



PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

No 9 – 2023/2024

The British School of Lomé

09-02-2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ Saturday 10th February Chinese New Year of the Dragon
- ❖ 12th - 14th February Careers Awareness Week
- ❖ Wednesday 14th February Music on the Grass
- ❖ Thursday 15th and 16th February Half Term Break



Head of Primary Message

Dear parents and guardians,

This week we have had a fantastic DR PALANGA IT WEEK INCLUDING SAFER INTERNET DAY. As our children immerse themselves in the digital world, ensuring their safety online becomes paramount. Here are some essential guidelines to help your primary school children navigate the internet securely:

- **Open Communication: Talk openly** with your child about their online experiences. Encourage them to share any concerns or incidents they encounter.

Explain the importance of being cautious and responsible while using the internet.

- **Agree on rules: Discuss** when and where your child can use the internet, how much time they can spend online, and which websites or apps are appropriate.

Monitor their activities: Regularly check their online interactions without invading their privacy.

- **Safe Messaging: Privacy settings:** Teach your child to **adjust privacy settings** on social media platforms. Limit who can see their posts and personal information.

Acceptance: Advise them to accept friend requests **only** from people they know in real life.

Think before posting: Remind them that **once something is online, it's permanent**. Encourage thoughtful sharing.

- **Online Games: In-game chat:** Some games have chat features. **Monitor these conversations** and ensure respectful communication.

Avoid sharing personal details: Teach your child not to reveal their real name, address, or school.

- **Snapchat: Temporary content:** Explain that Snapchat messages and images disappear after viewing, but **remind them to be cautious**.

Friends-only: Encourage them to add only trusted friends that they know in real life.

- **Cyber bullying Awareness: Recognise signs:** Be aware of signs of cyber bullying—withdrawal, mood changes, or reluctance to use devices.

Report incidents: Teach your child to **report any bullying** to you or their teacher.

- **Online Etiquette: Kindness matters:** Instil the value of treating others with respect online.

Think before typing: Remind them that words can hurt, even in digital form.

- **Stay Informed: Learn alongside your child:** Understand the internet, social media, and gaming platforms. Stay informed about new trends and risks.

Use educational resources: Explore online safety resources designed for parents and children.

Remember, fostering a safe online environment begins with open dialogue, trust, and vigilance. By empowering our children with knowledge, we equip them to navigate the digital landscape wisely.

I wish our Chinese students, parents and committee a Happy Chinese New Year.

Kind regards,

Mr Gareth Jones

Crèche and Nursery

This week in Nursery and crèche we have been learning about Elmer and his colours. The children have taking part in a range of activities about colours and elephants. We have learnt the Elmer song about colours. You can sing it with you child on this link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNCFfirFueQ>



Year 3

Year 3 are developing a love for reading and public speaking. It's wonderful to watch their literacy skills develop and their confidence grow!



Year 2

It's all about 100! Year 2 participated in various activities in celebration of 100 days of school.



Year 1

Happy 100th Day of School! Our Year One students have reached an exciting milestone, and what a joyful journey it has been! The classrooms have been buzzing with laughter, curiosity, and endless excitement. To mark the occasion, we had a blast imagining how our little ones might look at 100 years old—white hair, wrinkled smiles, and all! Here's to the first 100 days of learning and laughter, with many more to come.



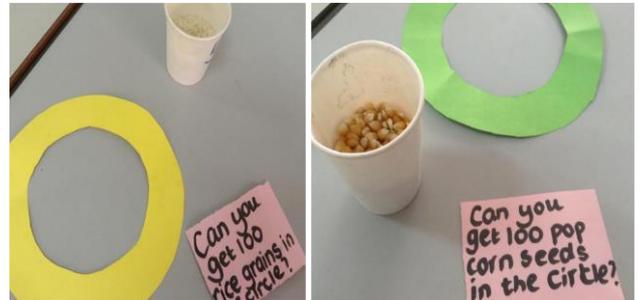
Year 3 French HL

In Year 3 French HL, we practised reading aloud, and altogether, the translated version of the Madagascan poem 'Je suis le riz' ('I am the rice'). With inventiveness, the class came up with short sentences with definite and indefinite articles to continue a story about a castle surrounded by water: 'le crocodile sans dents', 'la princesse Mirabelle', 'un château'.



Year 4

This week, in Year 4 we celebrated 100 days of school. The 100 day of school is an international event in schools, where children engage in activities around the number 100. Here are a few activities the students participated in to celebrate the day.



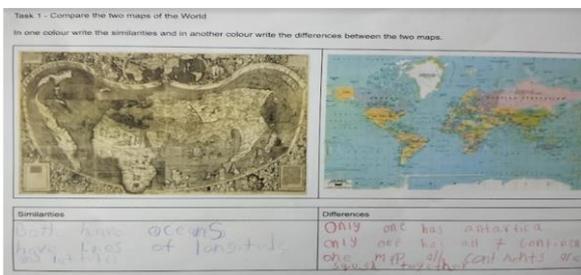
Year 6

Last week Year 6 participated in an Anti-Bullying workshop run by Mrs Rabab Kassem. The children discussed what bullying is and how it affects people. They also made suggestions about how to stop bullying happening. A big 'THANK YOU' to Ali's Mum, Ms Maeva, Ms Honorine and Mr Anani for their support.



Year 5

Year 5 have continued to investigate the age of exploration. This week we used both primary sources and secondary sources to help us study how the same event can be seen through different perspectives. We looked at a map of the world from 1509 and compared it to a modern day map. It was extremely interesting to see how people's knowledge of the world has changed in the last few centuries. Can you take a look at the map and spot any differences?



What is your favourite thing to do after school or on weekends?

Reet: *Swimming.*

Vidhit: *Play cricket.*

Do you have any hobbies or activities that you really enjoy?

Reet: *Swimming.*

Vidhit: *Cricket.*

What's the best thing about school for you?

Reet: *I like to study.*

Vidhit: *Meet my friends.*

Can you tell me something cool or interesting you've learned recently?

Reet: *Ratio and proportion.*

Vidhit: *Ratio and proportion.*

If you could create a new game, what would it be about?

Reet: *A game to study Maths.*

Vidhit: *A game like a spelling bee for a group.*

If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?

Reet: *Not to feel pain.*

Vidhit: *To say someone's name and see what they are doing.*

What's something special you love doing with your family?

Reet: *Talking about something.*

Vidhit: *Talk to each other and tell jokes.*

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Reet: *Maldives because of the sea.*

Vidhit: *To Pluto to see what it looks like.*

What do you want to be when you grow up, and why?

Reet: *A doctor to help sick people.*

Vidhit: *A cricketer to be a celebrity.*

Can you tell me something you really want to learn how to do?

Reet: *To be an excellent swimmer.*

Vidhit: *To climb a tree.*

What's your favourite book or story, and why do you like it?

Reet: *Dork Diaries because it's fun.*

Vidhit: *Roald Dahl because his books have comedy and are interesting like "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"*

Do you have a favourite animal or a favourite place to visit?

Reet: *A rabbit.*

Vidhit: *Singapore.*

How do you think we can help people who might be sad or upset?

Reet: *By distracting their mind.*

Vidhit: *Playing with them.*

Is there something that was difficult for you at first, but then became easy with practice?

Reet: *Skating.*

Vidhit: *Chess.*

What's something you'd like to get better at?

Reet: *Dancing.*

Vidhit: *Football.*



Dr Palanga IT Exhibition and Safer Internet Day

On Monday, February 5th, 2023, BSL pioneered its first annual IT Exhibition, showcasing students' IT prowess. Ms Bolaji Aliyu, Mr Kodjo Akakpo and the IT team started the week with an Assembly, dedicating this day to the services of Togolese hero, Dr Venant Palanga who played a pivotal role in the digital transformation of the University of Lomé and served as Technical Advisor in charge of digital technology to the Minister of Higher Education and Research of Togo. We were honoured to have Dr. Palanga himself visit the exhibition and inspire our students and staff.

The students learned how to keep themselves safe online using various devices. Later, guests, parents, and visitors visited various stalls where students showcased their IT and programming skills. Mr Akif Naqvi, Head of School, emphasised in his opening speech the importance of technology, especially AI, regardless of the career path students choose.

He challenged the students to create more programs, apps, and put them on the Play Store. Dr Palanga also engaged students with questions about their work and was impressed by their accomplishments.

Dr Palanga thanked Mr Akif Naqvi, Mr Guy, Ms Aliyu, and the entire team of BSL. He told BSL that participating in this event dedicated to himself was a source of infinite honour.

He was deeply impressed by the students' IT display. Their level of knowledge and commitment is an eloquent testimony to the quality of their work. He was moved to see the extent to which they were guided with passion and dedication. He expressed his readiness for any future collaboration. The language barrier should not be an obstacle to working together. He reiterated his warmest thanks to all for this unforgettable experience. Their generosity and hospitality will remain engraved in his memory.

Dr Palanga IT Exhibition and Safer Internet Day (Continued)



On Wednesday, the IT Team, in collaboration with wEquipu, organised its first STEM Robotics workshop for students, staff, parents, and friends, where everyone had hands-on experience in constructing and programming robots.



Ntchoula Geraud HOUNGBO Year 12 wrote *"Today, there was an exciting exhibition where we learned how to build robots. I was part of a group with 5 other students. Our task was to construct a basketball-playing robot and compete against 3 other groups to finish first. Despite being told that finishing wasn't crucial, our competitive spirit kicked in, and I definitely wanted our group to win. We followed instructions on an iPad, sorting pieces by colour and assembling the robot. We divided into subgroups to work on different parts: movement, arms, and the catapult for shooting the ball. Although another group finished first, we persevered with an additional 20 minutes given due to our determination. In the end, we successfully completed the robot, although it couldn't utilise its hands due to wiring mistakes. Despite this, we were proud of our achievement. The experience was positive as I collaborated with different peers and had my first hands-on experience with robotics, which turned out to be intuitive and enjoyable. Initially anxious, building the robot made me feel relaxed, confident, and able to contribute effectively to my group."*



Francis CHARDY, a Year 9 student added, *"The Robotics Workshop 2024 was a massive success, as many different people from Lower Primary to Upper Secondary were able to learn the value and importance of teamwork and collaboration as well as getting to expand their knowledge on technological devices. Making for an adaptive and entertaining experience overall!"*

VIRTUAL REALITY - ON THURSDAY

Mr Desire Akoda, a proud alumnus, the CEO of JEUXDIA generously gave back to his alma mater by giving the students the opportunity to experience virtual reality. The afternoon was filled with excitement as students immersed themselves in the thrilling world of virtual reality, courtesy of his thoughtful contribution.

Dr Palanga IT Exhibition and Safer Internet Day (Photo Gallery)



SRM University AP's visit to the British School of Lomé

The British School of Lomé welcomed Ms Bhavana Deep Mani, Academic Counsellor from SRM University AP in India. SRM University (<https://srmap.edu.in>) provides students with diverse and globally recognised educational opportunities and offers up to 70% scholarships for undergraduate application. They also offer various pathways with embedded semester abroad options and joint degrees with US universities such as Berkeley, Illinois Institute of Technology, UC DAVIS University of California, University of Skovde, and Flinders University among others.

For more information, please contact Mr. David, our Career Counsellor at david.nyamikou@bsl.tg



BSL Careers Awareness Week 2024



The British School of Lomé Careers Awareness Week 2024

Monday 12th to Wednesday 14th February 2024

Dream Big, Work Hard, Succeed Bigger

[Access the agenda here.](https://shorturl.at/kmyz2)
<https://shorturl.at/kmyz2>



Harmattan Advice

Harmattan is a season in West Africa which occurs between the end of November and the middle of March. It is mainly characterized by cold, dry and dusty winds. The weather is usually cold in most places, especially in the mornings and at night.

HARMATTAN

TIPS TO PROTECT CHILDREN DURING THE HARMATTAN SEASON

- Choose the right outfits
- Ensure children stay hydrated
- Watch out for negative symptoms
- Keep the Home clean
- Moisturize! Moisturize!! Moisturize!!!
- Give them more fruits and vegetables

References
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<https://punchng.com/care-children-harmattan-period/> | <https://mamalette.com/blog/featured/protecting-your-babys-health-during-harmattan/>

BIOFEM
www.biofemgroup.com

Our Nurses advice

1. Hydrate - Drink more water
2. Moisturize - Use Shea butter to avoid dry skin
3. Wear a face mask
4. Wash your face regularly
5. Use lip balm
6. Be aware of your health as allergies can be worsened
7. Eat more fruits and vegetables

Food for Thought

WHILE WE TRY TO TEACH OUR CHILDREN ALL ABOUT LIFE, OUR CHILDREN TEACH US WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT.
Angela Schwindt

IF YOU HAVE GOOD THOUGHTS THEY WILL SHINE OUT OF YOUR FACE LIKE SUNBEAMS AND YOU WILL ALWAYS LOOK LOVELY.
RALPH WALDO DAHL

BE SILLY, BE HONEST, BE KIND.
RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Senior Boys Football

BSL Senior Boys' Football team played a friendly football game against their Ecole Internationale Cours Lumiere counterparts last Saturday (3-2-2024). The result was 8 to 3 in favour of the BSL Team. Well done to the BSL LIONS team! Go LIONS!!!



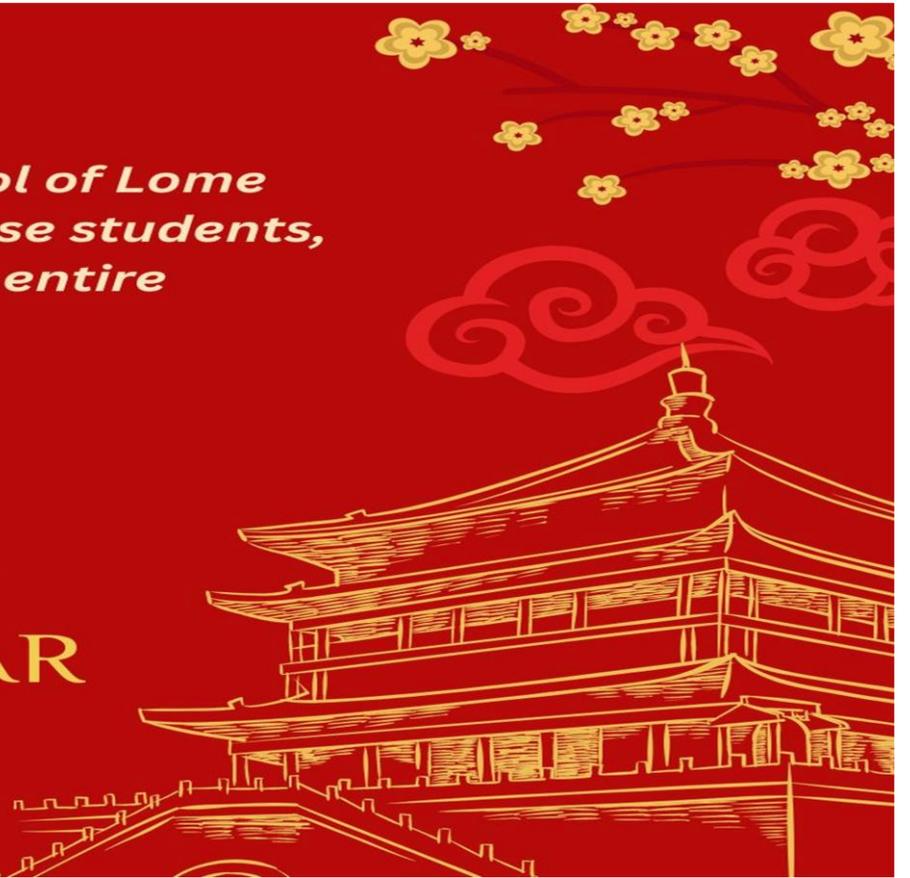
Happy Chinese New Year



*The British School of Lome
wishes our Chinese students,
parents, and the entire
community...*

A
HAPPY
CHINESE
NEW YEAR

Saturday 10th
February 2024



Primary Awards

Congratulations to the primary students who received Golden Tickets and Swimming Certificates this week.



International Education



**Nominations
now
open**



We wanted to remind you the nominations for the 2024 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards are open!

Let's celebrate teachers worldwide and say thanks to those who truly make a difference. The Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards is a global competition in which you can nominate a current primary or secondary teacher for something wonderful they have done.

Reasons to nominate:

- Recognise the outstanding efforts of teachers who are going above and beyond.
- Share the contributions teachers are making in shaping students' futures.
- Join a global community helping to showcase the importance of teachers.

If you know a dedicated teacher, then we want to hear from you! You can introduce the Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards to your class, or why not nominate a colleague? Nominations are simple, submit your entry on our website and be sure to include examples!

Don't forget, nominations close 15 February 2024.

Follow this link to vote: <https://shorturl.at/knMQV>