



# WEEKLY BULLETIN

November 20th 2020



## Welcome to our bulletin

### Fundraising

I would like to thank all of you who have donated food, hygiene products and toys for 'Somos gente solidaria' this week. It is not easy having to do this with a box outside school but you have been generous and we appreciate your support.

Moving forwards we will be working in collaboration with the [GAVI Foundation](#) and collecting donations to help with the vaccination campaigns for children in underdeveloped countries. The beauty of this is that for every Euro we raise, La Caixa will match it and the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation will then double that again - so our Euro will become 4 Euros of support.

### I like socks

This is not very interesting other than by way of introducing the fact that today was Odd Sock Day - a day where we highlight the fact that people are not the same. This week is Anti-Bullying Week (or Friendship Week) and it has provided us with a focus to discuss the importance of friendships and how we treat each other. This is something we are always talking to children about, often in PSHE lessons and something which is a very important part of growing up. But back to my footwear - I spotted two very different brightly coloured socks today - the thing is, not only did I find a pair of odd socks suitable for today - I also have another pair exactly the same! Odd sock wearers were given the opportunity to donate a euro for the Red Cross- Thanks.

### Virtual parent meetings

As Year 10 and 12 have just started examination courses, we decided to do online parents meetings as well as the full report we are preparing for Years 7, 8, 9 and 11 at the end of this term. These meetings seemed to go very well and it was lovely to hear such positive feedback from parents about the process and in particular how well the teachers knew their children. As I said before, they have an excellent understanding of the needs of each child and care very much for their welfare and academic progress. A few of you encountered technical difficulties and we have asked the teachers to email you to arrange a new time to talk over the next week. The other year groups 7, 8, 9 and 11 will have the parent meetings next term.

## Parent Portal

It is wonderful to see so many parents using our new portal. Whilst most of you navigated the instructions without difficulties we are aware that a few of you had technical problems. Please email it@bcgava.com if you need help with this. For those of you who want to use the mobile app, the school code is GAVA.

Our Head of Administration, Gabriela Garcia has now gone on maternity leave. She has done such a wonderful job and she will be greatly missed while she is away. Of course we wish her all the very best for the next couple of months and look forward to hearing her news when the time comes! We welcome Bethany Montserrat Litchfield who has joined us to replace Gabriela in the meantime.

Lastly, thanks to Laetitia and Elena for coming to the Year 1 and 2 Parent Representative Meeting this week.

We wish you all a pleasant weekend,

**Simon Mower**

## MEET OUR STAFF



I studied Law with Masters in Business Administration and later I did Interior Design in Barcelona. I have double nationality: English mum and Spanish dad.

I have only been at BCG for a little over a month, but it seems so much longer.

I live very nearby, and all my life I have driven past the School, or the Restaurant as it used to be, and felt intrigued by the marvelous site. Now I am happy to be part of this wonderful team and grateful to feel so welcomed by staff, parents and students. It is a great place to work!

**Bethany Montserrat Litchfield**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Secondary section of the newsletter and once again I will shed light on various features of life in the Secondary School over the past week. The theme of the Secondary Assembly was Nature and the Environment and it was led with real passion by Miss Lane. We had taken Year 7 on a nature survey around the school site and they were inspired to write poems, and in one case, write and perform a nature 'rap'. They were interviewed on camera and asked questions about their feeling towards nature and the depth of feeling and the articulate manner in which they expressed themselves was commendable. During the Assembly, I also called two Year 9 girls to the front for public recognition. For the past week they had been volunteering to search for and pick-up litter from the school site and they had started to attract 'followers', with younger pupils copying their example. Angelina Pereira and Carolina dos Santos, very well done for your wonderful attitude and your example.

Today we have the annual Friendship/Anti-bullying day and you will see many students and staff wearing coloured socks in support of this initiative.

Wishing you a peaceful weekend,

**John Prince**

Dear BCG Parents and Pupils,

# UPPER PRIMARY

## Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week is held annually each year to raise awareness of bullying and to highlight ways of preventing and responding to it. We kick started the week with a class assembly about what this special week is all about and why it is celebrated. In class discussions, pupils have shared their personal experiences and in all the message was resounding clear – stand up to bullies. Further up the Primary school, pupils have discussed Cyberbullying and acted out scenarios to empower them to identify bullying behaviour and how to respond to it appropriately. One of the main aims of the week was to help children understand and differentiate between a fallout or minor disagreement in the playground (or classroom) and consistent, persistent negative behaviour, which would be classified as bullying. It is easy for pupils and parents alike to use the term 'bullying' incorrectly. We would encourage you to discuss the correct use of the term with your child. At BCG we have a 'zero tolerance' policy on bullying.

Due to Covid, children have not been able to mix with other classes. This has been quite challenging for them at break times. However, it has been great to see the 'Friendship Stop' benches we installed last year are still being used. Anyone who sits on the bench alone, is not alone for long. Within seconds, a flurry of children dash to the bench at the first sight of a child sat on their own. This is testament to the kind and friendly nature of our pupils at BCG.

All behavioural matters are dealt with instantly usually by the class teacher. Any serious issues would be brought to my immediate attention and dealt with appropriately. On that note, whilst we stipulate that we do not have 'detentions' in Upper Primary, we have introduced 'Reflection Time'. This means that for 5 minutes at the start of a break time, a pupil may be kept in to reflect on their behaviour towards another pupil or their attitude and approach to learning. This should be viewed positively rather than as a sanction. Giving children time to be reflective about their actions and the consequences is a fundamental part of their development.

## House Teams

It has been a real race to the win the title this week. Reds were roaring ahead earlier in the week but were overtaken (not easily may I add) by the Yellows. The go-getting Greens were relentless in their race to the top too. Blues have been the most consistent winning House Team since the start of September, however.....this week, in an unusual twist and turn of events, I am proud to announce that the JOINT winners of the House Team Cup goes to...Yellows AND Blues, who both tied with the exact number of points. Congratulations!

## New arrivals

I would like to send a very warm welcome to our new arrivals in: Reception, Year 3 and Year 5. It is fantastic to see our classes growing each term. Our new family is from Poland and they are a wonderful addition to our increasingly diverse international school community. I am certain our existing families will ensure they are very much welcomed.

## Safeguarding

This week a group of our new members of staff, together with our non-teaching staff, undertook the very important Safeguarding Training which is compulsory for any adult that works with children in schools. Safeguarding is to do with Child Protection and ultimately promotes keeping pupils safe from abuse and harm. Being the Designated Safeguarding Lead, I delivered the training to our English-speaking staff. Mr Jorge Sales, the Deputy Safeguarding Lead, delivered high quality training to our native Spanish staff, including: cleaning, catering, maintenance and technical staff. Our top priority is keeping our pupils safe. The training we deliver ensures that all adults are aware of the current legislation regarding child protection and that they are clear on our school's strict protocols for reporting and raising concerns about a child's welfare. I am pleased to say that all staff, including external musicians and coaches, have now received the Safeguarding Training. This is updated every year.

Lastly, as we head towards winter, please ensure your child is appropriately dressed for school in a sufficient jumper and coat, where necessary. The school building continues to need constant ventilation in line with Covid guidelines. This can mean as we head towards the end of this term, the building will become colder. All pupils – and staff – have permission to their coats inside on those days that are particularly cold.

As we celebrate fewer restrictions from next week, wishing you all a fantastic weekend and a brighter Christmas period ahead for everyone.

Un abrazo ,

**Miss Wakelin**



# ODD SOCKS DAY



# EYFS & Lower Primary

## Friendship Week

In EYFS LP this week we have been learning about how to be a good friend. We started our week off with class assemblies learning what the word 'bully' means. It is very important that from a young age we talk openly about this and that children understand the true meaning of this word. Sadly, it often gets used incorrectly by children, and parents, which can be very damaging to a child and family. (I will talk more about 'labelling' next week). It is especially important for the age of the children in this phase to recognise what is a normal part of social and emotional development and what is not. A disagreement with a friend who doesn't want to share a skipping rope is not bullying, nor is an incident where a child has been accidentally bumped whilst running and playing a game. We show zero tolerance to bullying and empower the children to have the confidence to say, 'Stop, I do not like it!' and to then seek help. Please ask your child their understanding of the word bully and more importantly what they can do if someone is being unkind.

As I have said many times before, there is nothing more important to me than teaching children to be kind, considerate and honest young people. Simply put, unhappy children will not learn. Through weekly (and often daily) PSHE discussions and focus weeks such as this, we give children a voice, educate them to know what is right and wrong and teach them strategies to manage conflict effectively. This week we have focused more on the positive language of friendship and kindness and have really enjoyed coming away from the usual curriculum to dedicate a lot of time for different activities. We have had parachute games, kindness jars, crumpled hearts, handprint kindness wreaths, odd socks day and the introduction of our class friendship birds!





## Class Mascots-Friendship birds

Our final class mascot flew in via Amazon just in time for this special week and each class now has a soft cuddly bird that is a class friend and is always watching! Year 2 have named their Owl, Olivia. (A class vote took place and sadly Mr Smith's suggestion of Paul the Owl did not get voted in!). Olivia Owl has been spending time with children on the carpet and at tables when she has spotted super effort in learning, and this week's focus-kindness and sharing. Who will impress their class bird next week? Sadly, we can't send our birds home however they will deliver stickers, certificates and happy notes to parents as they are a friendly addition to each class and support our behaviour system of rewards.



## Teacher Development and Training

Staff professional development is very important to us and this week, Miss Plummer led a very informative and useful workshop to all primary teachers on teaching Read Write Inc Phonics. Next week, it will be repeated for all Teaching Assistants who support English through intervention groups. Thank you Miss Plummer! We have a schedule of additional workshops planned across the year, including writing and assessment for learning. Training as a whole primary staff team ensures consistency in teaching and learning across the school and makes for a smooth transition between year groups. We are keen to offer parent workshops also and are working on ways that we can do this given current restrictions.



## End of day

The new staggered times are working so much better but please remember to only line up on the yellow lines on the footpath at the correct times below:

Nursery and Reception-4:05-4:15

Year 1-4:15

Year 2-4:20

Any Year 1 or 2 parents arriving early must line up by the fence until it is time to get in the queue. To avoid confusion and crowds gathering, please do not wait in front of the gate. Thank you for continued support on this.

Have a wonderful weekend.

**Mrs Pilcher**

## Forest School

This week saw the start of Nursery's Forest School sessions. On Thursday, we spent the whole morning exploring the forest area in our school grounds. We had a wonderful time!

The principle behind forest school is for learning to take place in the outdoors. It is a chance for children to explore and investigate all the wonders that nature has to offer whilst learning important skills.

During Forest School the children will be bug hunting, den building, climbing and navigating different terrain, using their imaginations to invent stories and using the items they find creatively as props. Forest School is open-ended and child-led so the options really are endless!

This week, the children used the gardening tools to dig and discover what lies beneath the ground. They also created their own monster game using giant branches for arms. It was a great chance for the children to use their own imaginations and was wonderful to see.

In class, Nursery has been learning the story of Elmer the Patchwork Elephant. So, while they were in the forest they helped create a nature collage of Elmer. The autumn leaves were a perfect opportunity to learn about colours in nature.

**Miss Hurford**



# TEACHERS ODD SOCKS - GUESS WHO'S THEY ARE



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12

Find the solutions at the end of this newsletter

## Friendship Week in Year 2

Year 2 Owls have had a wonderful time during this special week. We always show kindness and compassion to each other but it has been lovely to take the time to remember why it is so important over the week. We have made our Kindness Jar and each child wrote a note of kindness for the class. We then had a discussion and chose to say or do one act of kindness for somebody else in the class. The children have really taken to the topic of the week and are certainly growing into kind and caring young people more and more every day. Well done Year 2!

Mr Smith



In Robin class this week we discussed what a good friend is, how to make new friends and how to help others. The children had such wonderful comments in class and then they went out into the playground and lived those values! I am always astounded by their creativity and cooperation in the playground to design cars, trains, homes, ramps etc. Well done Robins for sharing ideas and working as a team.

Ms. O`Connor

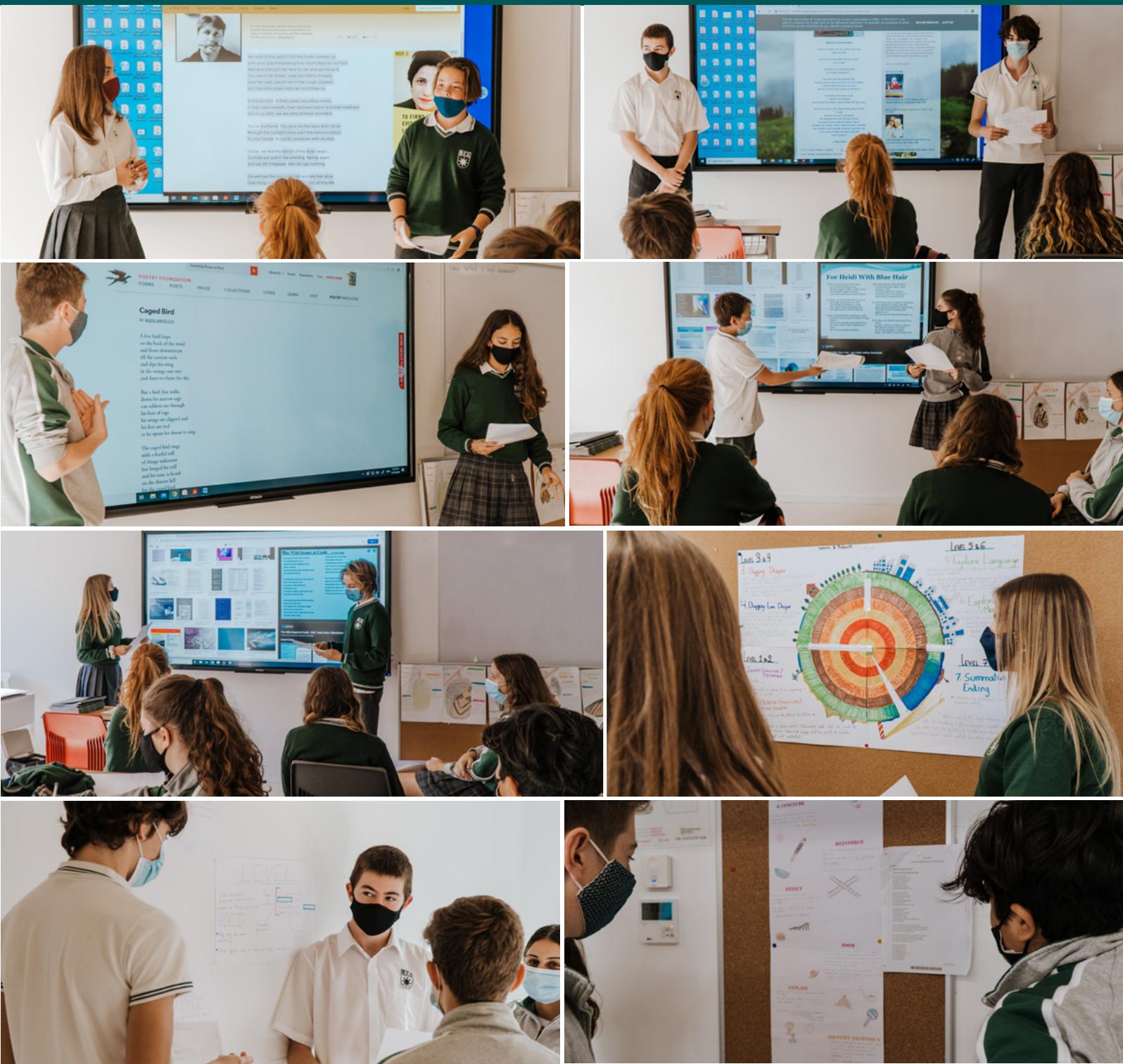


# Year 10 English Literature

The year 10 English Literature class has been developing ways in which to approach an unseen poem. A daunting task for sure, but they've understood that by breaking it down and developing, step-by-step, methods in which to dig deeper and explore multiple meanings and potential associations, a poem's richness can be revealed. On Friday they had the added pressure of being presented by their classmates with an unseen poem from a variety of periods and countries and given the challenge, on the spot, to talk freely about the poem, its structure and figurative devices, themes and messages, in front of a knowledgeable (and critical) audience, against the clock!

Thanks,

**Mr Foreman**



# Anti-Bullying week

## Year 6

In Year 6, Anti-Bullying week has come at a nice time of the year. We have always been impressed with the kindness and sense of friendship in the class and we feel that we can rely on the children in Year 6 to set an excellent example in terms of showing compassion to the other members of our school family.

We talked, this week in particular, about the importance of looking after each other and looking for ways to find the best in each other while we are in school.

We then shared our highlights of the week and recognised the good things that we have seen from each other during our class assembly on Friday. The children had lots of 'shout-outs' for each other and made a point of sharing their experiences of friendship and hard work throughout the week.

Well done to everyone in Year 6 Kingfishers !

**William Smith**

## SECONDARY ASSEMBLY

Nature and the environment



### Who's the teacher solutions

1. Will Smith
2. Claire Baker
3. Kelly Wakelin
4. Nina Pilcher

5. Omena Osivwemu
6. Jessica Bifani
7. Sophie Hurford
8. Simon Mower

9. Silvia Campany
10. Sandra Freitas
11. Matthew Prosser
12. Caitriona O'Connor

## Year 4

This week in Year 4 we carried out a number of lessons and activities to celebrate Anti-Bullying Week. The class watched a number of videos about bullying and its effects on others. They talked about the emotions and feelings involved, and using discussion cards, took part in activities which allowed the children to empathise with others in this situation.

**Mr Timothy**