



# NEWSLETTER

**Dear Parents, guardians and carers,**

I hope this message finds you well.

I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support during these challenging times. As an international school, we understand that being far from home can present unique difficulties, and we deeply appreciate your understanding and patience.

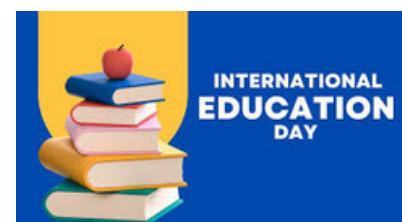
Unfortunately, there are instances where circumstances change, making it impossible for some teachers to complete their contracts. While this is regrettable, it is not always avoidable. Please rest assured that we are doing our utmost to manage these situations and ensure that your children's education remains uninterrupted and of the highest quality.

Your continued support and understanding are invaluable to us as we navigate these challenges. We are committed to providing a nurturing and stable environment for our students, and your cooperation plays a crucial role in achieving this goal.

Thank you once again for your patience and support. Together, we will continue to create a positive and enriching experience for our students.

Warm regards,

**Mr Gareth Jones**  
**Head of Primary**



## **Happy International Education Day – Celebrating 24 January!**

Our school celebrated International Education Day with engaging activities led by the Student Council. The day began with exciting quizzes and critical thinking challenges, encouraging both teachers and students to reflect on the meaning of education. Thought-provoking questions like

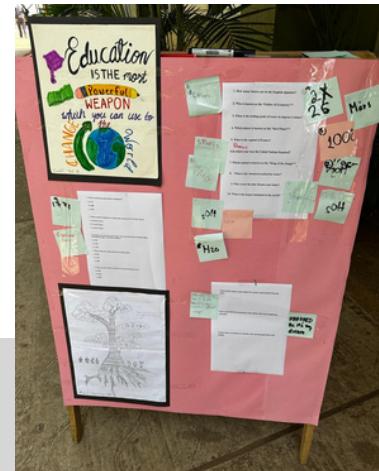
***"If you could create a new subject, what would it be and why?" and "If there were no teachers or schools, how would people learn?"*** inspired fascinating discussions and creative ideas.

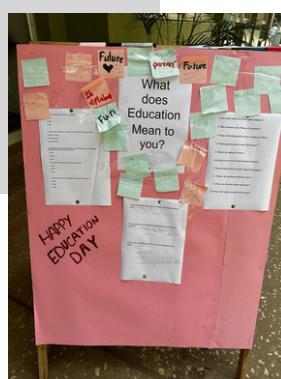


Students also shared their dreams, such as which universities they would love to visit and why. Teacher appreciations were thoughtfully expressed by the Student Council, creating a warm and celebratory atmosphere.

Congratulations to **Saii** and **Aviel (Y8)**, winners of the Art Competition highlighting the importance of education! The day concluded with a successful Bake Sale.

A big thank you to our Student Council for their leadership and creativity in making this event memorable!



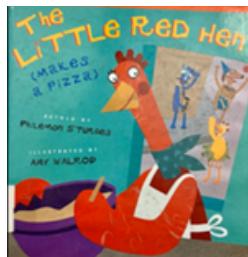


## NURSERY AND CRÈCHE NEWS

We continue to Play, Learn and Grow in Nursery!

This week in Nursery we have been getting ready to open up our pizzeria in class. We had a trip to the pizzeria in La Bruschetta to help us prepare to make our own pizzas.

The story of the week is 'The little Red Hen makes Pizza'



We continue to Play, Learn and Grow in Nursery!



We continue to Play, Learn and Grow in Nursery!

**Talk Homework**

Listen to the story 'The Little Red Hen makes Pizza'

Talk with your child about the story.

What colours can they see on the pizza? What do they like to eat on their pizza?

## Our little inquirers exploring the wonders of animals and their habitats!

Reception students have been showing incredible curiosity and enthusiasm in our current unit on **Animals and Their Habitats**. They've been active inquirers—asking thoughtful questions, uncovering fascinating facts, and making exciting discoveries about animals and their homes.

Their sense of wonder is truly inspiring, and it's amazing to see how engaged they are on this journey of learning.

Bravo, Reception!

## RECEPTION NEWS



# YEAR 1 NEWS

What a fantastic time we had challenging each other as we battled out our spelling Bee words!  
Congratulations to our Year 1 winners Lise and Michael.  
Better luck to all our friends next time!!



## YEAR 2 NEWS

Year 2 students dove into an exciting science experiment with Freddy the Fish! They explored how water pollution affects the environment by using a fun, hands-on activity to see what happens when pollutants mix with water. Each student helped Freddy navigate through different harmful substances and how it made Freddy feel. The class learned how litter, chemicals, and waste can harm fish and other creatures in different landforms.  
Let's be water protectors and keep our planet clean!

# YEAR 3 NEWS



Wow! Year 3 can really draw well. Everyone concentrated and made a great effort and the results were fantastic.



## YEAR 4 NEWS

The Year 4's took to the High Seas this week to test their map skills and escape from the dreaded Treasure Pirates. They needed their wits, a compass, and a trusty map in order to identify where the hidden treasure was buried to buy their way home from their nautical voyage. After solving puzzles, riddles, and maths equations, they were presented with a logic puzzle that pointed them in the right direction. Luckily, they all made it safely home with a yo ho ho and a bottle of Youki. Ask them about their adventures!



## YEAR 5 NEWS

### FRACTIONS AND ART



Last week, Year 5 combined their understanding of fractions with an art project. They based their pictures on the works of Sol Le-Witt, an American artist who gave the same mathematical instructions to different artists and would compare what they produced. We used our understanding of equivalent fractions to create our own Le-Witt inspired pictures.



## YEAR 6 NEWS



This week we focused on the flow of energy in the ecosystem. The students were really engaged in exploring how species interact using a food chain and a food web. They made a class food web to further understand how energy flows from one organism to another through the ecosystem as a producer to consumers and the various changes within a food web.



## TTRS

Introducing the band of the week from our Times Table Rockstars... This week the band is made up of those that have shown the biggest improvement in their studio time. A big well done to each of our band members: JJ Powers (Shlok Year 6), Noor Kinney (Roxanne Year 3), Cheryl Vincent (Rokhaya Year 6) and Rex Fobert (Balin Year 5).

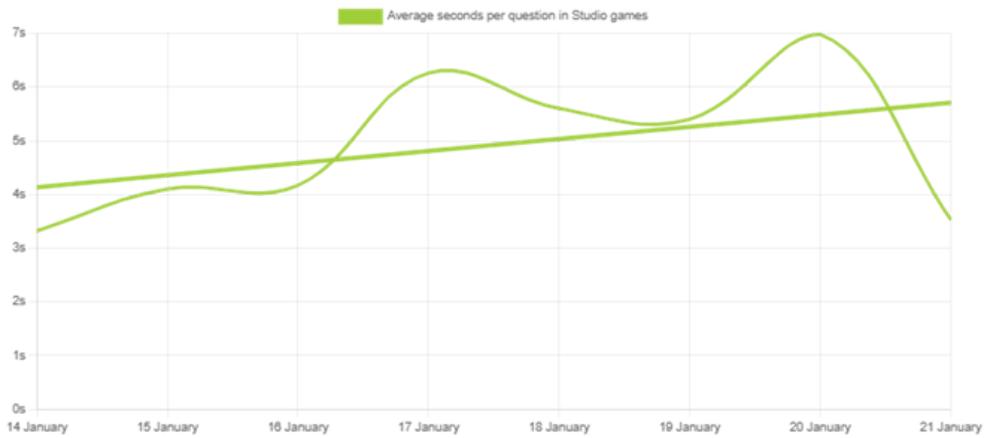
Take a look at the graph below to see how quick all pupils are answering multiplication and division questions.

On average we are around 3 seconds per question across the school... with practice and increased fluency we should be aiming for sub 2 seconds!!!

**TTRS BAND FACTFILE**

Each week there will be a profile of **FOUR** TTRS Rock Stars Featured here. This week we introduce... Slow n Steady to Quick n Ready

Rock Star	Profile	Improvement
JJ Powers		Rock Legend: 2:06 sec improvement
Cheryl Vincent		Rock Star: 2:20 sec improvement
Rex Fobert		Headliner: 6:08 sec improvement
Noor Kinney		Breakthrough Artist: 2.25 sec improvement



## AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME (ASEP)



There is also a start to lunchtime clubs with pupils taking part in Time Table Rockstars clubs on a Monday lunchtime.

The clubs have started this week and it has been lovely to see so many pupils taking part in the broad range of activities that BSL offers.





# PRIMARY ASSEMBLY



Stars of the week

## NOMINATE A BSL TEACHER FOR THE CAMBRIDGE DEDICATED TEACHER AWARDS

We are excited to share that the Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards for this year are now open for nominations!

Last year, we were incredibly proud that our very own Mr Emmanuel Kagabo was recognised as one of the top teachers in the world, placing BSL on the global stage.

This year, parents have the wonderful opportunity to nominate a teacher who has made a positive impact on their child's education. If there's a teacher you feel deserves this recognition, we encourage you to submit a nomination by clicking here: <https://dedicatedteacher.cambridge.org/>



# THE BSL COMMUNITY HAS A NEW MEDICAL DOCTOR!

## DR. CASEY ST. LUCE



Casey St. Luce recently added his name to an already long list of medical professionals within the BSL alumni community.

Casey came to BSL in August of 2010, and joined the Year 10 class, having moved here from South Florida, USA. He had a passion for Maths, Science, Chess and Football (Soccer) while at BSL. He was a boarder in Durham (Y10), Windsor (Y11) and Oxford (Ys 12 and 13) houses. Casey was a goalkeeper for the senior boys' football team and in his IB years he helped the team win trophies and tournaments. He also represented the school in Chess.

Upon graduating from BSL in 2014, Casey first went to Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in the State of America, where he studied Biochemistry and graduated with a distinction in research and magna cum laude honours in 2018. He had a short research stint in heart research at the prestigious Perelman School of Medicine, at the University of Pennsylvania, where he later enroled and finished in May this year as a Medical Doctor (MD).

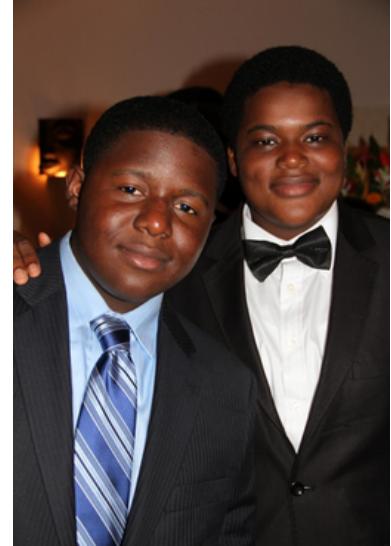
He has a deep love for the African continent especially Ghana – where he has a home.

Quoting an article about him in May 2018 in *The Temple News* (Temple University newspaper), he had this to say when considering his future ambitions – “I lived there for too long and got too close to not go back,” St. Luce said. “It’s an obligation in some way or another. When people go [to Africa] for a week they say, ‘Help the people,’ but that’s a very downward view on the continent. When you live there, it’s a different experience.”

“I want to go back and be involved in health care in some capacity,” he added. “I’m not a savior, but I’ll try my best to help those who need it.”



Playing chess for school



At prom with Tobi who also a medical doctor

# BSL SPELLING BEE



Dear Parents/Guardians,

The British School of Lomé (BSL) Primary is thrilled to introduce its Spelling Bee Initiative, aimed at fostering a love for words, enhancing literacy skills, and building confidence in our young learners.

A globally recognised tradition, Spelling Bees promote critical thinking, public speaking, and cultural exchange. At BSL, with students and staff from over 30 nationalities, this initiative celebrates diversity and inclusivity, creating a vibrant learning environment. Beyond improving vocabulary and spelling, the programme helps students develop resilience, self-esteem, and teamwork. The Spelling Bee at BSL is more than a competition—it's an empowering journey of growth and international collaboration.

## Happy International Education Day!

On this significant day, we celebrate the power of education to transform lives and empower individuals. At BSL, we strive to nurture a global community of learners, preparing students to thrive in an interconnected world and become agents of positive change.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING FOR EVERY STAFF MEMBER

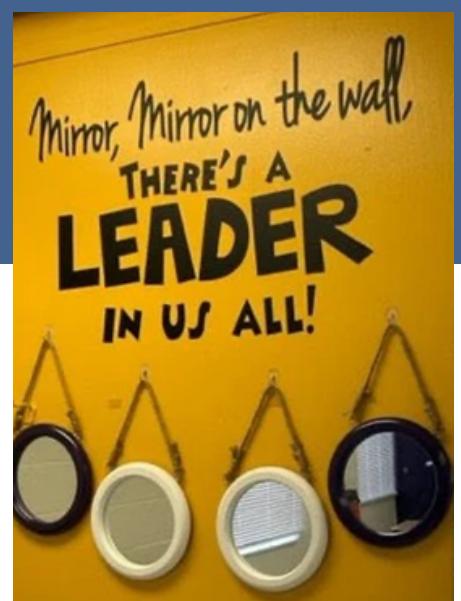
Training is a cornerstone of professional growth and organisational success. At the British School of Lomé (BSL), we believe in empowering every staff member, from teaching to operational teams, with skills that enhance their performance and confidence. For the first time, BSL organised evening IT and English training sessions for our operational staff, led by our dedicated staff volunteers. This initiative not only improved their technical and communication skills but also fostered a culture of collaboration and lifelong learning within the school community. As we continue to invest in our people, we uphold our core belief: **Endeavour is All.**

## Akif Naqvi FCCT



# THE LEADER IN US ALL

Leadership is not a title conferred by a badge or an office but a collection of skills and values that we nurture and embody daily. Everyone harbours the potential for leadership, whether they realize it or not. Leadership isn't restricted to boardrooms or battlefields; it's present in every corner of our lives, from mentoring a colleague to guiding our families. The leader in us all shines brightest when we embrace the core skills and values that define true leaders.



- Integrity:** Leadership starts with integrity. As C.S. Lewis aptly put it, "Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching." Leaders with integrity inspire trust and earn respect, essential ingredients for guiding others effectively.
- Empathy:** Leaders must understand and relate to the feelings of others. Simon Sinek once said, "Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those in your charge." Empathy fosters a supportive environment where individuals feel valued and motivated.
- Vision:** Effective leaders have a clear vision and the ability to communicate it. "The very essence of leadership is that you have to have a vision," said Theodore M. Hesburgh. Vision gives direction and purpose, empowering teams to strive toward shared goals.
- Resilience:** Challenges and setbacks are inevitable, but leaders rise above them. Nelson Mandela's words resonate deeply here: "Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again." Resilience strengthens our resolve and inspires perseverance in others.
- Humility:** True leaders recognize that leadership is not about self-aggrandisement. As John C. Maxwell noted, "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." Humility allows leaders to serve others and elevate those around them.
- Adaptability:** The ability to adapt to changing circumstances is crucial. As Charles Darwin famously remarked, "It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change." Adaptable leaders navigate uncertainties with agility, ensuring continued progress.
- Courage:** Courage is the backbone of leadership. "Courage is the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees all others," said Winston Churchill. Leaders must make difficult decisions and face challenges head-on, inspiring others to do the same.

In conclusion, the leader in us all is awakened when we embrace these skills and values. Leadership isn't reserved for a select few; it's a quality within reach for everyone willing to cultivate it. By embodying integrity, empathy, vision, resilience, humility, adaptability, and courage, we can each become the leader that guides and inspires those around us.

The essence of leadership lies in our ability to uplift and empower, making a difference in the world, one step at a time. As we strive to develop these qualities, we unlock the leader within ourselves and contribute to a future where everyone has the potential to lead.

# Chinese Zodiac Animals

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the animal names in the grid. Look for them in both horizontally and vertically.



DRAGON



R	A	A	X	E	K	Q	N	X	J	R	A	T
A	O	C	R	V	S	G	O	C	C	A	A	W
B	J	H	O	U	M	Q	S	N	A	K	E	H
B	G	O	O	Y	O	M	W	V	S	T	D	W
I	N	R	S	S	N	K	W	S	T	L	W	F
T	T	S	T	V	K	M	M	P	N	R	L	T
L	D	E	E	B	E	S	F	I	C	D	J	I
Q	Y	M	R	V	Y	M	V	G	N	M	I	G
Z	G	R	M	S	L	K	J	Z	F	N	G	E
O	L	Z	K	O	W	G	O	A	T	D	F	R
X	Q	D	T	X	U	W	Y	P	I	Z	T	Q
Q	K	Q	L	O	V	D	R	A	G	O	N	P
D	O	G	E	P	L	I	I	X	Z	G	V	R





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