



# BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF CASABLANCA

# NEWSLETTER

14<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At BISC, we are committed to nurturing every child's potential by providing them with the right challenges at the right time. One of the most powerful concepts in education that guides our approach to teaching and learning is the **Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)**.

Coined by the renowned psychologist Lev Vygotsky, the ZPD represents the gap between what a learner can do independently and what they can achieve with guidance and encouragement from a skilled mentor. It is in this zone that meaningful learning takes place—where students are challenged just enough to stretch their abilities but not so much that they feel overwhelmed. Finding this balance is crucial for fostering a love of learning and ensuring steady academic and personal growth.

That's why it's so important to provide the right level of challenge for each student. If a task is too easy, they may become bored and disengaged. If it's too hard, they may feel frustrated and discouraged. But when it's just right, they feel motivated, capable, and eager to learn. This "Goldilocks Zone" of learning—where the challenge is neither too simple nor too difficult—is where growth truly happens.

In our classrooms, this means:

- **Differentiated instruction** to ensure each student receives the right level of challenge.
- **Scaffolding techniques**, where teachers provide support and gradually remove it as students gain confidence.
- **Encouraging peer collaboration**, as learning from and with others helps expand knowledge & skills.
- **Fostering a growth mindset**, so students embrace challenges as opportunities to develop.

When parents, teachers, and students work together, we create an environment where learning is dynamic, engaging, and fulfilling. By recognizing each child's unique potential and offering the right balance of support and challenge, we empower them to become confident, lifelong learners who embrace challenges with enthusiasm.

Thank you for being an essential part of our school community. Your support and dedication make all the difference in helping our students grow, achieve, and thrive. Let's continue to work together to unlock the full potential of every child.

Sincerely,

Jason Pegg | Head of Primary

## EYFS:

### Nursery

Continuing with our Space theme, we have used glitter pens on black card for Space themed mark making and name writing. In Maths we have been sorting Aliens according to patterns and revising counting skills by catching starts with tweezers. In Phonics we have used rhyming rockets to identify words that rhyme. For communication we have been talking about how we would look after an alien if it came down to Earth from Space.

## Reception



In Reception this week we have enjoyed using story time to introduce maths concepts such as odd and even numbers with 'The Missing Mitten' and doubles with 'Double Dave'. We have also had lots of fun rehearsing for our Ramadan concert next week. Thank you for all the support at home with practising the songs. It has been lovely to see the children's progress in writing this week applying their phonics skills of 'y' and 'z' to write new words.

## YEAR 1

Children have been learning about animals as living things! They explored familiar and new animals, mammals and non-mammals, sharing which ones they'd love to see at the zoo soon. In a fun investigation, they used pegs, tweezers, and chopsticks to pick up bugs and seeds, discovering why bird beaks have different shapes. Activities like these support fine motor skills, which help improve handwriting. Great effort and well done to Year 1 for completing their written and oral assessments!



## YEAR 2

We are delighted that we have now finished our assessments and have been reflecting on our progress and achievements over the last two terms. We are focussing on developing our mental maths skills and being able to orally justify our answers to others. This week we started to think through our ideas and plan for our own traditional tale linked to "Goldilocks and the Three Bears". Our ideas included;

1. **Curlylocks and the Three Wolves, set in a cottage in a forest.**
2. **Snowylocks and the Three Giants, set in a grey stone castle.**
3. **Mohammed and the Three Lions, set in a desert camp.**

We look forward to sharing our traditional tales with you when we have written and edited them.



## YEAR 3

This week, the children have been learning about playscripts and had great fun acting out Goldilocks and the Three Bears. They enjoyed taking on different roles and bringing the story to life!

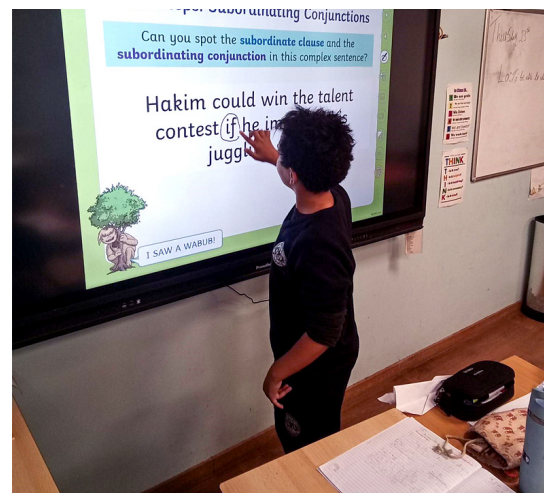


## YEAR 4

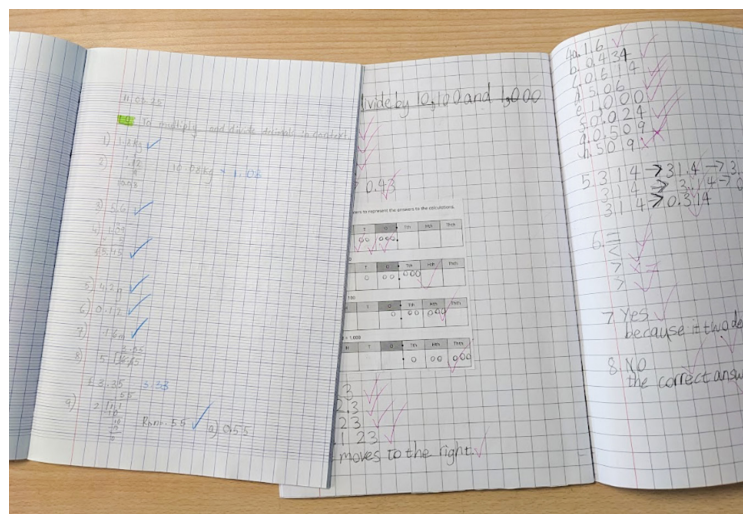
This week Year 4 have taken on solo research projects. With the use of devices and resources brought from home, students have displayed knowledge of what makes specific 'megacities' a megacity and what it is like to live there on individual posters!

## YEAR 5

This week year 5 have been uplevelling their sentences by adding subordinate and relative clauses to main clauses using subordinating and coordinating conjunctions to give more detail and information in their writing. They have also enjoyed using protractors to work out the sizes of angles and create specific angles from a straight line.



## YEAR 6



In year 6, the children have recently finished their maths unit on decimals. They have worked hard to round, multiply and divide decimals, all to three decimal places. In their last few lessons, they worked hard to solve decimal based word problems which often had 2 or 3 steps involved. Our next unit will be fractions, decimals and percentages!

## INTERHOUSE COMPETITION:

The House Points competition this week was won by Cambridge ( 305 points); 2nd Place: Warwick( 164 pts); 3rd Place: Bath ( 132 pts); and 4th Place: (Oxford 113 pts).

## IMPORTANT DATES:

**20/03 : Ramadan Celebration Assembly.**



## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT - MR TOM ALLSOP



### ***What was your favourite lesson this week (and why)?***

Our lessons on dissolving in science this week have shown that Y6 really understood our earlier work on chemical changes and are starting to understand how they are different from physical changes.

### ***What was one thing that made you laugh this week?***

Learning about the production of gas in chemical changes always makes for some awkward word choices. I try to be the sensible one.

### ***What are you looking forward to this weekend?***

Travelling to the north of Morocco to spend time with my wife's family and maybe even eat some snails on the corniche.





Aspire • Act • Achieve

# RAMADAN

## PRIMARY CELEBRATION

### THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

**Time:** EYFS & Year 1: 10:00 - 10:45 | Year 2 to Year 6: 11:00 - 12:15

**Location:** School Amphitheatre

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We are delighted to invite Primary parents to our Ramadan Primary Celebration, a special occasion to embrace the values of unity, generosity, and cultural heritage.

To honour this meaningful celebration, students & parents are encouraged to wear traditional attire.

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We look forward to welcoming you & celebrating this special occasion together as a school community.



# STAR

## OF THE WEEK CERTIFICATE

**Nursery A** | Eduardo for coming to school happy with a smile on his face.

**Nursery B** | Ali M for excellent behaviour and good English.

**Reception A** | Lina for beautiful handwriting.

**Reception B** | Mayane for excellent listening and amazing handwriting skills.

**Year 1A** | Milya for using her imagination and phonics skills to write a story about her favorite character!

**Year 1B** | Summer for her fantastic dedication during all assessments and showing super speed in her mental Maths!

**Year 1C** | Jaouhar, for working really hard in English and for his great values.

**Year 2A** | Hayden for his incredible science project of a rocket, linked to our unit on "Forces".

**Year 2B** | Lina, for her extraordinary reading.

**Year 3A** | Abdelrahman for helping organise the classroom in the mornings.

**Year 3B** | Jibril for always trying his best in EAL.

**Year 4A** | Farooq for stepping out of his comfort zone.

**Year 4B** | Mirale for brilliant work and an eagerness to learn.

**Year 5A** | Yasmine for consistent good work.

**Year 5B** | Jassim for being highly motivated and making huge progress in all subjects.

**Year 6A** | Raniya T for her excellent work on decimal and fraction equivalents.

**Year 6B** | Rania for improving her presentation skills in maths.