



PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."
African Proverb

No 2 – 2023/2024

The British School of Lomé

25 September 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The African proverb quoted above "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." Is all about teamwork, collaboration and working together. Last week's 40th Anniversary celebrations were an amazing example of our whole community coming together to celebrate 40 years of this esteemed establishment. The planning for this event began a year ago. A small committee of Alumni, Teachers and the Administrator began to meet and put together plans and ideas. I hope you really enjoyed the culmination of all that teamwork. If you would still like to buy any of the merchandise such as mugs or T-shirts, please come to the front desk.



Politeness and Good Manners are very important here at BSL. We expect our learners to greet us every time they see us and to be dressed smartly, with the correct uniform too. Also in the lunch room everyone should behave in the correct way. All this should also be put into practice at home too.

Formal Greetings	Responses
- Good morning.	- Hello.
- Good afternoon.	- Hello, good afternoon.
- Good evening.	- Good evening.
- Hello, how are you?	- I'm fine. Thank you.
	- Very well, thank you.

10 Table Manners for Kids



Even though we have been working towards the Anniversary event for quite some time, the term has also had a lot of teaching and learning happening in the classrooms, students have been assessed, new resources have arrived and much more besides. Some of our teachers have also done some very successful training courses, such as Phonics training and IELTS Teacher training.

Here are a few snippets from our classrooms:

Nursery and Crèche News

This term our topic has been about ourselves. We have learnt about our bodies and talked about our feelings and families.



This week we are learning about people who help us. We went to visit the nurse and learnt all about her role in our school. We will be going around the school meeting the other people in our community that help us.

Year 1

Last week Year 1 visited the Secondary Biology laboratory. They are learning about the human body and bones, so they were looking at a skeleton



It was very exciting and interesting.

Year 2

We have been retelling stories to improve reading comprehension using first, next and last.

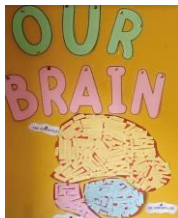


We used adjectives and transition words in our narrative writing drafts. In Maths, we explained key terms of adding and subtracting in word problems and solving one and two digit numbers.

We were scientists, making predictions and testing how erosion changes landforms. We had so much fun with sand and water.

Year 3

Have been applying their PSHE theme of Collaboration to their subject led classroom activities.



They have collaborated on creating a Text Collage of the Brain and also had fun with activities utilising the different functions of their brains such as Problem Solving, how to create the tallest structure out of spaghetti and blu-tak.

Year 4



The students strengthened their knowledge of various aspects of the curriculum. The students developed a deeper understanding of addition We continued developing our mental maths skills for 4 and 5 digit addition. While strengthening our knowledge of noun phrases. We continued exploring the human eye, and for our stem science lesson, the students created a model of the eye.

In English, we have been reenacting scenes from our class novel 'Escape from Pompeii'. We used adventurous vocabulary and punctuated dialogue to imagine the fear and dread that the eruption of Mount Vesuvius would have had on our main characters.



A Message from The Head of School

CHANGE YOUR QUESTIONS

'When I picked my son up from his first day of 4th grade, my usual (enthusiastically delivered) question of "how was your day?"_was met with his usual (indifferently delivered) "fine."

Come on! It's the first day, for crying out loud! Give me something to work with, would you, kid? I suppose the problem is my own. That question doesn't really do much for our kids. Far from a conversation starter, it's uninspired, overwhelmingly open-ended and frankly, completely boring.' (Ref: Sara Goldstein)

Have you ever asked your child 'How was your day at school?', only to get a one-sentence answer, 'It was fine'? A better way to elicit more information is to change your question. For example, ask your child *What was one thing you learnt at school today?* or *What was the best thing about school today?*

Other questions you might want to ask:

- Did you catch anyone doing something funny?
- What games did you play at break time?
- What was the funniest thing that happened today?
- Did anyone do anything nice for you?
- What was the nicest thing you did for someone else?
- Who made you smile today?

What is one thing you did today that was helpful?



This small change in questioning has been shown to be much more effective in getting your child to give you a much more detailed response. It also helps a child to become more reflective on her/his own learning.

Take good care of yourself.

Mr Akif Naqvi

Head of School

Communicate with ClassDojo



British School of Lome

30 teachers • 264 parents

Have you joined ClassDojo yet? Have you used it to communicate or look at your child's work?

In BSL Primary School we use ClassDojo as our main way to communicate with our parents. ClassDojo is a **free App**. for smartphones and tablets as well as a website that "connects teachers with students and parents to build amazing classroom communities." The App aims to give students a voice, share moments with parents, and create a positive culture in the classroom. Teachers have the ability to give students digital high-fives or reward students with points for a job well done, and parents can get immediate feedback on the projects their child worked on in class or their child's behavioural needs. All messages can also be translated into many different languages at the touch of a button. Here are two videos that may help:

ClassDojo Parent tutorial: https://youtu.be/ZGsKw_rXnJg

How to change languages on ClassDojo: <https://youtu.be/DoKvfdvIX3c>

Don't forget though the best way to communicate is still face to face. So I would really encourage you to use this App to keep abreast of your child's work and communicate with your child's teacher.

In one of the Dr Seuss books it says "*The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn the more places you will go*"

Have a good week everyone and stay safe,

Kind regards,

Mr Gareth Jones

Head of Primary

Up-Coming Events

Oct. 5 - World Teacher's Day

Oct. 12 - Parent/Teacher Meetings

Oct. 13 - School closes for Half Term

Oct. 23 - School Reopens

Nov 1. - Public Holiday

Divali

Remembrance Day