

# MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO



## Primary Weekly Newsletter

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014

### Please note:

- Next week's Golden Rule is "**We are Gentle**". Our focus 5R will be "**Resilience**".

### Foundation Stage One

It has been another busy and exciting week in FS1! This week the pupils have been visiting our new safari role play area in the pod. We have had elephants, zebras, lions, cheetahs and giraffes roaming and roaring around our pod. It was super to see so many Parents at this week's Parents' Evenings. We have all noticed how much the pupils have grown since the start of the school year and it was wonderful to share their Learning Journeys with you. Please keep sending in 'Wow Cards' and any other interesting pictures, photos or books related to our '**Animals**' topic as the pupils love talking about these items in front of their friends. The pupils have all enjoyed talking about animals and describing their different features, patterns on their coats and items that they give us such as eggs and milk. Please enjoy these stories with you child <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dd1tQLSYGrA> about a spider and a fly and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vxd7JTQCMRE> about a little fox.

### Foundation Stage Two

FS2 have enjoyed getting busy with their new topic, '**Ready, Steady, Cook!**' and the pod has set tummies rumbling with the delicious smells of the food that has been cooked so far. FS2 Red cooked Mexican salsa. The pupils practiced using plastic knives and handling them properly to cut vegetables. FS2 Blue were looking at the country of 'Scotland'. They coloured the Scottish map, listened and danced to some Scottish music and at the end of the week, made and ate some porridge. FS2 Violet visited France. They used language to say 'hello' in French, counted to ten and sang a French song. They weighed ingredients to make crepes, whisked the batter and best of all ... ate the delicious crepes! Yum Yum! FS2 Orange have been exploring 'China', using chopsticks to try and eat food and cooking noodles to see how they change when the hot water is added. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/i-can-cook/makes> has some simple recipes you may wish to try making with your child. One of our objectives is for the pupils to know that we can find information using computers, exploring this area of the website and choosing a recipe to try would help them to gain that concept.

### Year One

Last week Year One started their new topic '**Shiny, Happy People**'. In Curriculum Diversity the pupils have started to look at travelling to different countries and what transport they use to get to a particular country. They looked closely at maps and globes to find out where Egypt is situated in relation to other countries. The pupils have been busy making passports and thinking and talking about travelling by airplane in preparation for the opening of the Year One Pod Airport.

In Maths, the pupils have been learning to measure length in centimeters. They have been measuring a range of objects (such as leaves) and parts of their body (such as their heads and hands). In our phonics lessons, the pupils have been exploring Consonant, Vowel, Consonant, Consonant words e.g. "felt" or "vest". They have been trying really hard to say and then stretch words when writing. You can play the following game at home to help your child with spelling CVCC words:

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/BuriedTreasure2.html>

### Year Two

Last week our Year Two pupils spent some time brushing up their basic skills. In Literacy, as well as our usual handwriting, reading and phonics sessions, the pupils consolidated their knowledge of verbs and the rules for making the past tense. We also spent some time learning those tricky verbs that do not obey the rules and often catch us out: 'eat/ate and fly/flew' seem to cause particular problems.

In Maths, we returned to place value and partitioning. Follow this link for some more practice at this:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths/place\\_value/play/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths/place_value/play/). We had the opportunity to watch a wonderful Theatre in Education performance, which reminded us of the importance of using the 5Rs in our daily life. Thanks to the Year Two staff who worked hard to decorate the Pod with an 'Asian' theme, in preparation for our '**Amazing Asia**' topic.



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### Year Three

What a fantastic impact day Year Three had to start their new topic, '**Baledi Britain**'. The pupils looked fantastic dressed up in clothes that were related to Great Britain. We had the Queen, 'Charlie Chaplin', 'Einstein' and several 'Buckingham Palace' guards making an appearance for the day and the pupils got to try out English and Irish dancing, make British style sandwiches and pastries and play some traditional British games. During our 'Curriculum Diversity' lessons this week the pupils used atlases to find the British Isles as well as locating Egypt on a map. We looked at the main human and physical features of both places as well as beginning to explore the similarities and differences between Egypt and Britain.

In Maths, the pupils have been solving puzzles and problems and have worked with rounding numbers to the nearest ten and hundred. Play this game to test your knowledge of rounding: <http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Flash.aspx?f=DartboardRoundingv2>

### Year Four

Year Four have been incredibly busy this week preparing for their production. All the pupils and staff are working hard to ensure we put on the best show ever! "Well Done so far Year Four" and keep it up. The pupils started the week under the tables. Literally! First thing Sunday morning saw us all urgently prepare for an earthquake. This was all part of our new topic that will see the pupils learn about the natural phenomenon we witness on earth. Earthquakes, tornados and erupting volcanos are just some of the natural disasters we will focus on in our history and geography based topic called, '**I'm a Survivor, Get Me Out of Here!**' It all promises to be a wonderful few weeks of learning for Year Four. I am sure you will have enjoyed the amazing Year Four pod when visiting during Parents' Evening. Thanks to all staff for working so hard on this.

### Year Five

This week, after a surprise letter from the 'Felucca Captain', the pupils have embarked on their second 'Felucca Folk Challenge'. They have been investigating river-dams and have been asking each other questions about the purpose of the 'High Dam' of 'Aswan'. In their 'Felucca Folk Challenge' teams, they have used various books and the internet to research the history of the dam and find answers to their own questions. After considering the effect of the dam on the lives of local people, they have begun planning and drafting a river-based story about life on the 'River Nile'. The pupils going on the Nile Cruise had their first meeting with Mr Dave and we are all excited about the forthcoming trip. The pupils staying in school will also have fun-filled week learning about the Nile.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/riversandcoasts/index.shtml> - BBC Education Rivers and Coasts

<http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/geography/story/main.html> - River Nile based story

### Year Six

This week the pupils have rotated to each Year Six teacher visiting a different '**Wonder of the World**' each time. The pupils learnt facts about each country and its 'Wonder'. They completed a variety of activities including reflection artwork inspired by the 'Taj Mahal', making Chinese dragons, taking part in role plays using different languages and creating factual posters in teams. The pupils have also demonstrated their relationship skills and resilience this week while working on a collaborative art project as a class. Their hard work paid off and the 'Windows to the World' display in the pod is a result of their excellent team work skills. This website has pictures of the 'Wonders of the World' for the pupils to use as a stimulus to encourage them to practice their writing target at home. <http://kids.nationalgeographic.co.uk/kids/photos/gallery/new-7-wonders-of-the-world/>. As we approach our Cyprus trip, the pupils have been reminded about the importance of following the 'Golden Rules' and we are looking forward to the productive and focused weeks ahead.