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The Wen Lin Journal

The EPC Primary Newsletter

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Welcome to the current edition of the Wen Lin Journal - the fortnightly newsletter for the European Primary Campus.

Inside this newsletter you will find all the latest goings on for the French Section, German Section, British Infant Section and British Junior Section. We also frequently have articles from other parts of the school community such as the library staff and PTA.

Inside this week's journal...

- Don't forget to vote!
- The German Section celebrate Saint Martin's day for his generosity to the poor
- What are the French Section cooking up?
- Find out what's new with British Section SEN and EAL
- Come and check out the Library's new selection of DVD's for your viewing pleasure

We also have...

Our usual letters from Mrs Martin and Ms Corry and contributions from the library staff.

School Website Links



British Infant Section

<http://www.taipeiuropeanschool.com/tbs/index.php>



British Junior Section

<http://www.taipeiuropeanschool.com/tbs/index.php>



French Section

<http://www.taipeiuropeanschool.com/eft/index.php>



German Section

<http://www.taipeiuropeanschool.com/tgs/index.php>

School News



Use Your Vote!

Voting is now in progress for parent representatives to the Board of Governors and for Chair of the Parents Support Council. Voting is easy; simply log on to TESmile in the normal way to cast your confidential votes. Ballots will close after the candidate presentations at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday 27th November. We would encourage everyone to vote.

You are also encouraged to attend the TES AGM, which will begin at 6:00pm at EPC.



Deutsche Sektion



Grundschule

Momentaufnahmen aus den Begegnungsstunden der Flex 0-1-2

von Helga Averbeck und Greta Fritzen

Wie im Konzept der Flexiblen Schuleingangsstufe 0 vorgesehen sind die Kinder dieser Jahrgangsstufe 0 fünf Mal in der Woche in den Unterricht der Klassen 1 und 2 eingebunden.



Es gibt viele Aufgaben, die für alle eine Herausforderung sind – schwerpunktmäßig sind dies Aktivitäten auf der Kommunikations- und Konzentrationsebene. So haben sich zum Beispiel anlässlich des Mondfestes alle Kinder bei dem Spiel „Der Mond ist rund“ sehr anstrengen müssen, bis sie heraus bekamen, warum sie das Vorbild nicht richtig umsetzen. Fragen Sie doch mal Ihr Kind, ob es noch weiß, wie dieses Spiel geht!

Alle Beteiligten freuen sich immer aufs Neue, gemeinsam etwas zu entdecken, zu lernen und zu arbeiten oder auch zusammen zu knabbeln, wie hier mit dem Nikitin-Material. Nach einer Vorlage müssen aus Musterwürfeln bestimmte Muster nachgelegt oder aus den Geo-Würfeln Skulpturen nachgebaut werden. Das erfordert eine gute Beobachtungsgabe, aber auch die Fähigkeit zum Kombinieren und Erschließen möglicher Techniken wird verlangt. Schon so mancher Erstklässler hat dabei mit vorausschauender oder logischer Herangehensweise verblüfft.





So werden manchmal aus allen drei Jahrgangsstufen gemischte Gruppen gebildet, in denen die Zweitklässler die Gruppenchefs sind. Diese lesen den anderen Gruppenmitgliedern dann den Arbeitsauftrag vor, und gemeinsam wird das Problem diskutiert und gelöst.

Nicht nur im Rahmen der Projektwoche arbeiten die Kinder der Flex 0 am gleichen Thema wie ihre Klassenkameraden der Klassen 1 und 2. So sind sie integriert mit eigenen Beiträgen beispielsweise zum Gemeinschaftsbild „Wir lassen unseren Drachen steigen“, mit einem Tierportrait oder mit einem Selbstbildnis für das Plakat „Das sind wir“.



Die regelmäßige Büchereistunde ist schon Tradition in der Begegnung dieser Jahrgangsstufen. Hier ist es ein Geben und Nehmen: Je nachdem, welches Buch gerade das Interesse weckt – es kann entweder gemeinsam angeschaut werden oder ein Kind, das schon lesen kann, darf daraus vorlesen.

Sicherlich werden unsere Flex-0-Kinder wieder sehr gut aufgestellt sein, wenn sie nächsten Sommer endgültig in die Schule übergehen, denn sie fühlen sich jetzt schon sehr wohl dabei, eine Stunde am Tag zu den Schulkindern zu gehören.

Deutsche Sektion



Kindergarten

Sankt Martin - durch die Strassen auf und nieder leuchteten die Laternen

Am Freitag den 9. November trafen sich kurz vor Anbruch der Dunkelheit die Kindergartenkinder mit Eltern und Geschwistern und die Erzieher vor dem Elterncafe.

Zum Auftakt scharten sich alle Kinder um unseren Musiklehrer Klaus Blütner und sie sangen und spielten ein Laternenlied.

Danach zogen die Kinder mit ihren selbst gebastelten, leuchtenden Laternen eine grosse Runde über das dunkle Schulgelände.



Alle trafen sich vor dem Kindergarten zum Singen der Laternenlieder wie :

„Laternen, Laterne, Sonne, Mond und Sterne...“,
“St. Martin ritt durch Schnee und Wind“ und
„Durch die Strassen auf und nieder leuchten die Laternen wieder“.

Einige Eltern, die in ihrer Kindheit bestimmt auch einige Laternenläufe mitgemacht hatten, sangen auch mit.

Wir bedanken uns bei allen Eltern für die Teilnahme und bei Klaus für die Begleitung auf seiner Gitarre.





Un petit déjeuner français au CP.



Pour découvrir de nouveaux goûts et apprendre à manger de tout!



Œufs à la coque



Pain et chocolat chaud « maison »



Yaourt fait avec les enfants



Les CE1 découvrent la pâtisserie française!



On a appris à faire de la tarte
aux
pommes et de la compote!



Charlotte aux fruits
Choux à la crème
Chaussons aux pommes
Gaufres
Tarte Tatin
Tartelettes au citron



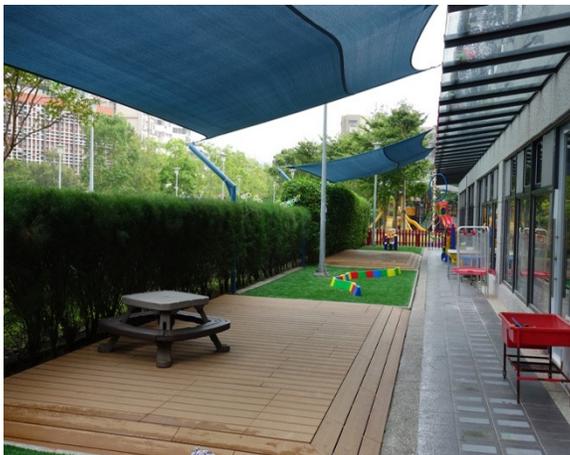
British Infants



Dear Parents

Well it's our big day tomorrow—**The Christmas Bazaar**. Let's hope the weather is kind to us because this is our biggest event of the year, and a very important one, not just in terms of the money raised, but in terms of our reputation within the wider community. Many people have been working very hard behind the scenes, and now it's a question of getting as much help as possible on the day itself. Every little bit helps, so thank you in advance for all those of you who are able to offer that helping hand.

Below are photos of 3 projects funded through the PSC and the British Primary PTA over the last 2 years. The photos show the two areas of decking and shade in the Reception garden, the see-saw in the Reception garden (we put one in the Nursery garden too), and the central playground. I hope you agree, that all three projects were money well spent.



British Infants



I will unfortunately not be at the Bazaar as I am taking some personal leave to return home. At 11:15, Mrs Woodall and Miss Lin will be meeting the Year 1 and Year 2 children who want to join in with the singing, ready for their performance at 11:34. I will be sad to miss this, as I love to lead the children with their singing, but I know Cristie and Patricia will do a good job in my place—thank you both. I look forward to seeing some photos!

I hope the event is a huge success, and I am sorry to be missing it, but I shall be thinking of you all, and hoping that there is plenty of sunshine.

Best wishes

Ruth Martin

Head of the British Infant Section

British Juniors

Dear Parents, Students and friends of the School,

It has been a very eventful two weeks since the last Wen Lin Journal and with the official start of the Christmas season, with the lighting of the tree in the atrium. the excitement of life here at TES is building!



Year Five Greek Day The students in Year Five finished their topic of Ancient Greece with a day of fun-filled activities. Gods and Goddesses galore strutted their stuff in the amphitheatre dressed in magnificent costumes (thank you parents) and using a very democratic process voted Ivan and Chelsea as the Zeus and Hera of the day. There was mosaic making, food tasting, weaving and a quiz. The day finished with a mini-Olympic games, although thankfully not in the style of the games in ancient times.



Music FOBISSEA Ms Kao and 10 students from Year 6 accompanied Mr Papps (Head of Music at the ESC) and students from the secondary school to Vietnam for the annual FOBISSEA Music Festival. They spent 4 days involved in diverse music workshops such as ukulele playing, African drumming, Jazz and Rock bands, iPad music, a capella singing, blues music and folk dance. The festival culminated in a gala concert performed by 300 students from the FOBISSEA schools.



SEN



From the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Department

TES is very proud to have active and well resourced SEN departments in both the primary and secondary sections to support students with a wide variety of learning needs. We decided to share some interesting information about SEN with the wider school community through the newsletter.

What does 'Special Educational Needs' (SEN) mean?

The term 'Special Educational Needs' (SEN) refers to children who experience learning difficulties or have disabilities that make it harder for them to learn or access education than most children of the same age. Many children will need support of some kind at some time during their education. Help is usually provided in their ordinary, mainstream early education setting or school by support staff and sometimes with the help of outside specialists.

Your child may need extra help in a range of areas, for example:

- reading, writing, number work or understanding information
- expressing themselves or understanding what others are saying
- making friends or relating to adults
- behaving appropriately in school or other social settings
- organising themselves
- some kind of sensory or physical needs which may affect them in school

SEN

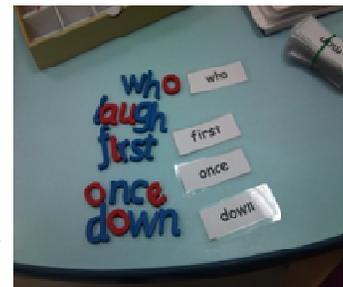


Your child's progress at school

At TES children needing extra help receive support on a one-to-one basis or in small groups from assistants and/or Special Educational Needs Teachers. The support is either in class or withdrawal, depending on the needs of the child.



The SEN Department provides pupils with a supportive, carefully structured and friendly learning environment designed to accommodate all their individual needs. The amount and type of support is determined by the Special Educational Needs Coordinator/Teachers in close consultation with the class teacher and parents. An Individual Educational Plan (IEP) is written for all children who receive support, with input from class teachers and parents.



How can you help your child at home?

These simple ways help **all** children in their development:

1. Hands-on games and physical activities boost children's brain development. In addition, get your child involved in activities in which they can get firsthand experience of life such as participating actively in shopping trips, doing house chores like setting and clearing the table, washing dishes, washing socks, help with preparations for cooking/baking, sorting out laundry, etc.
2. Children do best when they know their boundaries and are working in a structured environment. This is even more important for children who have special needs. They need to know the rules (what they are allowed to do and what is not allowed) and consistency in their application and consequences.
3. Neuroscience currently confirms that the first five years last a lifetime – children's wellbeing, good nutrition, health, and exercise are critical to brain development and learning. Children are born ready to learn, and the best learning happens in nurturing relationships – children learn language by listening to it and using it with the parents, caregivers, siblings and friends – Being exposed to language via the television or radio seems to have little effect. Children are born ready to use and learn mathematics- they need the appropriate experiences to develop this ability to learn.



EAL

EAL Workshop in Infants

Supporting EAL learners at school and at home is the key to a successful acquisition of language. Providing parents with some helpful hints is the purpose of the EAL parents' Workshop that was held in early November.



The face of TES is varied and each student has their own educational story to tell. At TES all the subjects of the British National Curriculum are taught in English. Children on EAL are limited in their ability to receive, process and produce material English. The path they have taken up to this point has not allowed the time in English. Usually, English is just one of a variety of languages the children are learning. EAL provides time targeted on each learner's specific language needs so they work toward a level of confidence and ability to function independently in the mainstream classroom.



Parents and teachers make a strong team which provides a consistent message for the learner, resulting in a new found confidence early in the process. Parental support can be a noticeable contributor to the learner's rate of progress. The topics discussed at the workshop included daily reading, reviewing HFW (High Frequency Words), motivation, routines and the role technology can play to reinforce English at home.

Consistency is an important foundation and if your child knows that reading with you is a basic routine they process becomes very efficient. Miss Hosken mentioned that once the routine is established then a bit of fun can be thrown in by changing the location of the read on occasion. Mrs. Martin suggested that Daddy should be a part of the reading routine as a positive role model for all learners, especially boys. Mr. Page added that it is beneficial to have a number of printed materials around the house and let them "catch" you reading and ask them to wait until you finish "this part" so they see how important reading is.

Miss Chou suggests the early readers can do a picture walk, describing the pictures to explain the story. Using their "reading finger" while reading will help them decode (sound out) both familiar and unfamiliar words. Describing the detail in the pictures on each page will, not only help build their ability to produce language, but



also help them develop a keen eye for visual clues. Using a die with question words (who, what, when, where, why and how) instead of numbers will make a nice game of answer the questions from the story. It is also nice to ask the learner their opinion on the book, noting their likes and dislikes and explanation. These are just some of the steps the EAL teachers use when reading with the learners and offer similar review activities to do at home



HFWs (High Frequency Words) are the foundational words used in English. They are words that are seen so frequently, they are recognized by sight. The more often the learners see these words, the more familiar they become. Miss Bagley had some ideas for home that included; identifying HFWs in the learner's Homelink Diary and keeping track of those that are read in the daily readers. Let the learners write pairs of each word and use them for games like "matching games," "Go Fish" or put them in alphabetical order. Fun games to play with par-

EAL



Miss Stevens noted that at times, it is difficult to motivate learners at home after a day at school. Different types of motivation includes at home sticker charts, a reward system with a book being a prize, leaving little notes that your child can read independently, doing activities that are so familiar to the child that they become the “expert” when reviewing at home.

Technology can be a powerful learning tool as well. Mr. Deaves reminded us that there is a wide variety of applications for your apple products that will be effective language learning tools. Some key websites were offered by where learners can work independently or with a parent. Mr. Coetzee highlighted that online activities reinforce key words but also expose learners to new vocabulary. The concepts within these pages have been or will be introduced in the mainstream classroom. Time at the computer should be monitored and can be used as a motivator. They suggested these sites for home use:

For phonics fun try:

<http://www.starfall.com>

Language Learning

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/kids-games-little-kids.htm>

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/kids-games.htm>

Vocabulary building games with Lecky

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/>

<http://tvokids.com>

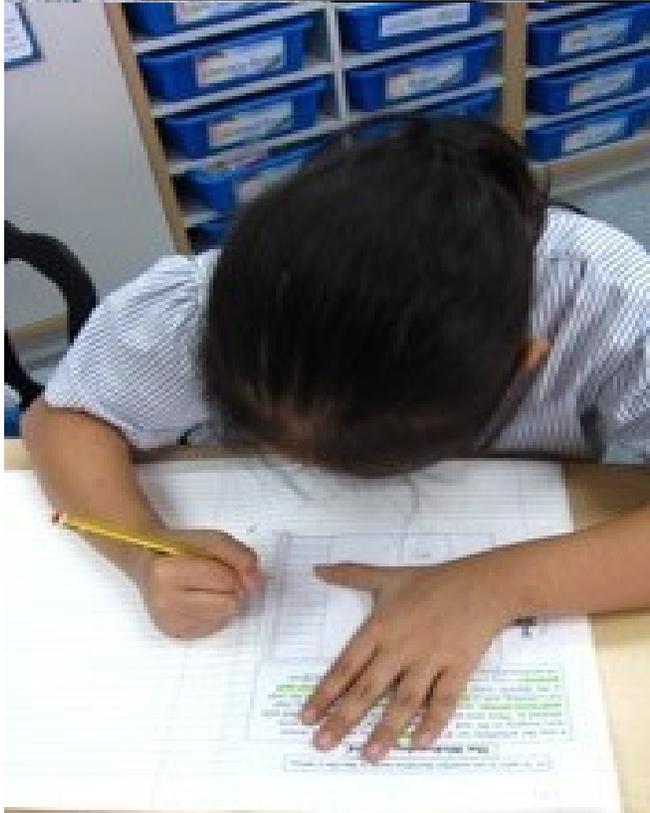


Many of the suggestions discussed in the Parents' Workshop are practical ideas that can be for non-EAL learners as well. These ideas are effective ways to improve learners speaking, listening, reading and phonetics. EAL learners need the support at home as they require “more time” in English in order to make progress in using English; one more of their additional languages. Thanks to all the parents who attended. We hope you found it useful. Please remember that your EAL teachers are always available to you to continue the discussion of new ideas as your learner progresses throughout the year.





EAL helps to write better sentences.



EAL is great because it is fun



I like EAL because it helps me to understand English.



I like EAL because it help me learn more about English.

EPC Library



Dear Parents,

Ding-ding-ding, Christmas is around the corner! Have you seen Christmas trees and decorations on streets? The Library has something even better: Christmas books!!! Starting from November 26th, you'll see Christmas books displayed in both Infant and Junior Libraries. However, you and your little one might need to hold the thirst for a little bit longer. Our Christmas collection is not for loan until December 3rd. Why not use a whole week and go through our selected collection carefully. Good books go to those who wait!

Have you sometimes feel that there are so many great books on shelves, but so little time to read? Luckily, technology helps a lot! Personally, I prefer books than any other formats, but good DVDs and audiobooks can serve as a splendid advantage. When there is little time, you can finish a 700-page book in 2 hours by watching a DVD. Anyone can easily finish a few chapters while driving or walking by listening to audio books. (Of course, great detail comes only in books... Librarians are no doubt book lovers!)

At times, some of our children discover an interesting audiobook/ DVD and start to crave for books; or after watching a topical film in class, they come to us and ask for more related books to support different topics that fascinate them. Both CDs and DVDs can be a strong aid to reading and learning. As parents, you are very welcome to borrow a couple of audiobooks or DVDs and enjoy them anytime you prefer. Nevertheless, unlike books, the loan period for DVDs is ONE WEEK only.

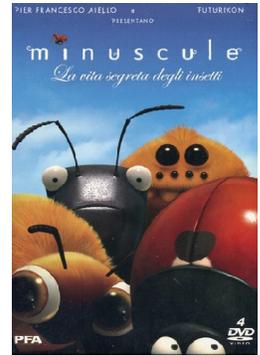
Happy Reading!

Primary Library Team

EPC Library



Minuscule season 1 & 2



DVD
Related topic: minibeasts

Come with us on a journey into the secret and magical world of insects. The bright and colourful characters will delight you as they go about their eccentric adventures. Mixing 3D animated characters with stunning real life locations, Minuscule is a series that children will enjoy again and again

64 Zoo Lane

DVD
The most popular BBC program

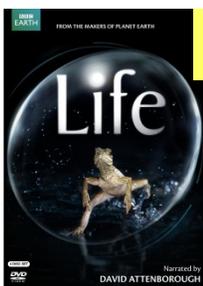


Lucy lives at 64 Zoo Lane, right next door to the local zoo. Every night from her bedroom window, Lucy slides down Georgina the Giraffe's long neck to the zoo below to meet the animals. Every night, the animals gather to tell her a story.

The Three Robbers

DVD
Audio: Chinese/German
Subtitle: Chinese/ English

Based on a popular children's book by Tomi Ungerer. The three robbers are very successful in their exploits, but one day there is a different treasure in the carriage they have stopped. There is only a lonely girl named Tiffany on her way to live with a wicked aunt, so the robbers carry Tiffany off to their hideout. When Tiffany sees all of the treasure the robbers have collected, she asks what it is for, and the robbers have no answer. Later the robbers decide to open an orphanage with their wealth and all uncared children go to live there.



BBC EARTH: Life

This enthralling BBC series examines "the lengths living beings go to to stay alive," in the words of Sir David Attenborough. Aided by breathtaking high-definition cinematography, the makers of *Planet Earth* explore the more colorful strategies the world's creatures employ to procreate, evade predators, and obtain nourishment. Cameras travel through the air, under the water, and right into the faces of insects, like the alien visage of the stalk-eyed fly. Witty writing and skillful editing, which distills thousands of hours of footage, make the learning go down easy

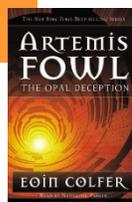
DVD
Teacher's recommendation

AUDIOBOOKS



Magic Tree House

Artemis Fowl



There are so many more! Come and have a different experience with our resources!