



THE BRITISH SCHOOL  
OF BEIJING, SANLITUN  
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

[www.bsbsanlitun.com](http://www.bsbsanlitun.com)

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 18  
24 JANUARY, 2025



## HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR!

What a wonderful day we had hosting our annual **Chinese New Year Temple** Fair on campus on Sunday.

This great community event included games, a Lion Dance, Dragon Dance, a face changing performance, traditional crafts, a bouncy castle, food vendors and gift stalls. Thanks to everyone who made the event possible and magical!

[Watch our video here.](#)





## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### School Closed for Chinese New Year Holiday

- Mondays 27 January to  
Tuesday 4th February

### First Day Back to School

- Wednesday 5th February

### Children's Mental Health Week

- Wednesday 5th to  
Friday 7th February

### Upcoming Principal's Lunches

- Please register here:



## ONCE UPON A TIME...

We were transported away to a magical land of fairy tales by our Year 2 students, with each class performing a different fairy tale, before joining on stage for a whole year song!

Well done to all the students and staff involved, such a production requires a lot of hard work, time and commitment. We all thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

Such year group initiatives allow students to form and build relationships across the school and away from their class. Productions help children to learn how to deliver a message, builds confidence and encourages students to step out of their comfort zones, and it brings the whole community together!





## EXPLORING CREATIVITY WITH *THE DOT STORY!*

By Poppy Thompson, Year 1 Tigers Class Teacher

This week in **PSHE**, the Year 1 children had a fantastic time exploring the story *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds. The book follows a young girl named Vashti, who discovers her artistic potential after making a simple dot on a piece of paper. The story teaches an important lesson: that creativity starts with just a small step, and anyone can be an artist if they believe in themselves.

Inspired by Vashti's journey, the Year 1 children embarked on their own artistic adventure, each creating their very own dot painting. Using vibrant colours and different paint techniques, they transformed their simple dots into beautiful, imaginative artwork. The children experimented with mixing colours, creating patterns, and exploring how a single dot could turn into something special.



Once the paintings were complete, the children proudly shared their artwork with their friends and they took turns describing how they felt about their friends' creations.

Some children felt proud of the colour choices, while others were excited about the patterns their friends had made. This moment of sharing allowed the children to reflect on their creative process and see the value in their own work and the work of others.

It was a wonderful experience that encouraged self-expression and the joy of creating!



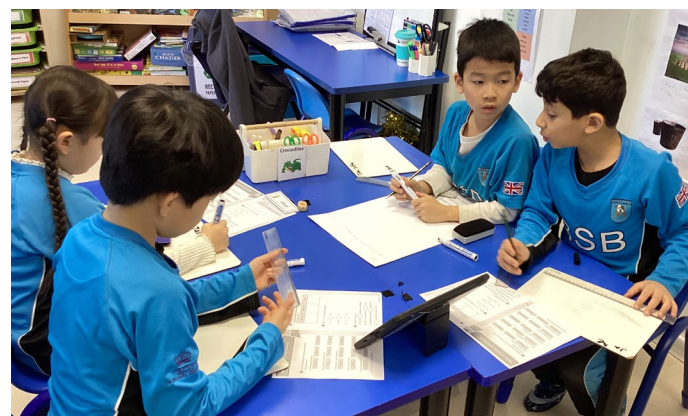
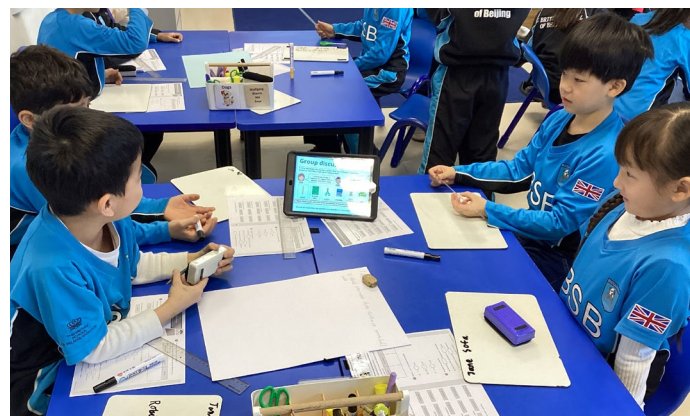


## TOUCANS COLLABORATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING IN MATHS

By Susan Mitchell, Year 3 Toucans Class Teacher

The Toucans class engaged in an exciting hands-on activity focused on length and perimeter! Divided into small groups, they tackled the challenge of comparing and discussing different lines and perimeters. Each group was tasked with measuring different areas, calculating perimeters, and discussing the best use of space.

They collaborated, sharing ideas and strategies to explain their understanding of the word problem, using their own words. It was great to see some of the children stepping into leadership roles too.



The energy in the classroom was infectious as students enthusiastically presented their findings to their peers. They honed their communication skills while learning the importance of teamwork and critical thinking. This engaging project not only reinforced their understanding of mathematical concepts but also fostered a sense of community among classmates.

We are proud of Toucans students for their reasoning skills and collaboration! Keep up the great work!



## JUILLIARD VISITS HOSTED BY BSB SANLITUN

By Iva Borisavljevic, Head of Performing Arts

Here, at BSB Sanlitun, we were pleased to host two weeks of visits of two Juilliard specialists from New York, across three full working days.

Our Primary students got to experience a variety of lessons and teaching styles as **Nick Mahmat** and **Brian Dye** stepped into our classrooms and led music and drama activities.



We started on the 15th of January with a Drama specialist who visited Year 3 classes and taught them how to use varying energy levels to differentiate a range of characters.

Using a simple story of a snail, butterfly and a hummingbird, our visitor sparked a pallet of ideas that helped students understand the energy levels used in *Familie Flöz* by Teatro Deluzio.







Our Performing Arts Teachers, ASA Drama leaders and German and EAL department had a professional development session on Greek Choral Commentary by David Daniel, inspired by story about *Oedipus the King*.



In the following week, we welcomed another Juilliard specialist but this time from the world of music, **Mr Brian Drye**.

Brian brought over his magical trombone and dived into some open-ended questions sessions and discussion with Year 4 students about notation. We looked at the graphic scores from traditional Chinese music and brainstormed our original ideas to invent new symbols for pipa performers.

Brian then taught Bach's scale shapes and visited even some Reception and KS1 classes who are learning about heavy and light sounds, inspired by Stravinsky's 'The Rite of Spring'.



It was obvious that our community is striving to do and fully understand the performing arts at school, so Brian and Ms Iva, Head of Performing Arts, led a session for Sanlitun parents. This time, inspired by Gershwin, we learned about the song-writing skills, enjoying Ella Fitzgerald's and Louis Armstrong's interpretations.



We won't stop here as we are expecting another New Yorker to visit our school, right after the Chinese New Year holidays. Hilary Easton's visit has already been scheduled for dance classes in Year 5 and Year 6 but also some Year 1s and our Performing Arts team is happily awaiting another PD session to learn even more about Juilliard Creative Classroom activities that we can offer to our BSB students in the nearest future.



## CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2025

BSB Sanlitun are proud to be taking part in [Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week](#). There are a number of art related activities arranged across all year groups between 5th to 7th February.

The week exists to empower, equip and give a voice to all children and young people. The mental health and wellbeing of our students and the rest of our community is very important to the school.



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Place2Be's  
CHILDREN'S  
MENTAL HEALTH  
WEEK

5th - 7th  
February  
2025

Each year group at BSB  
Sanlitun will get creative to  
explore emotions and  
feelings, presenting their  
work in art displays around  
the school.



Together, we can help children know themselves better, understand their emotions, become more resilient and most importantly -  
**empower young people to speak up and be heard.**



## TIPS FOR FAMILIES

Place2Be's  
CHILDREN'S  
MENTAL HEALTH  
WEEK

### 1 Encourage journalling

Just like Riley, encourage your older children and young people to express their emotions and thoughts through journalling. It can be less confronting than speaking out loud and is a helpful way to process what is going on.

### 2 Make space for reflection

When children and young people reflect on their different emotions, it can help them better understand themselves and what they need. Go for a walk, drive, or try some mindful colouring or baking together.

### 3 Be visual

Use imagery, such as emojis or flashcards to help children and young people recognise and label their feelings.

### 4 Practice mindfulness

Try mindful activities, and quiet family time, to enjoy being in the present moment. This can help children and young people be aware of their thoughts and emotions and learn a useful new coping technique.

### 5 Communicate

Feedback is crucial for helping us see our blind spots and gain greater insight. Children and young people are no different. Creating safe and supportive ways to share your own experience with your child can help them understand themselves and their impact on the world around them.



If you're a parent or teacher, you'll find loads of useful advice to help you support the brilliant young people in your lives – from FAQs to downloadable packs. [Here4You.co.uk](http://Here4You.co.uk)





## PRINCIPAL'S LUNCHES

Following the great success of the lunches in Term 1, Jo is once again inviting parents to join her for lunch. These lunches are always enjoyable, informative and delicious!

Information on how to sign up will be shared in this week's Principal email. Check and [sign up now!](#)

### Principal's Lunches

Parents are invited to join Jo for lunch and coffee

Discover for yourself what a typical school lunchtime is like for your child, whilst taking the opportunity to speak candidly with the Principal, and our Head of School, Steph.

You'll enjoy a meal that has been freshly prepared on site by our talented chefs - before retiring to a quieter space for coffee and further open and interesting conversation.

Dates, times and how to register has been sent by email - sign up today



Our popular **Baby Groups** will be back after Chinese New Year. Registration is now open - visit our [website](#) for more information and to sign up.


Please share the link with your friends if they have babies and would like to join us for Stay and Play in our soft play area, Dancing in our Dance Studio or Book Club in our Library!

### BABY BOOK CLUB

 Mondays, 9am - 9.30am  
Library, Li Building




### BABY GROUP

 Wednesdays, 9am - 10.30am  
Soft Play Area, Li Building



### BABY DANCE CLASS

 Fridays, 9am - 9.30am  
Dance Studio, Li Building



## REGISTER TODAY!



Where Tiny Steps Lead to Big Adventures:  
Read, Explore, Dance!

5 Xiliujie,  
Sanlitun Road.