



WEEKLY BULLETIN

October 23rd 2020



Welcome to our bulletin

Watching the witches, mummified children, spooks and demons arriving at the gate this morning dressed up for Halloween was a wonderful reminder to all staff as to why we do this job. They were excited, happy and clearly proud of their efforts. The Ghoulish Cesar welcomed them with a drop of hand gel and they hurried off into their classrooms to see what their friends were disguised as. It was a wonderful way to end our first half term of the year.

I have spent much of this week working with Lisa Mason, my counterpart at our sister school (BCA) in Andorra. We have been discussing the future development of their school as well as planning a wide variety of partnership opportunities for students and staff between the two schools. I can report with confidence that there are very exciting times ahead!

I was pleased to see that all students seemed to have taken the Exam week seriously and teachers have told me that students have clearly tried hard and want to do well in these assessments. After a difficult six months for teachers and students we need to be patient and look at progress over time. These results, on their own, will not tell the whole story. At the end of term, when there is another Exam week we will start to be able to measure the progress in all areas. So, at this stage, please congratulate your sons and daughters for working well.

Many students in the Secondary school still have much to improve. After half term I will expect them all to arrive on time for example. We will also be talking to them about general manners and respect and kindness. These are things that some of them are unfortunately lacking.

Lastly, whilst at school the children are safe and follow very strict COVID`19 protocols. Please ensure they continue to do so over the holiday - we must all remember that our school will only remain open if everybody maintains the very highest of safety standards. All staff will be tested for the virus again too, as an extra precaution.

I wish you all a wonderful family week.

Simon Mower

Matthew Dixon

Maths teacher



Born in England, residing in Spain for nearly twenty years I have taught mathematics for ten years at different centres to all age groups, from early secondary, to university level. Since graduating in pure physics at university I have always loved sharing my passion for physics and maths, participating in science fairs and disseminations at schools and libraries all across Catalonia.

There is nothing that I enjoy more than seeing a student gaining knowledge in maths, acquiring the logical reasoning necessary to understand in depth this important subject. When teaching, I follow the philosophy that “patience is the key”, both for the teacher and the student.

Mathematics is usually a subject that you either love or hate, but when taught in the right way, it’s enjoyable for everyone!

The first two weeks in BCG were very pleasant. All the pupils were very happy to meet me and get involved with their maths! Staff were very friendly and welcoming, helping me to adapt to the school dynamics.

I am very excited for the upcoming year, and can’t wait to get fully involved with each student’s progress, getting to know everyone in detail.

Mr Dixon





Dear parents,

As I am sure you are aware, this has been Assessment Week in the Secondary School. I am delighted to let you know that it has been taken very seriously by all year groups and that pupils have been arriving to the Tests in the correct frame of mind and ready to focus and achieve the best grades they can. This is part of our successful drive to further develop the academic culture at BCG and the last week of each half term throughout the year will be designated as Assessment week. School reports will be sent in november after the half term break.

Regarding the Covid precautions, we continue to wear masks and each year group stays in their own 'bubble' during lessons, breaktime and lunchtime and although this seemed quite strange back in September, everyone is now quite used to these routines.

In more normal times I would be writing an October newsletter describing a sporting fixture against another school and praising the BCG team. However, the restrictions mean that we are unable to compete against other schools in sporting fixtures for the time being. Rest assured that the moment we can we will be restarting fixtures.

We are also preparing to enhance learning outside the four walls of the classroom in ways that are manageable in the present context. During the academic year we will be taking pupils to the beach to undertake Ecology fieldwork as part of the Biology and Geography syllabi and we are preparing to start the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (the International Award) before the end of the academic year. This is a really exciting development and Mr Steadman explains the plan in the article below.

Have a lovely half term break,

John Prince

We were fortunate this week to receive Maripe Menendez, Senior Regional Manager for the IB in Andorra, Spain and Portugal at BCG. Her insight and expertise are invaluable as we head into the final phase of the authorisation process. We are currently finalising documentation for submission which will take place next term

From December our Year 11 students will begin a 'Pre-DP' course during their scheduled PSHE sessions which will familiarise them with the Diploma Programme including the 3 core subjects, use of specific DP language terms, research skills and referencing and citing requirements. After the GCSE mock exams in January we will begin to have individual conversations with each student and their parents or guardians to advise them of the most suitable DP pathway for them.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr Dixon to the Diploma Programme team as Mathematics Applications and Interpretation teacher.

For any information on the IB Diploma Programme or the BCG authorisation process, please do not hesitate to contact me at rachel.fenton@bcgava.com

Ms Fenton

UPPER PRIMARY

Dear Families,

Assessment Week

A huge well done to all of our pupils during Assessment Week. We can tell that everyone has been working really hard since the start of term. This has been shown by the progress made. We will continue to blend the catch up curriculum with the current year group curriculum and look forward to seeing the children progress even further.

Parent Meetings

After half term, we will begin our first virtual parent meetings. These will take place on Wednesday 4th November and Thursday 5th November (as per last week's newsletter). We look forward to sharing your child's progress and successes. Details for the meeting will be posted on Google Classroom on Wednesday 4th November.

Halloween

Today was a very exciting end to the term with our special Halloween celebrations in school. The children had clearly made an enormous effort with their costumes, as did the staff. The children took part in a range of Halloween-inspired activities in class and were treated to a spooky film and popcorn.

The best costume winners were:

Year 3 – Sofia Sadovaya
Year 4 Ravens - Mar Ribas
Year 4 Swans – Isabela Margarit
Year 5 – Noa Cedillo
Year 6 – Martin Guerrero

Very well done to those children.

Celebrations & Achievements

This week we celebrated the value of being inquisitive. Good enquirers ask inquisitive questions and seek out information on their own. We look for enthusiastic questions and answers during lessons and those that share thought-provoking ideas. This week, we would like to congratulate the following pupils:

Year 3 Magpies – Mateo Blomet and Grace White
Year 4 Ravens - Jorge Encinas and David Tudor
Year 4 Swans - Valentina Bousetta and Kaia Cozzi
Year 5 Parakeets - Ellie Jim and Joel Hartmann
Year 6 Kingfishers - Suf Yam and Bethany Tennent

Spanish: Miss Sadurni – **Diego García** (Year 3)
Catalan: Miss Silvia – **Bethany Tennent** (Year 6)

Finally, wishing all of our families a wonderful half term. Despite the restrictions with Covid, we feel our home-school partnership is stronger than ever. We thank you wholeheartedly for your continuous support and look forward to seeing you again in November.

Un abrazo,

Miss Wakelin



EYFS & Lower Primary

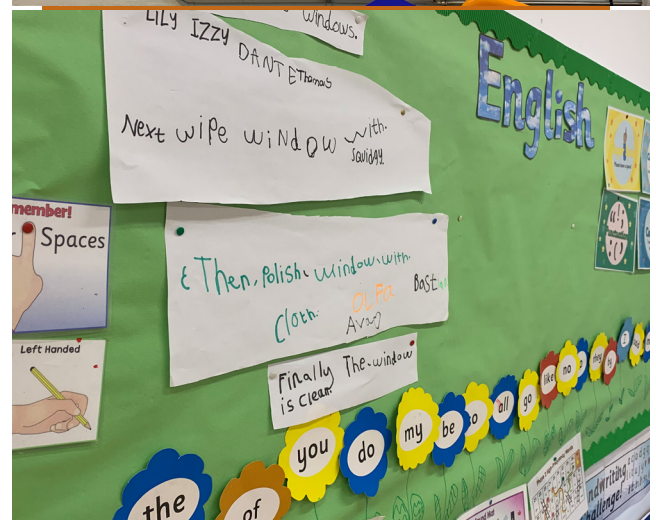
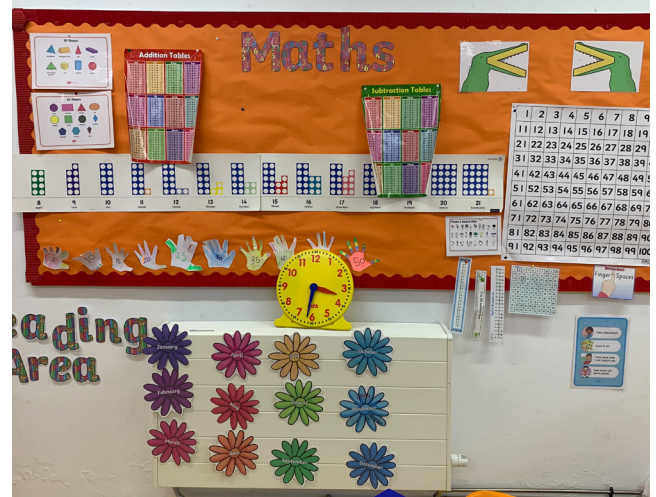
What an exciting end to the first half term we have had today! The children have had a super spooky and freaky Friday and have enjoyed some Halloween themed English, maths and craft activities across all classes. Thank you all for a very supportive half term. I look forward to seeing you all when we return.

A peek into the classrooms

It was wonderful for our teachers to speak with most parents this week as we held our first virtual meetings. We know that some parents miss coming into see school and being able to chat with us and see the classrooms. We miss this too and are looking at more ways that we can connect you to school. This week I wanted to give you a peek into the classrooms to show you some of the amazing learning that is happening. I hope that you enjoy these photographs. This week I have been carrying out my Head of Phase Learning Walks, which are part of our teacher observation cycle. It has been so wonderful to see such a lot of fantastic learning opportunities taking place with your children. From princess potions in Nursery, investigating a real life (dead) snake in Reception, to very impressive guided writing and reading activities in Year 1 and last but not least, our team of Year 2 teachers facilitating collaborative topic based writing opportunities. Our class working walls and display boards are proudly showcasing the children's learning. I am excited to see the new themes and learning activities next half term.

Upcoming events and dates for the diary Christmas Performances

This year with restrictions to the usual calendar events we will not be able to have a whole phase Christmas performance. However, each class will learn, rehearse and perform a variety of Christmas songs or poems in their bubbles. As part of their learning in art and DT, they will make accessories and costumes and spend time rehearsing in music lessons. Then each class will perform in front of their siblings, Mrs Pilcher and Mr Mower in the new Auditorium.



The dates that each performance will take place are below:

Tuesday 15th December-Reception and Year 1

Wednesday 16th December-Nursery

Thursday 17th December-Year 2

Class Assemblies

Similar to above, each class will put on a small class assembly to showcase some of their learning that they have been doing class. These will take place in the Auditorium at 11:15am in front of a small audience, once again, siblings in school will be invited to watch.

Year 2 Owls Friday 19th February 2021

Year 2 Robins Friday 19th February 2021

Year 1 Parrots Friday 26th March 2021

Reception Penguins Friday 30th April 2021

Nursery Ducklings Friday 28th May 2021

All performances will either be video recorded or live streamed for you. More information will follow in due course.

Mrs Pilcher





Space Project

Year 5 have completed a Space project this term as a part of their home learning. We made amazing models of the solar system using a variety of materials: paper mache, polystyrene, paint, felt tips, and even spray paint! Some made presentations and posters- they included lots of mind blowing facts about the planets, space and Area 51. Someone in Parakeets class may have even discovered life on Mars during their news report video broadcasted live from the Red Planet! Parakeets all made a fantastic effort to wow their classmates with their amazing presentations, models, posters and videos. We were all super impressed.

Miss Muirhead



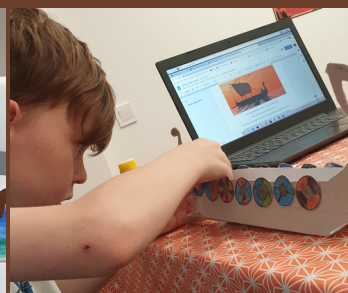
The Vikings Project

“In History we have been learning all about the Scandanvian seafaring pirates- The Vikings. Year 4 have been very creative and resourceful researching and making Viking Longships out of all sorts of materials.

Some have been carefully crafted from recycled materials, whilst others have been tech-savy and utilised Minecraft. The outcomes are fantastic and quite historically accurate.

These are definitely victorious Viking ships!

Miss Osivwemu and Mr Timothy



Duke of Edinburgh

It is with great excitement I am writing to inform you of our plans for the start of the DofE programme within BCG. There has been lot's of training and planning going on behind the scenes here at school and we are almost ready to start the BCG's first ever DofE award. The DofE programme will be available from Year 10 onwards, it also links very nicely with the IBDP CAS programme that the current Year 11s will embark on



next year. We have appointed 2 new DofE leaders along with myself, congratulations to Miss Lane and Miss Jensen who have joined the already very exciting DofE team.

Achieving an award will give our students the skills, confidence and an edge over others when they apply for university or in later life a job. Beyond the students academic achievements, universities want to see evidence of so-called 'soft skills' that you have developed through extra-curricular activities, such as communication, commitment, leadership and teamwork. The DofE award is a fantastic way to demonstrate and evidence these skills in practise. The programme will also allow the students to make a difference in other people's lives and the local community, be fitter and healthier and make new friends and memories that will last a lifetime.

We are planning (covid permitting) to run small DofE taster expeditions next year in the summer term with all the year groups (keeping year groups in bubbles). This expedition will include a hike in the local area, an evening camping (learning how to build a fire, cook outside, set up a tent etc.) and learning new skills such as map reading and orienteering. Details of these expeditions will be released after Christmas.

I hope the students and parents are as excited as the DofE leaders here at BCG to get started with the award and make some incredible memories. If you have any questions regarding the DofE awards please email me at: danny.steadman@bcgava.com.

Have a lovely weekend and a restful, safe half term.

Mr Steadman

Education for Sustainable Development in BCG

Sustainability Snacks

Spending time in nature is very important to develop children's environmental awareness. When we experience nature, we become emotionally connected to it - and more likely to care for it! Luckily, there are many amazing places in Catalunya where we can experience the power of the wild!

In Begues, just 15 minutes from BCG, there are some very nice and easy routes! Such as the one that starts at the Ermita Mare de Déu de Bruguers and goes to the Castell d'Eramprunya. On the website or app Wikiloc it is possible to search for routes suitable for children within a specific zone.

And if you are feeling lazy this weekend: it is also possible to enjoy the wonders of nature with your family sitting on your couch :) There are many stunning nature documentaries available on Netflix. (The series Our Planet narrated by David Attenborough, for example, is also available on Youtube).

