BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF CASABLANCA

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

16th October 2026

Dear families and parents of Junior School students

As we reach the end of the first half of term it is an excellent time to reflect on the successes and highlights of the year so far. During formal lessons the children have performed marvellously and each teacher has given me examples of excellent progress that they have witnessed inside their classroom already. Life at BISC is about more than just the academic curriculum though. In that vein, there have been a number of school trips in which the children have been engaged and challenged in a variety of new environments and with multifarious activities both within Casablanca and beyond. Excitingly, there are plenty more planned for after the half-term break.

As usual, there is an optional half-term holiday project in which children can participate if they wish. This holiday, I invite children to create a poster showing the importance of 1 of the Traditional British Values:

1. **Democracy**
2. **Rule of Law**
3. **Respect**
4. **Tolerance**
5. **Individual Liberty**

There will be House Points and prizes for the examples that show the most effort and creativity.

In the meantime, I wish you a very relaxing half term holiday.

With kind regards,

Mr Nick MacIver | Head of Junior School

EYFS:

Nursery

This week we started our Halloween decorations! The children explored painting by using their fists to make pumpkins and stencils to paint ghosts. In Phonics we kept practising body percussion, and in Maths we sang "1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive" and "1, 2, Buckle My Shoe", using music, movement and repetition to help numbers stick. We also had fun working on our balance skills in P.E.

Reception

In Reception we have had lots of fun exploring repeating patterns this week. The children enjoyed linking this to creating halloween decorations in preparation for our celebrations after the half term break. It has been wonderful to observe the children applying their new phonics skills to begin writing CVC words such as 'sat' and 'sit'. We have also read stories about how to be a good friend and play nicely which we are pleased to see the children replicating in their interactions with each other.

YEAR 1

Showed great enthusiasm and effort this week! In Science, we explored similarities and differences, using sentences such as "He has short hair" and "She has long hair." In English, we learned about singular and plural nouns using Halloween pictures. In Maths, we practised finding one less, counting backwards and comparing groups. In Art, we created Frankenstein pictures and practised using scissors and glue safely.

A big thank you to our families for supporting the School Council's fundraising initiative for our local orphanage. The children enjoyed a relaxed and fun-filled Pyjama Day, ending the term on a happy note!

YEAR 2

We had a wonderful full day at the Botanical Gardens in Rabat! The children enjoyed lots of fun activities, explored the beautiful gardens, and made lovely memories together.

The year 2 team wishes all our families a wonderful and relaxing half-term break!

YEAR 3

School trips offer something truly special—they bring textbook lessons to life through hands-on, memorable experiences. Year 3 had a wonderful time during our visit to the beach. We explored our curriculum subjects in a fresh way, built warmer connections with classmates and teachers, and naturally grew in confidence, independence, and resilience.

During our recent day at the beach, our pupils put our core values into practice:

- **Respect:** Caring for the environment and sharing the beach politely.
- **Rigour:** Staying safe by listening to rules, sticking with buddies, and staying focused.
- **Compassion:** Helping peers, appreciating their surroundings, and enjoying a treat together.
- **Excellence:** Trying their hardest and persevering through outdoor challenges.

The beach served as an open-air laboratory where theoretical lessons became concrete discoveries:

We observed tides and waves firsthand alongside human developments like roads and buildings. Before we left school, we used Google Maps to plot routes, calculate distances and travel time, and identify locations from a bird's-eye view. We reinforced our Science learning by identifying things that are living, once-alive, or never-alive. In addition, we applied our classroom knowledge to spot and analyse body and trace fossils in the field.

Thank you for your continued support in making these valuable outdoor learning experiences possible!

YEAR 4

This week, Year 4 completed their alternative chapters of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. They imagined wonderful new chocolate creations and the factory room that housed them. Then, they explored how these rooms would take Mike, Violet, or Veruca to their doom! Also, after 6 weeks of study into the rainforest, they got to see real life rainforest animals and their adaptations up close in a trip to Rabat Zoo!

INTERHOUSE COMPETITION:

The House Points competition this week was won by Warwick (256points); 2nd Place: Oxford (245pts); 3rd Place: Bath (242pts); and 4th Place: Cambridge (206pts).

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **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 | Noah, for improved listening skills.

Reception A | Amina for speaking in full English sentences and using lower case letters when writing.

Reception B | Ameera for always trying her best with new challenges and activities.

Year 1A | Yaqub, for your fantastic efforts to improve your handwriting! Keep it up!

Year 1B | Lotta for her constant acts of kindness, becoming an avid reader and showing confidence in using her phonics knowledge to write sentences!

Year 1C | Arinass, for working hard in English (especially with there is/there are) and for making a massive improvement in her concentration in class.

Year 2A | Lina for doing a fantastic job rewriting The Hare and the Tortoise! You also showed excellent behaviour during our trip to the Botanical Gardens.

Year 2B | Chloe, for progress in writing demonstrated in her excellent adapted fable.

Year 2C | Othman for writing an outstanding story and always striving to produce his very best work.

Year 3A | Tasnim for excellent effort and progress in maths.

Year 3B | Amina for settling into a new school really well and for being very respectful and kind.

Year 3C | Julia for developing her respect and compassion for others.

Year 4A | Adam A for helping tidy litter from the coach without even being asked!

Year 4B | Rayan for hard work on his Fantasy chapter and respectful passion and enthusiasm on the Zoo trip.

Year 4C | Hamza for summarising the whole story of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and for subtracting 4-digit numbers on his own, with and without exchanging.