



BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF CASABLANCA

JUNIOR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

09th October 2026

Dear parents and families of Junior School children

I have been lucky enough to work with children in each year group this week. I have been particularly impressed by: their ability to identify and write "he" and "she" in Year 1, their counting up and down in 3s in Year 2, their growth mindset and determination to do and be better in Year 3 and, finally, their planning and creative writing in Year 4 which has been based on the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory story. Mr Rush has also commented on how well the EYFS children are developing in their communication skills (whether using Phonics or more generally).

The School Council representatives enjoyed being interviewed face-to-face by the Prep School Newspaper journalist on Wednesday. They gave excellent answers to the rigorous questioning from the reporter! They look forward to being mentioned in print after half-term.

A reminder that next Friday is a 12pm finish for the children. It is also the Junior School (including EYFS) pyjama day so please encourage your child to come into school wearing their pyjamas (no slippers) and to donate 30MAD for a local orphanage.

With kind regards,

Mr Nick MacIver | Head of Junior School

EYFS:

Nursery

This week we started our global connections display. We talked about where we've been and our family. We explored instrument sounds in Literacy and patterns and repeats in Numeracy through songs, stories and block play. We made faces with play dough and made castanets in art.



Reception

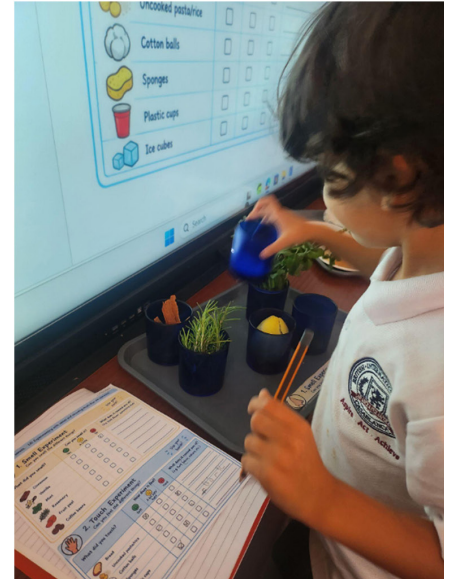
This week In Phonics, children took part in a variety of activities focusing on the phonemes 'p' and 'i'. They practised identifying and producing the sounds, segmenting and blending and reading short CVC words such as sit, pit and pin. In Maths, children explored comparing size and mass through practical activities. They compared objects



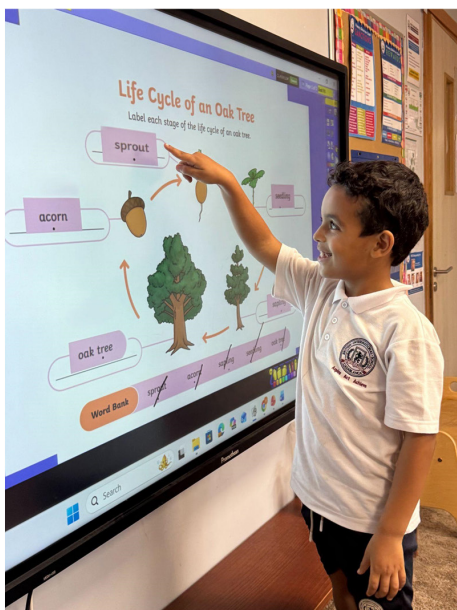
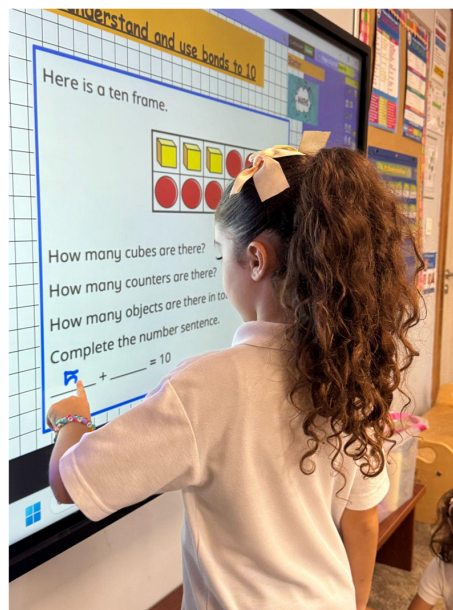
using language such as tall, short, long, heavy and light and practised identifying which objects were bigger, smaller, heavier or lighter. These hands-on activities helped develop their understanding of measurement and comparison.

YEAR 1

This week, we have been learning about our five senses through a fun and practical experiment. The children used their sense of smell to explore different scents, such as cinnamon, vanilla, mint, rosemary, fruit peel and coffee beans. They also used their sense of touch to investigate different textures, including bread, uncooked pasta, cotton balls, sponges, plastic cups and ice cubes. The students recorded their observations and talked about how different things can smell and feel in different ways.



YEAR 2



It has been a busy and exciting week in Year 2! We enjoyed reading *The Hare and the Tortoise*, sequencing the story and using exciting adjectives to describe the characters. In maths, we became place value experts, counting in 3's and exploring number bonds and fact families. We also learned how to classify animals in science and discovered the different stages in the lifecycles of plants and trees. In PSHE, we talked about our feelings and how we can describe them.

YEAR 3

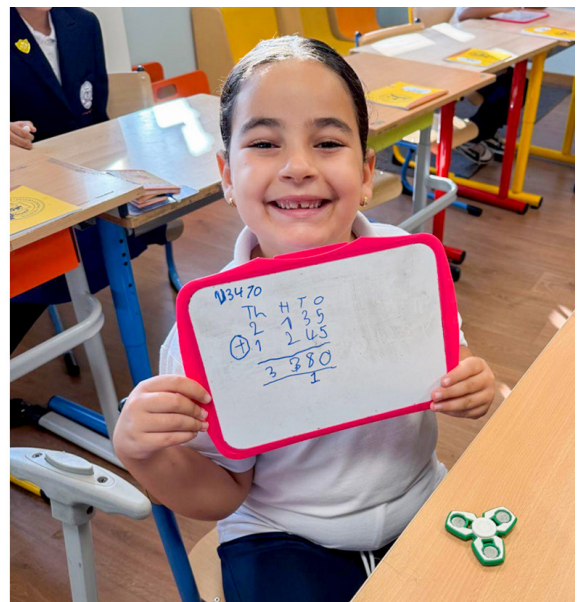
Year 3 has travelled back in time millions of years to study fossils! Through hands-on exploration and class discussions, the children pieced together the step-by-step journey of how ancient creatures were buried, preserved in sediment, and transformed into fossils over millions of years. Our learning was inspired by Mary Anning, the famous 19th-century paleontologist who discovered incredible marine reptile fossils in Lyme Regis as a young girl. We have identified body fossils (bones, teeth, shells) and trace fossils (footprints, fossilised droppings). We had fun handling real fossil specimens, sketching details, and investigating their features like true scientists. We are now writing and designing our own non-fiction 'Fossil Reports', complete with headings, scientific vocabulary, and labeled diagrams. We were especially curious to know that recently a brand new specimen of dinosaur was discovered here in Morocco!



YEAR 4

What a busy week of learning in Year 4! In maths, the children learned to add 4-digit numbers, first with no exchange and then with one exchange, using place value counters to see how 10 ones become 1 ten. In English, they wrote about a magical sweet factory, using fun alliteration and speech marks. In science, they carried out an exciting chemical change experiment and observed how new materials can be made, and they also explored the water cycle, learning about evaporation, condensation and precipitation.

Thank you for your support, and have a lovely weekend!





INTERHOUSE COMPETITION:

The House Points competition this week was won by Cambridge (350 points); 2nd Place: Oxford (294pts); 3rd Place: Bath (293pts); and 4th Place: Warwick (245pts).

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Friday 16th October (12pm): Pyjama Day.** School closes for Half-term break. Children collected before lunch.
- **Monday 26th October: Parent / Teacher Conferences.** No school for children. Parents are welcome to meet with the class teacher. Please see separate email for more details.
- **Tuesday 27th October: Children welcome back to school for normal lessons.**
- **Thursday 29th October: Halloween activities in school.**
- **Friday 30th October: Y3/4 Basketball Tournament (1st round).**
- **Friday 13th November: Y3/4 Basketball Tournament (Final round).**



STAR

OF THE WEEK CERTIFICATE

Nursery | Sayf for listening well in class.

Reception A | Zayn for speaking in full English sentences correctly.

Reception B | Ghita for working hard and making good progress in phonics.

Year 1A | Haroun for sequencing number names. Keep up the good work!

Year 1B | Sixtine for her amazing work ethic, confidence to use her phonics knowledge to spell unknown words and care and kindness for others!

Year 1C | Yunmo, for working exceptionally hard in maths, showing a great understanding of one more and counting backwards.

Year 2A | Slimane for improving his behaviour and focus on his learning this week.

Year 2B | Rayhan, for recognising others' emotions and being a caring friend.

Year 2C | Nolan for consistently demonstrating kindness and respect, following our school values and being a wonderful role model in the classroom.

Year 3A | Sacha for his great narrative writing skills this week in English.

Year 3B | Sofia for her positive attitude and determination with some tricky maths problems.

Year 3C | Laya for her commitment to her respectful behaviour and attitude to learning.

Year 4A | Malik for a massive improvement in his handwriting.

Year 4B | Fahad for improved effort and courage.

Year 4C | Richard for always being kind, helpful and a great team player in group talk.