parade (Dress Up theme – Easter Bonnets)
11th April	-	End of Lent term

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