



## Newsletter No.16 January 13th 2012

Welcome back after what I hope has been a really good holiday for you and your family.

### Welcome

A particular welcome to all families who are joining us for the first time this term. We hope that you and your children have an enjoyable, stimulating and rewarding time at the British International Primary School.

### Extra Curricular Activities

We are delighted that we have a number of new activities starting this term as well as a number of old favourites continuing. Your child will be bringing home a separate package regarding these activities.



### Parking & Drop off

Firstly, can I thank you all for your support and cooperation regarding the current parking regulations.

This morning, I, together with Tara Sonorp and two parents, met with two members of the kommun transport planners to discuss the safety issues and problems caused by the current no parking/waiting signs. I am pleased to say that we have finally had an opportunity to present the views of the school and our concerns were understood.

We have reached an agreement that an alternative plan, including a designated drop-off zone and revised parking regulations, will be trialled from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January. The kommun representatives have committed to send us full details before any new signs are put in place, so I hope to be in a position to clarify all in next week's newsletter. Until then, I have been assured that there will be no problem with stopping to **drop off** children outside the school gates, as usual. I would, however please request that, where possible, you continue to park in the sports field car park or other suggested areas and walk the last stretch to school.

I have also requested and been assured that the kommun will ensure adequate gritting of the sports field car park during icy weather and that paths will be safe to walk on. Obviously I cannot personally guarantee that they will do all of the above, but we will monitor the situation and follow up as necessary.

### Expansion Meeting

As outlined at our Board AGM and in recent newsletters, we are actively investigating expansion opportunities for the school. So that you are all aware of the current situation and future plans, I would like to invite you to an information evening on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January in the school gym, starting at 6.30pm. Tara Sonorp and I will give a presentation and then provide time for a question and answer session. **Please could you let the office know (by e-mail) if you intend to attend.**

### Calendar and Dates

I am currently busy updating our calendar for this term and will send it out with next week's newsletter. In the meantime, I would like to confirm that the Team 3 Production has been moved to Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Holiday dates for the coming school year are currently being finalised and will be presented to the Board on January 25<sup>th</sup> for confirmation. I will then inform all parents.

### School sweatshirts and T-shirts

The school sweatshirts and T-shirts will be on sale in the dining room next Tuesday and Wednesday next week between 8.35 a.m. - 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. The cost of sweatshirts is SEK180 each and the cost of House T-shirts is SEK60 each. It would be appreciated if you could bring the correct money with you.

All children are expected to wear the navy blue school sweatshirt with the school logo when they go on educational excursions and to wear their school P.E. T-shirt in the relevant house colours for their gym lessons.

### Swimming Programme

As you should be aware, swimming begins next week for Years 3 and 6 on the following days:

Tuesday	Class 3R
Wednesday	Class 3Y
Thursday	Class 6D
Friday	Class 3T



Year 2 will be swimming later in the term (information to follow).



## Newsletter No.16

## January 13th 2012

### Looking for Learning

At BIPSS, we believe that developing and improving children's learning is the core purpose of the school and we have a clear desire to be a learning focused school. Our aim is that learning dominates our culture and underpins all we do.

On Monday, during our staff development day, teachers and assistants, together with some Board members, started the process of evaluating learning within our school. Over the coming months, we aim to develop a clear understanding of how we can become a truly learning focused school and consistently improve children's learning. As a staff we will be reflecting on our current practice and challenging our thinking regarding children's learning and the factors which affect it.

For BIPSS to become a truly learning focused school, it is important to ensure our parents also share our understanding of learning and are aware of our direction and ethos. My intention, therefore, is to keep you informed through a series of articles and other updates regarding learning. I will start by providing a little background to our Looking for Learning focus.

In educational establishments around the world, learning is often stated to be the core focus, but the reality can be very different. Schools usually focus on evaluating a range of elements which **influence** the quality of learning, such as teaching, curriculum and resources, rather than looking for the learning itself. These are, of course, very important elements and are relatively easy to assess and evaluate. They do not, however, guarantee that quality learning is taking place on a consistent basis. With a Looking for Learning focus, we start by identifying and evaluating learning and then consider the supporting factors. This means that improving and increasing the children's learning drives all we do.

Whilst this may sound like an exercise in semantics, it is, in fact, a very significant shift of mindset and, due to the very broad and complex nature of learning, far more challenging than focusing on teaching, curriculum and resources.

So, what is learning? That is the key to the whole process of "Looking for Learning" and will be the focus of my next article.

### Security Arrangements

A reminder that we have a security procedure for visitors to the school during the day. If you visit the school in the day between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. please go to the school office to check-in with Susan Brayshaw.

### School Lunches

Please check our website [www.britishinternationalprimaryschool.se](http://www.britishinternationalprimaryschool.se) 'More info' / Lunch for the latest menu. This is usually updated every three weeks.

### 'Movie Nights'

The PTA will be running the annual Movie Night event which involves the whole school. This is a PTA fundraiser and all money raised will go towards the cost of upgrading the school playgrounds. If you wish your child to take part there will be a small charge of SEK25 per child from Year 1 and above. A snack and drink will be provided before the movie starts. Your child may bring a pillow or blanket/sleeping bag with them if they want to get cosy! Your class representative will be contacting you directly about all of the details.

#### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January

The Nursery and Reception children will have their movie during school hours.

3:30 – 5 pm - Year 1

5:30 – 7:30 pm - Year 4

#### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January

3:30 - 5pm - Year 2

5:30 – 7:30 pm - Year 5

#### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

3:30 - 5pm - Year 3

5:30 – 7:30 pm - Year 6

This is a great opportunity for the children to come together after the holidays and have a bit of fun!

### Monster Mash CDs

As the Monster Mash CD's were so popular we have had further requests for CD's and class photographs. We are therefore offering one last chance if anybody wishes to purchase these. Please contact Helen Knibbs e-mail [haknibbs@gmail.com](mailto:haknibbs@gmail.com) by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January. She will need to know the Team your child is in and the class. Prices are SEK100 for all 3 CD's and photographs or SEK40 for 1 set.

We at school are looking forward to making the Year 2012 an exciting and productive one for everyone at BIPSS. We look forward to your continuing support and help in the coming year.

Have a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Carl Hutson  
Principal