



THE ISO Gazette

#4

DECEMBER 2019





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Director's Message



Dear ISO Community,

The time of celebrations and new beginnings is soon approaching. After another busy term it is the time of year when everyone is getting ready for a new year. Our children are working hard during their rehearsals for the winter production and our staff members continue to engage and guide them with challenging activities and projects.

Personally, I always take the opportunity at this time of the year to reflect on my achievements and learning as the year finishes, but also get excited when setting new targets for the upcoming year. Also this is happening across ISO. We are all curious to receive the reflections and the feedback from our students, staff and parents which we will use to re-evaluate our targets for the new term.

As a general reflection some of our achievements that we are proud of are:

- **Becoming an accredited school** by the UK Department for Education as a BSO school, by the end of just our 2 year.
- **Continuing to see our students progression** and our community growing year by year.
- **Having an active school council of the students** who show good skills of leadership and teamwork.

In order to continue our school development, I would like to share with you the 3 main targets which we have assigned ourselves after the BSO report:

- **Develop and implement**, effective and transparent communication and inclusive feedback mechanisms to help guide governance and leadership activities.
- **Maintain a cohesive, dynamic, high quality 21st century curriculum**, characterized by depth and opportunities for differentiation.
- **Promote innovative and purposeful technology** use and integration. These are the 3 areas in which we have already started to work and will focus on even more in 2020.

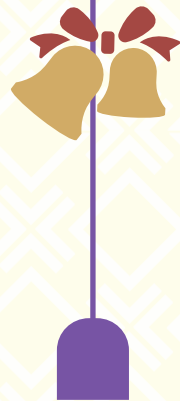
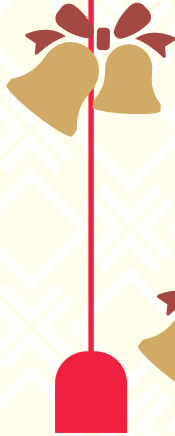
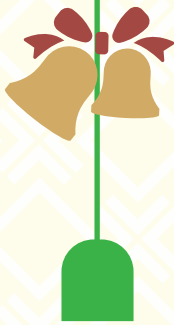
We are about to start another decade. Considering that the speed of the change is getting faster and faster, year by year, it is extremely important for us to keep our curriculum up to date with the requirements of the future and we definitely need to do this by making the most use of new tools and resources. Just as important as these 2, is the communication mechanism which we seek from all of our community for higher quality and more effective education for our children.

Let's all consider our individual targets for the year 2020. If it is not already on the list, let's make sure that we have at least 1 target to be more active in our children's education.

May the new year bring you health, wealth and happiness with your beloved ones.

Happy Holidays!





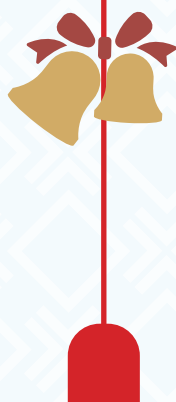
Butterfly class

The children in Butterfly class have access to our outdoor provision area twice a day to extend their learning experiences and support physical development. They can climb on the equipment provided, do chalk drawings, gardening, play with sand and water.



In Butterfly class

plan activities on a daily basis and try to link as many activities as possible with real life. The children explore different natural materials in their sensory play to enhance learning and ensure that they all develop to their fullest potential as individuals.



The Theme

in the first half term was all about Ourselves. We learned about us as individuals, how different, unique and special each one of us is. We worked one-to-one or in small groups to extend our play experiences, make friends, learn to wait, take turns and share the resources.



Understanding of the World

As part of Understanding of the World lessons we learned about the four seasons. The children enjoyed a trip to the local park where we observed how nature changes over time, played nature related circle games and had lots of fun climbing, swinging and sliding on the play equipment.



Celebrations

We celebrated different festivals and the children got all messy creating candle lanterns to celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights. On 1st December we celebrated Romanian National day, We came to school dressed in beautiful national costumes, danced Hora Unirii and sang traditional songs.



We are a happy and colourful butterfly kaleidoscope!

Outside activities, inside our local community

Spending time outside is very important for a healthy and balanced education and development for children. That's the reason why Early Years spend a lot of time doing outdoor activities in the school's yard or outside school.

Phonics Outdoor

Hidden Instruments in our yard: find, name and play them, I spy with my little eye games, Hear the sounds around my classroom, around my school and saying what is it, Oral blending games -we played outdoor the game Touch your body and said the body part names in sound speak (f-ee-t, feet, t-oe-s toes etc.).



Comparing heights and lengths. Who likes to climb trees? How tall is a tree? What is taller than a tree? What is shorter than a tree? We had different games in nature: finding and counting autumn leaves, counting backwards from 10 in a bunny hop position and then blast off-jumping high as a fast rocket, recognising dice numbers and matching the number dots to the number cards. And because numeracy is one of our favourite subjects we enjoyed the outdoor challenges- Can you hop two times? Can you turn around five times? Can you clap one time? Shiny Eagles loved the Find game: find 5 leaves, find 3 minibeasts, find 1 tree, make a square using twigs, make a circle out of atones, can you build a triangle out of sticks?



Autumn Festival

We celebrated Autumn Festival outside. We played creative games learning the topic's vocabulary: Round round the table where children had to find the cards that matched and saying the word, Leaf Blow Game- we had a leaf race outside, children blew a leaf across a table with a straw and laughed a lot.

The Scarecrow says... action game in a circle (instead of Simon Says, we used the Scarecrow Says). Pumpkin Roll- each child took a turn rolling a small, round pumpkin, between two trees in our schoolyard. They all tried to get back first!

It was great fun!

Trips around the city

During the first term Shiny Eagles had some trips around the city. We went on an autumn walk in the Nicolae Balcescu Park where we picked up leaves, branches, sticks and played different fun games: Count the sticks, Pass the leaf in the circle, Build something out of the branches. We were lucky to find mushrooms. We also found dandelions and picked them up and offered the bunches to parents when they came.





Romanian National Day

Another trip was at a local playzone where we celebrated Romanian National Day. Children played nicely together and then created some lovely blue-yellow-red flags. We practiced our manners at the table during a Romanian traditional lunch. We enjoyed the trip by bus and we behaved nicely. A parent-child event was the theatre play “Omulet” at the Arcadia Children’s Theatre. The students travelled by bus and met the parents at the theatre. We all loved to observe the stage and the actors, we laughed listening to the puppets but most of all we enjoyed spending quality time together.



Encouraging your child to develop a love of reading.

At the International School of Oradea one of our main goals is to encourage children to develop a deep love of reading. Ways in which we encourage our children to take a keen interest in books from an early age is through a daily story time which provides students with the opportunity to participate, to use their blossoming language and critical thinking skills and to develop self-confidence and inner control as they eagerly wait to share their thoughts. Each classroom also contains a reading corner which is a lively and inviting space for children to read for pleasure during their free time. Research suggests that in order to be an active participant in life, children must engage in reading regularly, both for pleasure and education. Reading for pleasure refers to the reading that we do of our own free will, anticipating the satisfaction that we will get from the act of reading. One aim of the Department for Education in England is to ensure that all pupils develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information. Both reading for pleasure and information are necessary and neither is sufficient alone. Reading for pleasure is critical and should not just be seen as a classroom-based activity and it is essential that it encouraged at home as well.





The importance of developing a love of reading at a young age is also stressed by the National Literacy Trust (2012) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development who have made the connection between the ability to read and future opportunities such as employment, work satisfaction and health. Reading can offer a brief respite from the stresses and strains of everyday life and transport people to another world, even if it is only for a few minutes per day. Therefore developing a love of reading at a young age can have a lifelong positive impact on a person's mental health, by enabling them to develop a relaxation strategy.

In addition, developing a love of reading in primary school can help children to develop their communication skills which will aid them when seeking employment. My Town Tutors (2012) noticed that strong communication skills are required for almost every job and "reading to your child early and often will help them get a head start on the process of learning language" and developing these vital skills.



The Department for Education (England)

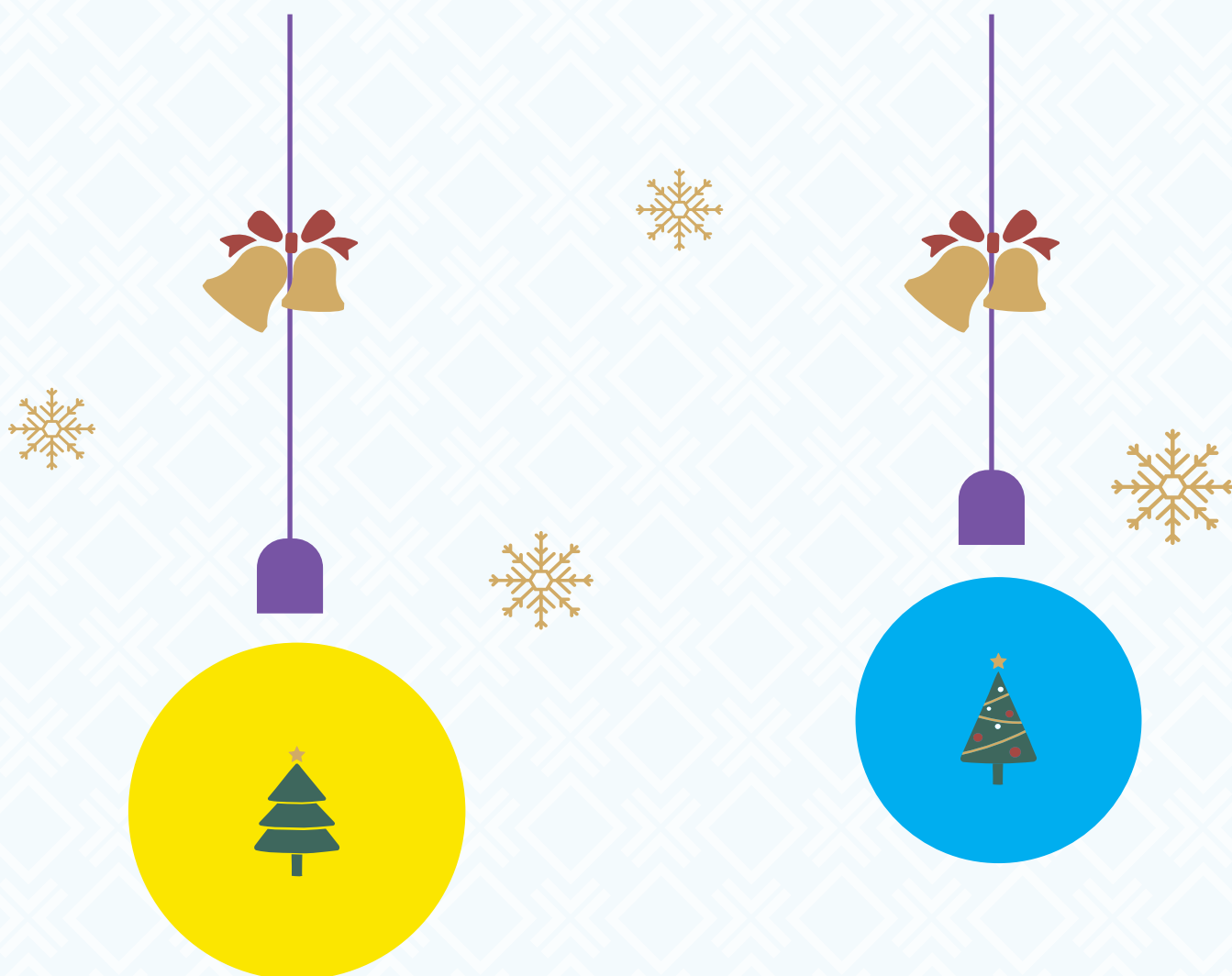
state that “All pupils must be encouraged to read widely across both fiction and non-fiction to develop their knowledge of themselves and the world in which they live, to establish an appreciation and love of reading”. By reading a range of text types, children are more likely to develop a love of reading as they may find a topic or genre that fascinates them. That is why at the International School of Oradea we encourage children across the school to read a wide variety of genres of books such as fiction, non-fiction, poetry and play-scripts. It is important to develop a love of reading at a young age as it feeds pupils’ imagination and opens up a treasure-house of wonder and joy for curious young minds. Just one example can be found through fictional stories such as *Room on the Broom* written by Julia Donaldson that include unrealistic aspects such as the ability to fly on broomsticks. This can provoke a child’s own imagination.

Albert Einstein once said ‘Imagination encircles the world’, portraying the importance of developing imagination, which can be developed through reading, whereby children develop personally and cognitively.



Research also suggests

that children acquire a new language faster if they enjoy reading in that language. Krashen (1982) suggests that provided that the students are interested in the material, they have adequate exposure to language within their comprehension and they are reading for pleasure in a relaxed, tension-free environment, they are likely to acquire language. Developing a passion for reading at a young age is pivotal to a child's academic success according to Paton (2013) who stated: "children who receive bedtime stories from their parents as infants perform better than those who go without." This is reinforced by Gibbons (2010) who claimed: "A reading child is, quite simply, a successful child." Reading is an active process which in doing so widens one's vocabulary, grammar structures and possibly spelling. Therefore, reading aids a child's cognitive development and learning. Unfortunately, some children lack such reading experiences and subsequently do not develop a love of reading at a young age.





English

We have had so much fun during our English lessons this term, especially when we pretended to travel all around the world and played traditional games from the countries we visited. When we visited Australia, we played a game called Kangaroo Skippy-roo. Next we went to England where we played Tag and Toilet Tag, which the children really enjoyed. We also flew to The Republic of Ireland and learned how to Irish dance! While we were there we played a game called Shadows. On our visit to Kenya, we learned that some children cannot afford toys meaning that they must make their own, so the children made their own toys and wrote about them. All of these trips around the world were a fantastic stimulus for the childrens' writing, because children write more and with more passion when they are excited about what they are writing about and they definitely proved this with the brilliant quality of their work! The countries we 'visited' and learned about include England, Hungary, Botswana, Kenya, Ireland, USA, Poland.



Maths

The children have worked on their place value, learning to double and half. They also learned about odd and even numbers, how to tell the time and the difference between coins in the British money system.



Topic

During our history lessons we began to think about the past, the present and the future which was incredibly interesting for the children. To begin to understand the concept of the past we played traditional playground games that our parents or grandparents may have played when they were the children's age. We also discussed the things that we have that our parents did not have when they were young. Next, we learned that the present is what is happening right now and discussed the games that we like to play, writing about them in our topic books. Finally, we wrote a letter to a person in the future, guessing what children may play in 20 or 30 years time. The children thought that children of the future might play with robots, which would be very cool!



Art

In Art, the children learned all about Pablo Picasso and drew self-portraits of themselves which we then evaluated and re-drew to make them even better. They looked at their features in the mirror to support their drawings and they were very proud of their final self-portraits. This was also a lovely opportunity for children to discuss what they really liked about themselves and also led to children complimenting each other in a very sweet manner.





Computing

We learned all about the importance of online safety. The children learned why it is important to own their own creative work by creating a digital picture and adding their name and the date to their digital work. They also learned how to search safely for images online by using websites such as safesearchkids.com instead of Google, because the safe search websites filter the information and offer child friendly information and images. The children also learned how to create digital paintings using different colours and brushes in order to produce a Winter card for their parents at the end of the term!



Winter Show

By the end of Primary the national curriculum for England states that children should be able to speak audibly and fluently with an increasing command of Standard English, have the opportunities to perform in performances, gain, maintain and monitor the interest of the listener and select and use appropriate registers for effective communication". This is why we have spent a lot of time learning our lines for our amazing Winter show 'SugarPlum'. The children worked hard on reading their lines with expression and learning them from memory and this helped to make the show a huge success.

Football Legends

It has been a very busy first in in KS2. Starting with them getting to know each other and discovering their similarities and differences including that many of them have been on holiday in Greece! They established the class rules together and worked as a team to create a class name, logo and chant. So welcome to a term in the life of “Football Legends”.



Topics

In topic this term the KS2 “Football Legends” have focused on:

Enhancing their knowledge about different places around the world,

Different cultures

Sketching

Ancient greece

Greetings card designs

The first half term began with exploring the world map and locating Oregon, Bihor and Lancashire. They discussed the similarities and differences between the three places, listened to music and tried some dances. They also found out that:

- Bihor and Lancashire are located in the North West part of the Romania and England and that Oregon is situated in the Pacific Northwest region on the West Coast of the United States.
- Oregon is a state which is divided into counties.
- Bihor and Lancashire are both counties.





They also identified some cities in each area including Liverpool (near where Ms Libby lives), Oradea and Salem. They then learnt about the way that countries are divided into sections known as counties and how Oregon was different to Bihor and Lancashire in this respect as it is a state and within that there are counties. Then continued with understanding what a county is , more precisely they learnt that a county is a specific region of a state or country.

They studied the geography and the climate of these three wonderful laces and enjoyed learning about Oregon's fauna. One of the highlights of the topic was exploring the local area and walking from school to the Lotus Centre to visit a travel agency and enroute utilising their observational drawing skills. The children also created some beautiful sketches on the bank of Peta river.

'I liked creating a sketch on the Peta river.' - Celia

'I liked when we went on that river walk, because I made some trees sketches.' - Cezar



After watching the ducks and fish and discussing environmental issues on the walk, the children finally arrived at Magic Tour Travel agency. Here they enjoyed finding out from Ms AnaMaria , what she does and how to book a holiday for a client.

"It was fantastic to find out about what means to work in a travel agency." - Tudor

'I liked that we visited the travel agency. It was nice.' - Cezar

'The trip was very funny, we even saw some ducks. We stood on grass and ate our snack. We continued our journey to Lotus and visited Magic Tours agency.' - Iannis

After the October holiday it was time to extend the geographical knowledge and link it with history through the study of Ancient Greece.

This started by the children travelling back in time and having an Ancient Greek party where they made and tasted Greek traditional food, attended and participated in original Olympic games and even learned to write in the ancient Greek alphabet!

The 11 th - 15 th November was National Anti-Bullying week and across the school (and world) people thought about what bullying is and the best ways to combat it. In Football Legends the children wrote non-chronological reports about it.

In this first term the children in Football Legends have most enjoyed:

Aiden: *'I loved learning new things and doing multiplications.'*

Andrei: *'I enjoyed choosing the name of ours class'*

Celia: *'In this half term I liked the lemonade sale.'*

Cezar: *'In this half term I liked Maths and Rugby.'*

Iannis: *I enjoyed all of the things that we done this half of the term.*

Mihai: *'In this half term I enjoyed most Rugby, the lemonade sale, Topic lessons, English and Maths.'*

Mieke: *'In this half term I liked making turkeys and breaktime outside.'*

Nina: *'In this half term I liked the most my friends and the lemonade sale'*

Tudor: *'In this half term I enjoyed Rugby, English, Maths, Science, Romanian, P. E. and Topic.'*

Vlad: *"I really liked science when we did Zumba and rugby"*





The Student Council

Ms Anca Popa/ Admission Officer



This year our first challenge has been to implement the school council initiative of **“The Lemonade Sale Campaign”**.

We have discussed and carried out a class survey to find out what do we want to implement first and have created a “wishlist” from which we had to choose.

The school council is now up and running, members being: the chairman, vice chairman and the secretary.

After three successful weeks, when the students, teachers and parents generously made lemonade at home to sell after school, the Student Council decided that this initiative will continue this half term with a twist. In order to involve all of the primary children, they have decided that each week a group of children will make and then sell lemonade or fruit juice. The ingredients are provided by the school, budgeted from the profit made each week. The profit made has come from the support of the parents who have been making their purchases between 15.00 and 16.30.

This is just the first of many projects and we look forward to sharing our future ventures.

Well done to the School Council: Max (KS1), Cezar (KS2), Celia (KS2).



'Donate a book! Give knowledge!' campaign

Period: 4th November- 1st December 2019

Description

The "Donate a book! Give knowledge ! campaign is organized by the Lumina Educational institutions and supported by all of the Lumina Schools across the country and the CEL and sports clubs in Lumina. It is to collect books which will be donated to libraries in rural areas where children have difficult access to books and libraries in the Republic of Moldova, where books in Romanian are also needed.

Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to collect 10,000 books which will be donated to the libraries during the December winter holiday.

Who am I donating to?

The beneficiaries of this project are students from rural schools, where the school or village libraries do not have appropriate books for children and libraries in the region.

Why donate?

A book is a gate to knowledge and through this campaign we want to help thousands of children from the country and the Republic of Moldova to enjoy the stories in books and to discover the wonderful world between the covers of a book. By giving books, we give knowledge and put a brick in the foundation of a better future for our children.

Campaign unfolding?

The campaign will run for almost a month in all Lumina Schools in the country, as well as at the Sports Clubs and CEL. Each child will be encouraged to bring at least one book to support the campaign, as will the staff in Lumina Schools. At the school's entrances there will be a large cardboard box with the campaign logo on it, for the books will be collected. We could carry out this campaign every year, being an educational campaign in accordance with the values and principles of the Lumina Schools.



Upcoming Dates



Sugar Plum - Winter show: Friday 13th December;

Christmas Jumper Day: Monday 16th December

Celebration Assembly: Friday 20th December; 11.15 - 12.00

Last day of Autumn term: Friday 20th December; 12.00

First day of Spring term: Tuesday 7th December;



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LOTUS
7TH DECEMBER



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