

Newton British School Newsletter



Newton British School

November 2009

To have a positive influence on the world around us

The Usual Suspects

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In With the New



Newton British School's new look really does make our school great and a bright place to be.

New School, New Year, New Gym

When we arrived back at school in September the whole place had been transformed. The new look white buildings with a red and blue trim were well received and really do highlight our British links. The owner of the school has worked very hard to create an environment where

First Term Overview

We move towards the end of the first term at Newton British School (NBS) and now seems a good time to take a look back at the term. There have been some wonderful events that have gone on over the first term and some things that have required us all to work hard to overcome. The staff and pupils of NBS thank you for your full support through these

times. New teachers have joined the existing staff and together they have formed excellent team under Anne Foxwell our new Principal. More from her later in the issue. We are only a young school but we are beginning to make our mark in the education community and things go from strength to strength each day.

children want to learn and have fun and the new Newton look certainly is a hit with British children and staff. The school gym has also had some major work and we now have a truly wonderful facility to take part in sporting activities and after school clubs.





The Principal's View

It is with enormous pleasure that I introduce our newly formatted NBS Newsletter. Staff and children have spent considerable time and effort creating this and I hope you find it both informative and enjoyable.

The start of the new academic year has brought many wonderful changes to our school, from the freshly painted buildings in our school colours of blue, red and white to the addition of many new staff and children. I am delighted to welcome sixteen new teachers to our staff – they are all talented, experienced and enthusiastic individuals who further enhance our already strong and dedicated team. In addition to year group teachers, their number includes full time, specialist ICT and Arabic language teachers.

Our student numbers have grown at an incredible rate this term and have more than doubled since June. We now have over three hundred children, from all parts of the world, making up our student body. To cater for this exciting growth we have added ten additional year group classes giving us a total of twenty classes from Pre School through to Year 6. It is truly wonderful to walk around our school and see such an eclectic mix of eager and enthusiastic children all communicating in English! It has undoubtedly been an extremely busy and productive term for all in our school community. The weeks have been filled with so many memorable and treasured moments that they have simply flown by – so much so that I can hardly believe the end of term holidays are only a few short weeks away!

I would like to close by thanking all of our parents and children for your fantastic energy, enthusiasm and support - without your efforts NBS would not be the school it is. I wish each and every one of you a very safe and happy holiday – Eid Mubarak!



The effects of H1N1

Well the H1N1 virus certainly has taken centre stage this year, both in health and in education. The decision to close the school for a week to allow any incubated virus to show itself has meant that the children and staff have had to work hard to fit in all of the exciting topic work and planned activities into the already busy school day. The absence of the great school assembly has been the biggest casualty through the process. The opportunity to

have a pupil of the week and celebrate success is a loss to us all at the moment but hopefully we will be able to resume these as soon as the restrictions regarding large groups of children are lifted. In the meantime we continue to be vigilant and make sure that the children follow all of the precautions that have been put forward to minimise the risk of infection to all those concerned including children, parents and staff.

Author Visit

The school was taken over for one day in November by Nick Toczek, the much loved and very talented poet from the UK. He brought along his many characters and magic tricks and wowed staff and children alike with his fantastic mesmerising performance. The children from Pre-school to Year Six all attended sessions throughout the day. The idea behind the day was to try and inspire the children to write excellent poetry. The day was a success and the children have learned lots and lots.



International Day

The events that took place on International Day last month were truly amazing and the journey that the children made around the world was wonderful. They danced in Brazil and Spain and had traditional foods and dishes in Pakistan and Egypt. The journey took them to Australia where the children made bright coloured boomerangs and then on to Korea where they could taste delicious sushi and authentic Korean

food. The children all had a passport stamped as they travelled. They were able to take the things that they had made on the day home and display these at home or keep them as a memory of a great day. The event was really made possible by the work and effort of staff and parents. A truly great effort and a total and complete success. Well Done and thank you to all those involved!



Inside The Foundation Stage

Starting school is a wonderful time in the life of a child, a time of great strides in learning and in social and emotional development. Many, many things affect your child's success. The children within both Preschool and Reception are welcomed from all countries throughout the world. The children originate from countries such as: Britain, Philippines, Australia, Qatar, Canada, America, New Zealand, South Africa, Egypt, amongst many others. Some of these children are new

to the school, the country and the Gulf culture. They speak different languages and every child is different. Each child is at a slightly different developmental stage and so we encourage the children to discover and explore their new surroundings. They appear to be very happy since starting school in September. The children follow the Early Learning Goals which feed into the British National Curriculum so that they are ready for Key Stage One.



New Staff in Foundation Stage

Just like most parts of Newton British School, Foundation has had new staff. The new staff have worked extremely hard to set up new classrooms and have made the environment in which the children work and play very exciting. This reporter is very envious and has a visit to the Foundation Stage at least once a day just for a look at what the children are up to! Mrs Craig, Foundation Stage Coordinator, wants to say a very big thank you to all the staff in the Foundation Stage. A big thank you then to Miss Tyrrell, Miss Phillips, Miss Walker, Miss Moynihan, Miss Ramsay and of course Miss Conn and all of our fantastic teaching assistants.





Inside Key Stage One

On the 14th October this term a highly successful 'Curriculum Open Afternoon' for the parents took place. Parents came and were able to find out details about the National Curriculum of England and Wales that is being taught to their children.

All members of staff from the key stage presented an overview of the curriculum, including the main areas of study and support mechanisms available for the children. Parents were also provided with the opportunity to view the multitude of resources used within the key stage and were able to ask questions about what the children would be learning. This was a rewarding experience for both the parents and teachers involved and is definitely something for your diary next year. Don't miss it! Rumour has it

Nick Toczek wows the crowds

On the 5th of November, instead of gunpowder treason and plot the children in Key Stage 1 took part in an interactive and highly entertaining performance by the UK author and poet Nick Toczek when he paid a visit to Newton British School. As well as the whole school performance the children of Key Stage 1 also had the opportunity to participate in a more personal session with the award winning author, learning some simple and effective poetry writing skills. Hysterical poetry and amazing magic tricks were also performed. The children met Humpfree the camel with attitude as Nick captivated the children in what was a truly enjoyable day. The work he did will stay with the children and staff for a very long time to come.

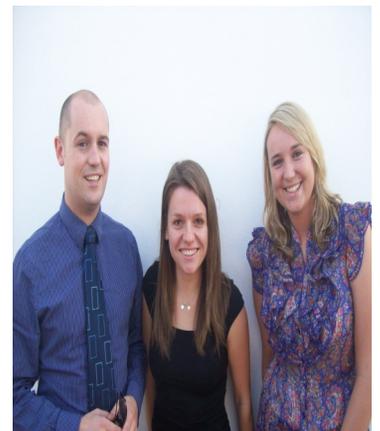


The new kids on the block

Mr Rooney was born in Scotland and undertook his teaching qualification at the University of the West of Scotland in Ayrshire. This term Mr Rooney organised and ran a very successful chess ECA. Children from all key stages have enjoyed learning the moves and building up their tactical skills.

Ms Wood was born in Manchester but grew up in Southern Africa. She gained her teaching qualification at Durham University in England. This term Ms Wood has been running an inspired Arts and Crafts ECA where the children have been perfecting their creative talents.

Ms Smith was born in London and studied her teaching qualification at Durham University. Ms Smith is looking forward to next term where she will be running a netball ECA.



Inside Key Stage Two Magic in Music

This term Key Stage Two has seen changes in teachers and also in students. The success of the school has meant that we have a new child nearly every week. This is great for the Key Stage and the school as it brings new influences, experience and knowledge into a vibrant new learning environment. As part of this new learning space which encourages

diversity we are always looking for new ways to challenge the thinking of our children. This was one of the reasons that we went to see, hear and experience the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra. The children from Years Four, Five and Six attended the day which took place at the Exhibition Centre at Aspire. What an amazing day we had at the performance of Magic

In Music. We were treated to works by composers such as Prokofiev and Dukas, Musorgsky, Berlioz and Ponchielli. The conductor was Maestro Stefanelli. The theme was to use your imagination to make magic. The whole experience was amazing and both the orchestra and the children were absolutely wonderful and fantastic!



Focus on Year 4

This term has unfortunately seen the departure of Ann Anderson from Year Four. Miss Anderson along with Mr Houston have been looking at bones in Science. The display in the classroom is truly a

sight to behold and has led to some really excellent drawing as well as the Science topic. Truly cross curricular work here! This has not been the only focus of the term as the children have also been finding out

about the Ancient Egyptians. Year Four made some clay pots, did some weaving, built some skeletons and found a new way to measure the distance around their hands. I am sure that Mr Hardacre is look-

The New Staff

Mr Hardacre has always wanted to teach overseas and thinks NBS is such a friendly place. He is still getting used to the high temperatures. He enjoys teaching in any year group as long as it is Key Stage 2 and his favourite subject is Science. His favourite hobby is ornithology (bird watching) and his favourite book is A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson. Mr Hardacre's favourite film is Raiders of the Lost Ark.

Mr Houston came to NBS because he had heard that it was a great school. He has made some good friends and is very sad that his best friend Ann Anderson has left. He likes teaching all subjects but his favourite is Art. In his free time he plays golf and guitar and he also runs and reads a lot. Mr Houston said that his favourite book is The Sheltering Sky by Paul Bowles and his favourite film is Cinema Paradiso.

Miss Riley came to NBS because she had also heard that it was a really good school. She likes Qatar because the weather is hot and there are lots of fun things to do. Miss Riley teaches Year Three and her favourite subject is History. Miss Riley loves shopping, swimming and exploring new places. She loves Harry Potter books and her favourite film is Love Actually.

Mr Clarke came to Qatar because he wanted the challenge of teaching in a foreign country and because he had heard it is nice and hot here. He likes teaching all children and his favourite subject is ICT. His hobbies are amateur dramatics and he likes to walk and read but not at the same time! His favourite book is The Coffee Trader By David Liss and his favourite film is The Italian Job.

Revision Week and Exam Week

The time has come for exam preparation to start. Revision packs will be given to the children so that the week of Eid (25/11/09 to 30/11/09) can be used for the revision of English, Maths and Science. The results will be used to assess the progress of the children this term. It is really important

that children use the time to work through the revision packs and prepare fully for the upcoming exams, which will take place on the week starting 6th December 2009 and will last for three days. It is so important that children are in the right frame of mind for exams so please make sure that your children are in

bed on time the night before any exams and that in the morning they have a good breakfast, are in school on time and are ready to take an exam. Our thanks in advance from everyone involved at this crucial time for your child and teachers in school.



Winter Wonderland

As the temperature falls our attention focuses on the 15th December and our Winter Wonderland event. This event is a must see and is taking place this year in the evening from 5pm to 7pm. Focusing on the winter season it is an opportunity for families to come together with

staff to celebrate the end of term and the start of the winter season. As the night sky darkens prepare for the streets of NBS to be transformed into streets alive with ribbons, stalls, snowmen and twinkling fairy lights. Walk along the streets to the sound of NBS

choir singing your favourite winter songs, sample winter delights such as hot drinks, face painting, games, craft items to buy and hot dogs. Get involved as children come dressed ready for a costume parade and be prepared to be wowed as classes perform live ballet,

New Spring Term

It won't be long until we are back at school in January and ready to start a second term. We have lots planned in the school in the new year and you can help us at the school in a number of ways. Do we have your up to date contact information? If you have changed your number please inform the office so that we can update the information that we have for you. In the event of an urgent message it is important that we can con-

tact you in plenty of time. When we are at school it is vitally important that everyone follows the school rules and is on time for the start of school. School uniform is also very important and it is the thing that shows that you are part of the team in school. The wearing of hats is a very important requirement and is compulsory at playtimes. No hat means no play. These rules are adhered to strictly at play times for the safety of

children. The children will be looking at new topics and new areas within all parts of the curriculum. You will be informed of these topics and developments as the term progresses and it is vital that you engage with the planner/diary that is sent home at the end of each school day. If you need to speak to the class teacher make a note in the book and the class teacher will respond to your request accordingly.

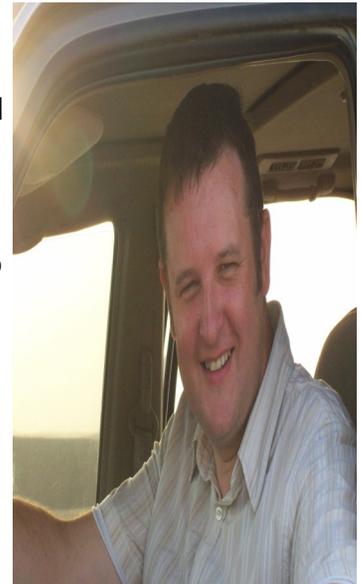


The View from...

This term's view comes from Mr Clarke our ICT Teacher and Key Stage 2 Coordinator. Mr Clarke writes that life in Doha has really been amazing since the first step off the plane to the arrival at the school. Mr Clarke has come from the UK to teach in Doha. He writes that the pace of life is so dif-

ferent from the UK, it is almost too hard to describe. The loud hustle and bustle of a mall to the quiet relaxed atmosphere of the Souq are in such contrast that it takes some getting used to. The heat is also a major difference to the UK and this is the thing that friends back home ask about the most.

The place and the experience have been really wonderful so far and long may it continue. The return to the UK will be nice but I will want to return to my new home in Doha very soon as the people and the country have to be amongst the most interesting in the world.



Pictures from International Day



The Funny side...

These are some of the things that have been said by children this term that made us all laugh...

Did you know that you use the taste buddies in your mouth to taste with..

As you get older you get less clever than you

were when you were younger...

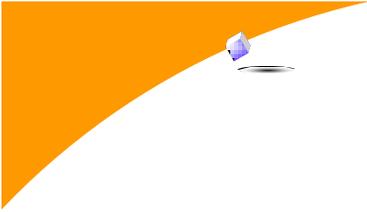
What is the Capital of France? F!

The teacher held up a colour square and said this colour is tan... one child in the class exclaimed my mummy has one of those!

A child was drinking juice at snack time when she got the hiccups. She looked at the teacher and said I don't want this, it makes my teeth cough.

My daughter aged 4 stood on the scales in the bathroom and said, how much do I cost?

"Miss I have a spider in my mouth," called out a boy in the class. "Really what does it taste like?" asked the teacher. "Chicken Miss!"



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