



Issue 7



Modern English School Cairo

Primary Newsletter

Care, Challenge, Inspire

27th January 2019

Reading Resolutions for 2019!

Our Primary students have leapt into their learning with fantastic energy and enthusiasm, with all the expected excitement that a new term brings. Students, parents and staff have embraced reading as a major focus of their New Year's resolutions, with many of our students endeavouring to read more regularly and enjoy as many new books as possible in 2019. Take Year 4, for example, who began the new term by sharing their learning in FS2, working with younger students as reading buddies. The students in both year groups benefitted immensely from the experience and it reminds us of the fantastic value of being a part of the wonderful community at Modern English School Cairo. Our KS2 Family Reading Challenge was also a great success with many creative entries which reflected the ways in which reading can inspire students of all ages and strengthen family bonds when time is spent enjoying books.

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Coming Up Next



In FS1 Red...



...we have enjoyed learning about different animals through our new topic, 'Amazing Animals'. So far we have been learning about farm animals and creatures that live under the sea. There are lots of lovely stories to read and listen to and we have particularly enjoyed listening to the story of 'Farmer Duck' by Martin Waddell and 'Commotion in the Ocean' by Giles Andreae. The topic has also been great for inspiring us to ask many questions such as, 'Why does a dog help to move the sheep?' and 'How does a horse sleep standing up?' We have enjoyed using the internet and books to find out the answers to these thought-provoking questions. We have also enjoyed practising our counting skills this week. In the classroom, in the pod and during outdoor learning, we have been exploring different ways of counting; whether it be the number of dots on a dice, the number of steps it takes to walk outside, or counting using our fingers. You name it, we love to count it!



In FS2 Red...

...as part of our reading week focus we decided to act out the story, 'Whatever Next' written by Jill Murphy. We enjoyed reciting the story lines between Little Bear, his mother and the Owl that he met on his way to the moon. We even converted a simple box into a fantastic space shuttle using our imaginations. We worked very hard at being creative as we invented new dialogues between the characters, changed the course of Little Bear's adventure on the moon and even explored a different story ending, where Little Bear ended up becoming a real astronaut. Pictures are not enough to capture the great learning that has taken place in our classroom during the last few weeks.





In Year 1 Red...

...we have been very engaged in our learning about measurement in Maths this week. First, we decided to compare how tall our teacher was compared to one of the students. We drew around Karim and measured his height using squares of tissue. Then we made predictions to see how many squares tall Miss Hanna would be. We drew around Miss Hanna and then measured her height using squares of tissue. We were quite far off with our prediction, but it was very funny. We spent the rest of the week measuring objects using non-standard units like cubes, toothpicks and camels. After that, we moved onto mass and enjoyed predicting and using the balance scales to measure how many cubes different objects weighed. Now we're ready to begin measuring in standard units.





In Year 2 Red...



...we looked at the book 'Mr Wuffles' as part of our reading week activities. We were surprised to discover that this is a book with no words in it. The story is about a cat and his cat toy, that was actually an alien spaceship. We looked at the book and used lots of inference to decide what the characters might be saying to each other. As part of this we split into groups and re-enacted sections of the story, adding in our own dialogue. We also looked at our own ideas of everyday objects and how they might not be what they seem.



In Year 3 Red...



...we were given the challenge of reading a wordless book as part of reading week. Ms Neveen was really impressed with the outcome of our work when we had to imagine what was happening in the story about a frog who goes on a fantastical adventure. The book we focused on was called, 'Tuesday' by David Werner. We incorporated all of our week's learning around the theme of frogs. In English, we had to create dialogue between the characters, imagine what they might say to one another and what they must be thinking. In Maths, we focused on the idea of 'leaping through time' which involved answering complex word problems about time. In Science, we researched and learned about the life cycle of a frog. We created a fact file about the life cycle of a frog starting from tiny eggs into leaping healthy frogs. Finally, in Topic, we carried out research about different types of frogs and recorded our findings.



In Year 4 Red...

...so far this term we have been working very hard on our reading. As a class, we have been looking at an author called, Michael Morpurgo and reading one of his books called, 'Why the Whales Came.' Everyone in class has been engrossed in the story so far. We have found it particularly interesting as we read a different book by the same author in Term One called, 'Kaspar, Prince of Cats' and we have been able to see some similarities in the style of the author's writing.





In Year 5 Red...

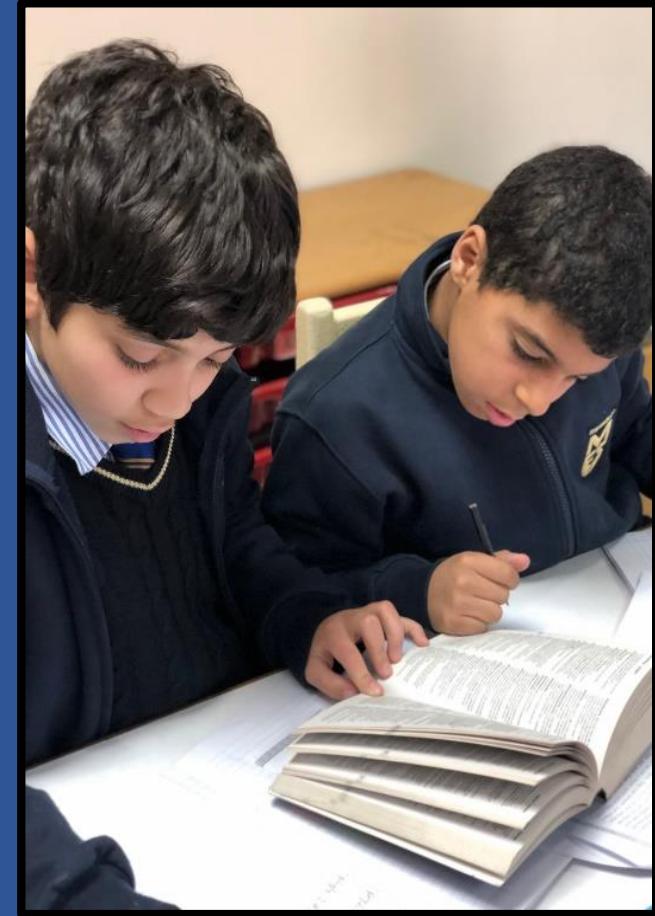


...we have been extremely engaged in preparing and rehearsing for our upcoming production of 'High School Musical'. Mr Billy has supported us to perfect our dancing, singing and stage directions. We were thrilled when we started to have rehearsal time in the theatre; it certainly has brought our production to life. The verbal and kinesthetic learning that has taken place over the past few weeks has been vital to the development of our speaking and listening skills in English. We cannot wait to dazzle all our parents and carers when our show takes to the stage. As the song goes, we really are, 'All in this together'.





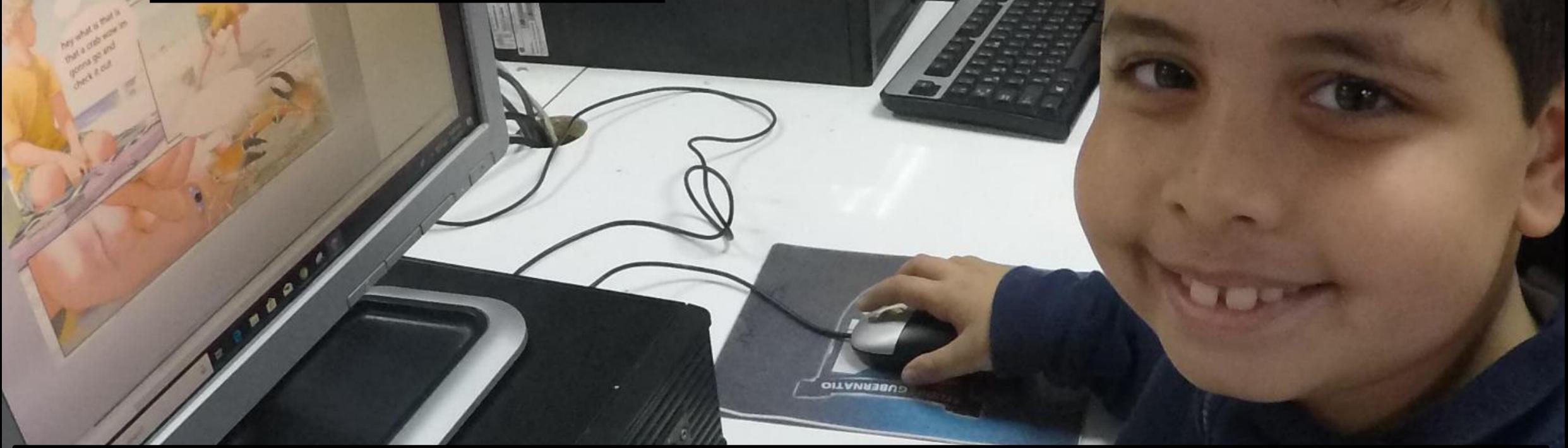
In Year 6 Red...



...we have started looking at Ancient Greek myths. We have particularly enjoyed learning about Theseus and the Minotaur and Perseus and Medusa. First, we started by reading and identifying features of a myth and whilst reading these myths, we noticed there were a lot of words that we didn't understand. To overcome this challenge, we decided to work in pairs and use dictionaries to find these unfamiliar words so that we can use them effectively when we start to write our own myths.



APP of the Week



Year 4 delved into Reading Week, exploring a message in a bottle, as part of their 'Flotsam' book. Violet Class used Blendspace through the Google Classroom App to investigate the use of direct speech, then created their own narrative using the Google Drive, Google Slides, and Show Me apps, available to use through regular PCs as well as on the iPads. This was a creative way to inspire the students' passion for reading, with digitally integrated tools and an exciting book. How could you inspire your family to read more at home using a variety of Google apps?



In Art...

As a follow up to the letter sent in December regarding the COBIS Art Competition, we would like to remind students that they have until the **10th of February 2019** to submit any artwork they have completed for this competition. This year's competition theme is a challenge for students to, 'Introduce Yourself'. Through a piece of art, students should convey who they are; this could be a self-portrait or a reflection on their feelings, surroundings etc. The aim of this competition is to teach students how they can express themselves through art, so let's celebrate our Primary students' artistic accomplishments and encourage them to have a go at entering the competition. Should you have any queries about the requirements please contact Ms Diala Naquib, Primary School Artist in Residence.

Categories:

1. Early Years and Foundation Stage
2. Key Stage 1
3. Key Stage 2
4. Key Stage 3
5. Group Entries

Artwork Regulations

- Paper size: A4 or A3
- The color, material, and shape of paper can be chosen freely
- Drawing materials: Any drawing materials can be used, such as color pencils, markers, crayons, or paints
- Collage or cutout pictures will be allowed for artwork, excluding ones making other artworks dirty or requiring special care in handling



Unacceptable Artworks

- Computer generated artwork created on a computer or similar device will not be accepted
- Artwork created by a person other than the individual or group entry
- Digitally created artwork will not be accepted
- Drawings that resemble the previous COBIS artworks, famous paintings, and that include trade-marked characters



ART COMPETITION 2019
'INTRODUCE YOURSELF' DEADLINE: FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2019

[HTTP://BIT.LY/COBISART](http://bit.ly/COBISART)

 COBIS COUNCIL OF BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

 Equip My School



Coming Up Next...

Sunday 27th January – Thursday 7th February
E-Safety Fortnight

Thursday 31st January
Year 5 Concert – 9.00am

Friday 1st – Monday 4th February
Year 5 Nile Cruise – Trip 1

Sunday 3rd February
Term 2 ASAs commence

Friday 8th – Monday 11th February
Year 5 Nile Cruise – Trip 2