



WEEKLY BULLETIN

November 22

**Dear Parents
and Guardians,**

Welcome to our weekly newsletter! The week has seen Year 1 visit the Bordas garden centre to explore the world of Botany and Entomology. I am told that the insect hotel left a deep impression on the minds of children and staff alike and I was relieved to hear that the carnivorous plants were absent for the day! Medicinal, culinary and aromatic plants were investigated and children learnt how to plant, fertilize and nurture a botanical specimen. Parents may wish to follow on with ideas of planting flowers or herbs at home, to nurture green fingers and inquiring minds and reinforce the learning at home. Who knows what seeds may have been planted for the future?

They will be following up with work in the classroom and I am sure we will be seeing interesting new art work on the walls of Early Childhood in the weeks ahead. This is part of our on going effort to make education as experiential as possible to ignite the joy of learning and to bring the curriculum alive. These are exciting times at BCG and on the theme of experiential Education and engagement with the world outside the classroom.

Next week will see the launch of an important initiative, the 'reading buddies' scheme. The benefits to this are multiple, complex and potentially quite profound. Aside from linguistic development there are benefits to social cohesion, creating new friendships, confidence building and creating a sense of community between pupils in different year groups. The initiative is one of several projects we are implementing that will establish bonds between Primary and Secondary and help to support a 'whole school' ethos.

The parent survey was sent out earlier in the week and we encourage all of you to complete this short survey as the more feedback we have, the better. I would ask you all to take the time to complete the survey if at all possible noting the deadline is Monday 25th November. 

On Tuesday 26th November there is also a meeting of class representatives for the next parent focus group. All representatives have been asked to submit three issues or questions for discussion with the school leadership team.

Recently, the Business Development Club, run by Mrs Hall, organised and ran a highly successful sale of school uniform. The event is being repeated on the afternoon of Tuesday 26th and will start at 16:30. It is a good opportunity to come along if you feel it is time to renew the uniform.

As Christmas approaches we will be hosting several joyous events, the first of which is the traditional Christmas fair, taking place on Thursday December 5th. Cooperation from parents in running stalls; bringing food for the Christmas food sale at the dining hall, or in donating prizes for the Tombola would be warmly appreciated. Please contact Maria Andrea if you are interested. I am particularly interested to see how Christmas is celebrated here as all countries celebrate differently this my first Christmas in Spain/Catalonia.

Finally, I just want to say that we are here to improve the school and to listen to you. Please don't hesitate to get in touch!

John Prince

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it."

IB Diploma Programme Update

As announced earlier in the year, the school is on a journey to become an accredited IB World School with the Diploma Programme being introduced in 2021. Mr Lockwood has been leading the authorisation application process liaising with the IB consultants. Teachers are getting their heads around the curriculum and the rigorous standards that underpin them. Many staff will be heading off for professional development in 2020. This project needs a new role in the school, the position of Diploma Programme Coordinator. After internal interviews this month, we are pleased to announce Ms Rachel Fenton has been appointed as the new DP Coordinator and will start her work in 2020. Rachel displayed all the qualities and attributes we need to support the community on this challenging journey. Well done to her!



PRIMARY ASSEMBLY

This week we had a wonderful Primary assembly celebrating our BCG value of being 'Principled'. The children that we were chosen were confident, kind and clearly know the difference between right and wrong. During assembly, all the children applauded their friends and shook heads in agreement of the children that were chosen.

Being 'Principled' can be tough because sometimes you have to go against the wishes of your friends and people you care about because they know what they are doing is the right thing.

To all those wonderful children chosen, congratulations and continue to be role models for everyone you come in contact with.



A PROFILE OF OUR BCG VIOLIN TEACHER

Pavel Amilcar began his violin studies at the National Conservatory of Music in Mexico City. He studied Baroque violin in Poland and later he moved to Barcelona to study at the Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya.

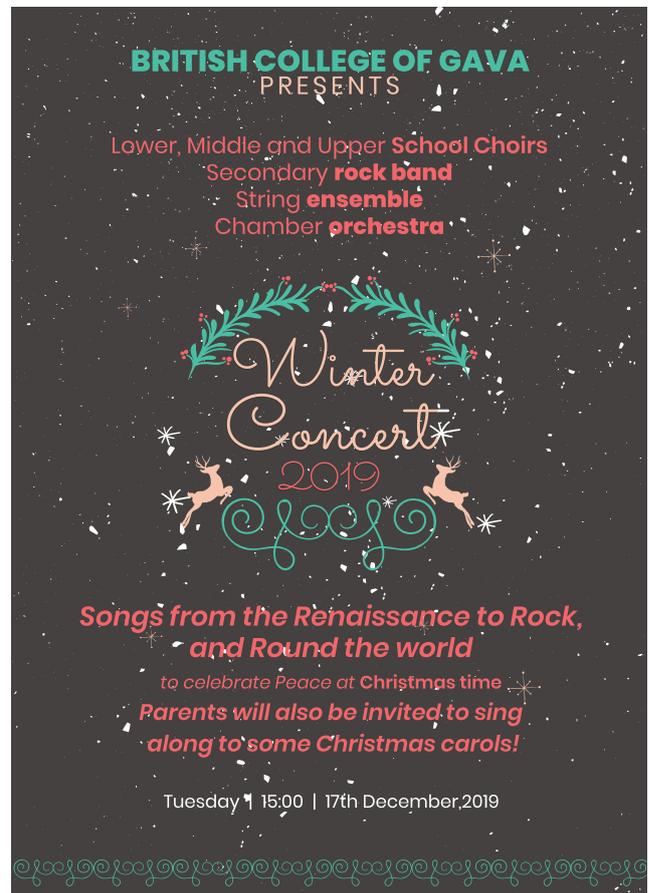
He has collaborated professionally with renowned directors and has had the opportunity to play in various concert halls around the world as well as recorded under several record labels.

Pavel has taught violin and orchestra in schools and conservatories for over 15 years, and his enthusiasm and passion for music is an inspiration to all his students. We are so very lucky to have him here at BGC!

Mr Amilcar gave a music sensitization (musical awareness, musical interiorization) course to a primary/secondary school in Kashed, India recently. This is a very humble school with very limited resources. The result was a deep both way experience that created a moment of joy and inspired sensibility towards music and art. Please see the pictures of this wonderful experience.



SAVE THE DATE:





READING BUDDIES

Recently, as part of our school reading program, in upper primary we started a reading buddies system where younger students that need additional reading practise are paired with older ones to read together on a weekly basis.

The little buddies are chosen by teachers from Year 3 and Year 4 and paired with older Year 6 students. At the same time some students from Year 5 and Year 6 are supported by older Year 7 and 8 students to enjoy reading for fun.

Reading Buddies promote a higher interest and engagement in reading, improvement in social and communication skills, particularly for students learning English as a second language.

From the little buddies point of view they benefit from hearing stories read-aloud (modelling of reading fluency, phrasing and expression), having conversations with an older student about topics that interest and involve them (extending their vocabulary and oral language abilities), having regular opportunities to practice familiar reading with 1:1 assistance and enjoying fun, positive experiences with the 'big kids' who become a recognizable face in the school community.

But not only do the little buddies gain from this opportunity, the activity allows 'Big Buddies' for further developing their own literacy skills, fostering leadership and problem-solving skills and improving their self-confidence that comes from being looked-up to a very real and important reason to be responsible.

Our buddies just started enjoying the programme and we are certain we will see lots of reading friendships very soon around British School of Gavà!

Laia Boix
SEN Coordinator



New Teachers at BCG

Srta Laia Fuentes joins the Spanish Department on Monday to teach the students of Spanish Language Acquisition in Secondary. She has been teaching English, French and Spanish since 2008 and is very excited to be joining the team.



Ms Caitriona O'Connor will be joining the Primary School in 2020 as the new Year 1 teacher once we divide the class early next year. Caitriona graduated as a primary school teacher with an Honours Degree in Ireland and have spent the past seven years teaching children from Nursery to Year Six. Her experience is within the British, Irish and International School settings including her current post in Vietnam. Parents will be able to meet her when she starts in January.



Mr John Jim joins BCG on Monday 25th November. John joins us as the new Mathematics and Technology Teacher for the school as well as providing some specialist Chemistry support in science. His academic achievements are considerable with a degree in Biochemistry and a PhD in molecular and microbiology from the University of Manchester where John grew up. John has taught maths, science and technology in the UK, Italy and Spain and joins the BCG community as both a teacher and parent. I am sure we will all make him welcome. Thank you to Ms Kirkby, Mr Prince and Mr Brook who stepped in to cover these areas while we recruited the ideal person for the role.

Year 1 Trip to Bordas Garden Centre

This term in science we have been learning about plants and yesterday we visited Bordas for our first class trip of the year. We had a fabulous, active day in the sunshine visiting the allotments and learning how to pot and fertilize a plant. (The children thought the idea of using horse manure was very funny indeed!) We spent time identifying different culinary and aromatic plants, exploring a maze of trees, visiting the insect hotel and finished off by listening to a traditional story, The Enormous Turnip. The highlight of the trip was planting and decorating our very own Forget-Me-Not plants in a special ceramic pot to take home! The children have decided that they would like to make a Bug Hotel for our school garden and so next week's learning will involve designing, planning and gathering materials to bring this idea to fruition! Thank you very much to our two parent helpers who joined us for the day. What a great trip!

Mrs Pilcher



UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Fair

This year, our traditional Christmas Family Fair will take place on **December 5th from 15:30 to 17:30**

Sale of school uniform



Junior Musical Theatre Winter Recital

Year 2 to 4

December 12th at 6:00 pm

Winter Concert

December 17th at 3:00 pm