

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has certainly been an unusual term – from the exceptional weather in January and early February resulting in flooding through to the exciting news that children in Year 7 and 8 can now attend the local International Schools here in Panaga and Seria from August 2025 - we have definitely enjoyed a very busy time!

This term has also involved several visits from the DCS team: Dr Rachel Ingram, Senior Educational Psychologist, visited Brunei for the first time in January. As well as working with our team and children, she also delivered a staff training session on 'Strategies for classroom support for Neurodiverse children' to further support our work here at Hornbill School.

The provision of extra-curricular clubs has continued to be extremely popular, with 15 before and after school clubs offered each week this term. Clubs have covered a range of interests including sport, dance, art and construction. Our Drama CCA is leading up to a performance of Treasure Island that the school community will be invited to watch. Further to this, enrichment activities for children this term have included:

- BJSL Cross Country Tournament with local schools
- Kindness week, culminating in Purple Day
- Reading Week, including World Book Day
- Y5 and Y6 attendance at the DIO Lion Dance Performance

Finally, we have been fortunate to welcome a number of new families to our school across the term and hope that they are all enjoying Brunei. It is always a pleasure to welcome new faces and we hope that they are enjoying their new environment.

### **Leaving Brunei**

Sadly, when welcoming new members to our community, it often means that we are also saying goodbye to families. We wish those leaving Brunei over the next few weeks every happiness and success in their new homes – please do ensure that you keep in touch with us!

If you are due to leave Brunei this year, please make sure that you inform the school office. Whilst we know that many families will be moving as part of the Unit rotation, we need every family to complete the formal 'Pupil Withdrawal paperwork. We ask that this is completed as soon as possible, even if your leaving date is currently provisional. Please find attached the required form – please can I ask you to return it to school if appropriate, if you have not done so already. Thank you!

### **Year 6**

Please can we ask that as parents of Year 6 children apply for places for their child's next school (whether in Brunei or the UK) we are also informed to support us with sharing your child's school record with their new school.

### **International Schools and UK Boarding School Meetings**

We have recently hosted a meeting for Garrison families who currently have children at **Jerudong International School**. JIS have again asked any parent who might be interested in learning more about their school to contact them if they would like to visit Panaga School to learn more about their provision. Their contact email is: <https://www.panagaschool.com/melilas>

Further to this, I am delighted to be able to invite parents of **children in Years 4 - 6** who will be remaining in Brunei next year to a presentation by **ISB Seria**, which will be delivered in our **school hall at 0900 on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March**.

Finally, the **Duke Of York School**, based in Kent, will be visiting Hornbill School on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 1400** to share a presentation about their school to any interested families of children currently in **Years 4 - 6**. This will be held in the Gill Theatre.

### **School Lunches**

Please can I remind our school community that all food on our premises must be nut free as we do have adults and children within our school community who suffer from severe nut allergies. We therefore politely request that everyone observes a **nut-free** policy and therefore do not include nuts, or any traces of nuts, in children's packed lunches. Thank you for your support with this.

### **The School Run**

I have been fortunate enough to have been able to welcome and say goodbye to our children over the last few days, spending time at both entrances. The children have arrived so sensibly and are a real credit to you all. A significant number of our pupils walk to school and so it seems sensible to ask parents to remind children of the importance of crossing the road using the many crossings around our school. Further to this, for children cycling or scooting to school, please can we ensure that they are wearing a cycle helmet.

We also politely request that children are regularly reminded about the importance of road safety when waiting for school buses and at drop off time across all SFA patches.

### **Reading**

A huge thank you all for your evident support of your child's reading throughout this term. Talking on the playground, I have been delighted to listen to children sharing details of the many books that they have read (and evidently enjoyed). They clearly value the time and support that they receive with their reading! Sharing books and other texts, even for a very short time, will benefit every child. Daily reading supports decoding letters, understanding words, putting together sentences and making meaning of what they are reading. Similarly, when an adult reads to a child, we transport them, via our voices, to a different world and expose them to new words in a way that makes it easier for them to process. As a community, we are fortunate to have a fantastic range of books here at school and a super library within the Chit Chat Community Centre to ensure that children can access a wide range of books. Please don't hesitate to contact us for any support with reading with your child – we would be happy to help!

### **World Book Day**

Further to the above, we were delighted to offer a day of fun with our World Book Day events. The children (and staff) looked wonderful in their costumes and all really enjoyed sharing these with a walk down our catwalk!

During World Book Day, we welcomed guests from across our Garrison community who offered children a story telling session, sharing a story they chose with children from across the school. Thank you all for really helping to make this a wonderful day for our children!

<p><b>Last Day of Term:</b> The final day of term is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of March at 1200hrs. The new term begins on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> of April.</p>
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Finally, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support for your children – they impress us every day with their positive attitudes and hard work. I hope that you all enjoy a wonderful weekend!

With warm regards,



**Mrs C. Neal, Headteacher**