

# The HORNBILL GAZETTE

March / April 2019

Issue 16

Writing Focus Page 4

Parent Questions  
Page 3

Books to read in  
Primary School  
Page 2

Pages 7 & 8



## SPORT

UPDATE



# happy Holi everyone



Following a school assembly on the story of Holi, children and parents enjoyed a fantastic Holi Fun Run at the Garrison Sports Pitch to help celebrate 25 years of the Royal Gurkha Rifles





Bad Dad by David Walliams is currently the most-read book in primary schools, while Gangsta Granny by the same author is currently the most-read book in secondary schools.

The findings are revealed in the **What Kids Are Reading 2019** report, released in March, which is

based on research of reading habits of more than a million children in almost 5,000 schools in the UK and Ireland.

**Jeff Kinney** (who wrote the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series) remains the most widely-read author overall for the sixth year running has replaced Dahl as a favourite among primary school pupils by taking five of the top 10 spots in the most-read books table, with Dahl taking just two.

The report's author, Professor Keith Topping, of the University of Dundee, has stated that: **"Instilling reading culture in schools isn't just about dedicated reading time. Teachers and librarians should also encourage lively classroom discussion about fiction, with children sharing favourite authors and titles. And of course it is important to encourage children to read outside of school, so letting them take books home is crucial."**

The research has been carried out by Renaissance UK, which says it is the largest ever study of its kind. **Top 10 most-read books in primaries** (and number of times each was read by children in the sample).

1. **Bad Dad** by David Walliams (29,426)
2. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Getaway** by Jeff Kinney (27,707)
3. **The Twits** by Roald Dahl (27,642)
4. **Gangsta Granny** by David Walliams (25,520)
5. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid** by Jeff Kinney (25,217)
6. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Roderick Rules** by Jeff Kinney (23,498)
7. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days** by Jeff Kinney (23,404)
8. **George's Marvellous Medicine** by Roald Dahl (23,250)
9. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul** by Jeff Kinney (22,939)
10. **Billionaire Boy** by David Walliams (22,804)

**Favourite books in primary schools** (and number of votes)

1. **Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone** by J K Rowling (9,866)
2. **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets** by J K Rowling (8,144)
3. **Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban** by J K Rowling (7,269)
4. **Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire** by J K Rowling (5,831)
5. **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows** by J K Rowling (5,375)
6. **Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix** by J K Rowling (4,683)
7. **Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince** by J K Rowling (2,831)
8. **Percy Jackson and the Last Olympian** by Rick Riordan (2,206)
9. **Scorpia Rising** by Anthony Horowitz (2,044)
10. **Point Blanc** by Anthony Horowitz (2,022)



**So how many have you read?**

All books listed above are available in the school library and can be taken home by children in Years 1-6.





# Parent Questions

Each month we dedicate this page to answering questions parents have asked us.

## Changing the schools working hours

**Question:** Can we change the school hours to better suit the Garrison's needs (this question was asked at the Commanders Q & A session)?

**Answer:** We are looking into the needs of the community and the possibility of changing the school hours. It is not a short process to change the hours of a school so it will be some time before this could be changed. However we are working on it.

One area we must get right is the times when children are outside in the heat - which if we change the schools hours will mean we must add in a lunch break. Meaning children will be outside after eating.

## Nepali Specialist Teachers

**Question:** Can the school tell us what is going to happen after the NSTs have left Hornbill School?

**Answer:** The future support for children who have English as an Additional Language (EAL) will continued to be supported at Hornbill School. However, at this time DCYP have not finalised what this support will look like. The Headteacher will notify all parents of the future developments as soon as they have been finalised.

## Holiday during term time

**Question:** Why do I have to write a letter asking for permission for my child to go on holiday during term time?

**Answer:** All statutory school aged children have to be in school for 190 days each academic year unless there is an exceptional circumstance. The Department for Education requests that all parents request leave from the school and can only go on leave once a school has given permission.

As much as the school realises the importance of holidays as a family unit, this is officially not recognised as an exceptional circumstance and the school can not officially sanction this. However the school looks at each individual case to see if the circumstances around the request are because of our location here in Brunei. Wherever possible we try to say yes so that you can make the most of your time in South East Asia or maximise time back in Nepal / UK.

All details relating to exceptional leave are on our website and can be obtained from the school office.

If you have a question for the school that you feel could be answered publicly please contact the school office and we will post the answer / response in future editions of the Gazette.

We will shortly be answering your questions and responses form the yearly parent questionnaire.



Friday 14th June

Glastonbill Festival

Friday 3rd May

Book Week - Dress up day. Please see letters sent out last week.

Week of 13th May

SATs week  
Year 2 & Year 6 children.

Week of 27th May

Mid Term Break

Thursday 2nd May

BJSL T-ball tournament.

## School Closure

We will be closed on **Monday 15th July**.  
The last day of term will be Tuesday 16th July at 1330hs

For all up-to-date calendar events please check our live calendar on the website:

[www.hornbillschool.com](http://www.hornbillschool.com)



# The amazing Tongo Lizard

A report written by Gavin

## Introduction

This aggressive yet majestic creature prowls the lush grounds of the Forbidden forest. Its existence is unknown to much making its properties (teeth, scales, blood and teeth), phenomenally valuable to the urivance we call poachers, whilst its distant cousin, the antic Tongo Lizard, lives sagely gazing at the majestic antic horizon of the Himalayas.

## The life cycle

When it's born, the Tongo Lizard's parents abandon it with nothing to fend off predators (one of the reasons why Tongo Lizards are at the phase of extinction). Although its strength matches those of elephants, it's vulnerable to predators, since Tongo Lizards need to grow their scales. This leaves it with supreme strength and agility to find prey to feast on and to escape the average predators that gancey it.

After it gully grows, the Tongo becomes a slow but powerful tank with legs. Now, instead of fleeing predators, the predators gear it... It then mates with an other Tongo Lizard and the cycle starts again.

Gavin in Year 5, has written an amazing report about a Gecko called Tongo. This was written as part of our Family Learning Programme (FLP) in school which saw parents joining their children to learn beside them in the classroom.

The FLP was a huge success with over 150 parents joining us during the week.

We liked Gavin's writing and his report style. We asked if he would give permission for this to be included with the Gazette this month. We hope you enjoy reading this great piece of writing as much as we did.





## Dedication & Commitment

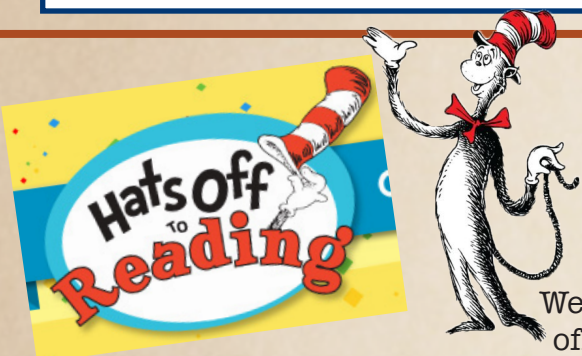


Saayok in Year 2 Seahorse Class impressed his teacher so much with his skills in art that we thought his drawing should be shared with everyone in the community.

Saayok showed the learning powers of dedication and commitment as he taught himself to draw the Grizzly Bear (pictured left) from an iPad app.



We think that Saayok is an amazing artist. Well done Saayok.



We are currently putting the final touches to our amazing 'Hats off to Reading' week which will be celebrated during the week of 29th April. The week will include asking parents to come into school to help with reading and to be good role models, by reading in and around the school. There will also be oral story telling and an opportunity for all children in the school to work on creating one large book together. More details will follow very soon.

# Hornbill School

## meet & greet

Meet the Leadership Team  
in the Dragonfly Parents Centre at Hornbill School

**Wednesday 22nd May at 0930hrs**  
(The Writing, Grammar, Spelling & Punctuation Leader will be joining us)

&

**Wednesday 12th June 0930hrs**  
(The Learning Leaders will be joining us)

Everyone is  
**Welcome**

Come and join us in a relaxed environment and discuss aspects of life at Hornbill School over a cup of coffee and some homemade snacks



## Premier League Primary Stars Poetry competition.



As part of our writing initiative, 'Hornbill Reasons to Write', children from across the school were invited, in November, to write a poem for the Premier League Primary Stars Poetry competition.

The theme was Diversity and we were pleased to submit a range of poems written by children from Years 2 to 6. Whilst our entries were not judged as winners of the overall competition, we were pleased to receive certificates and poetry books for those who entered.

For taking the opportunity to be a part of this competition and exercising their creativity, these children are all winners in their own right.



## Learning to Learn Building Learning Powers

In this article we look at five ways how you can help foster a growth mindset at home.

**2.** Be a growth mindset role model. Be honest: how often do you say "I can't (cook/sing/balance my bank account)" or "I'm terrible at (sports/spelling/public speaking)" as if there's no hope for you? Make sure you're sending the right message - maybe even take on something new!

**4.** Remember growth mindset isn't just academic; it applies to many areas of life (athletic, musical, social). Having trouble getting the basketball into the net? Keep making mistakes on a guitar chord? Tried to initiate play with someone but it didn't go well? Discuss the next step for improvement.

**1.** Pay attention and verbally praise children for skills that don't sound predetermined: hard work, persistence, rising to a challenge, learning from a mistake, etc., rather than being "smart", "brilliant" or "gifted".

**3.** Encourage your child to forget taking the easy route (where little learning is done) and instead embrace challenges. A sheet full of questions he already knows the answers to won't "grow the brain" like one deeper problem to solve (even if he doesn't get the correct answer).

**5.** Discourage envy of peers, and talk to your child about what he or she can learn from others who appear more successful. While skills may come more easily to some, most often there's a (possibly unseen) element of practice, persistence, and hard work which leads to achievement.



## Years 5&6 Annual Badminton Tournament

On 14th March the annual intra school badminton tournament took place involving children from Years 5 and 6.

Children were invited to sign up to play and the majority of both year groups entered both the singles and doubles tournaments. For some, this was the first time they had played 'official' games and they learnt so much during the course of the day.

The final results were:

**Girls Singles**  
Winner - Arshi  
Runner up - Shiha

**Boys Singles**  
Winner - Swarup  
Runner up - Mano

**Doubles**  
Winners - Arshi & Yalamber  
Runners up - Maximus & Anurodh

Well done to all children who took part and thank you to Mr Shahi and Mr Thapa for taking time out of class to run the tournament.



Photos here are from the Kuala Belait Football Festival - well done to all children who took part in this competition.

The results will be published in the next edition of the Gazette.





## BJSL Football Tournament 7th March

Following huge success in February at the Panaga tournament, our football teams continued their winning streak at the BJSL tournament at ISB on the 7th March.

Considering the heat they were playing in, all the children, without exception, played their hearts out with determination and commitment. As a result, most of the A teams reached the play off stage. They dug deep to score goals and came out with an amazing set of results.

Year 4 Girls - 2nd place

Year 4 boys - 1st place

Year 5 Girls - 1st place

Year 5 Boys - 3rd place

Year 6 Girls - 1st place

Year 6 Boys - 2nd place



Our B teams were also a credit to Hornbill School with all children gaining valuable competitive experience.

This was truly a team effort all round and reflected the Hornbill high flying values.

Our cumulative scores enabled us to claim the overall team trophy for the second year running. Well done to the children and adult team managers.

