SBS International School
Bangkok
AN ARTHIT OURAIRAT INSTITUTION

Message from the Principal - Toddlers, Early Years & Primary



Rachel Crossland
Early Years & Primary Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I have been reflecting this week on the impact and value of learning in an international context, within a rich and diverse language landscape.

The research is unequivocal: we know that acquiring more than one language at an early age has an incalculable impact on an individual's potential career & economic mobility, leading to enhanced access to international job markets. We know too, that managing two or more active linguistic systems strengthens executive function, problem-solving skills and critical thinking. And let's not forget the deepening of emotional and social impact where second and third language learning leads to improved trust, empathy, and social adaptability.

Enriching education with a deep level of language acquisition from a young age will allow your children to feel 'at home anywhere' in the world.

This week we have had meaningful conversations with a cross-section of parents about how phonics (the first steps in reading) supports this journey of language acquisition. I have seen the impact of this on oracy in my conversations with Year 5 and Year 6 students as they prepare to apply for Primary Student Leadership positions where public speaking and confident articulation is key to success.

I have watched the subtle yet effective Mandarin immersion experience in our Year 1 classes, where this new language is gently introduced, an approach that accelerates fluency, fundamentally reshaping cognitive development, academic achievement, and cultural empathy from this very young age.

A message from Mr Ian Yi-An Wang



Keep your home language strong

I should start with a confession: I'm not a Thai speaker. But I love the Thai language and culture, and I'm always trying to learn more. I can manage the basics, plus a few cheeky phrases that never fail to make both adults and students laugh (I'll leave those out of the newsletter). I've also memorised the Thai national anthem, which I'm quietly proud of.

For many of our students, Thai is their first language. And sometimes parents worry that speaking Thai at home might hold back their child's English. The research says the opposite.

Children who have a strong first language usually find it easier to learn a second one. If a child already knows what "compare," "predict" or "because" means in Thai, they only need to learn the English word for it. The thinking is already there. But if a child doesn't have the idea in either language, they have to learn both the idea and the word at the same time, which is much harder.

So the stronger your child's Thai is, the more they have to build their English on.

A few simple things you can do at home:

- **Talk with your child in the language you're most comfortable in.** Rich conversations in Thai are worth more than limited ones in English.
- **Read Thai books together,** and talk about the stories.
- **Ask about their school day in Thai.** Explaining what they learned in another language helps them understand it better.
- **Don't worry about mixing languages.** It's completely normal for bilingual children, and it doesn't mean they're confused.

Speaking two languages well is a real gift, and it starts at home. And if your child ever wants to teach their teacher a new Thai word, I'm always ready to learn!

This week in pictures....









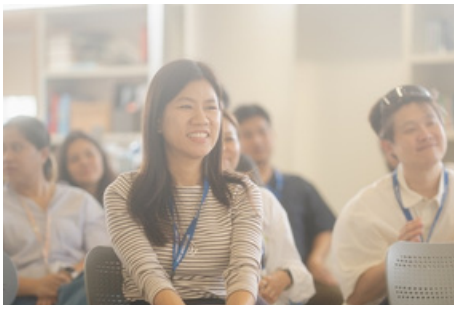

Phonics Parent Workshop

It was a delight to meet so many parents at our Phonics workshop on Wednesday, where we shared best practice and top tips around how to support early readers starting out on their Phonics journey. We will follow this with another parent workshop just before Christmas where parents will have the opportunity to meet and talk to their child's Phonics Teacher.















At SBS Bangkok children begin to learn phonics at the end of Nursery and this journey develops in sophistication over their first and most formative years. At this age a child's brain is in a phase of peak neuroplasticity, making it uniquely receptive to building the foundational neural connections needed for literacy.

When children explore books and play with speech sounds at this age, they actively strengthen their neural pathways - the brain literally grows and changes shape in response to reading. Early interactive reading and phonics awareness at school and in the family home accelerates vocabulary acquisition, fosters emotional and social growth, develops empathy, enhances memory and of course improves a child's ability to communicate and understand the world around them.

Our playful, sound-rich environments are shaping our children's brain architecture, helping to develop in every child a durable brain framework for strong reading comprehension and lifelong cognitive growth. We are extremely excited with the progress that our young readers are making!

Year 5 and Year 6 Primary Student Leadership Journey Begins....

This week we have been delighted to receive a number of Year 5 and Year 6 Student Leadership applications. Encouraging students to be agents of change at SBS Bangkok and authentically listening to student voice across the school is a very important element of our culture and how we lay down our legacy every day.



This type of responsibility builds self-confidence, empathy, and essential communication skills. Our young Student Leaders will quickly learn essential skills such as accountability and active listening, peer support and conflict resolution. By learning how to collaborate and represent others early on, our Student Leadership Team will develop a strong sense of community, cultivating decision-making habits that support both their academic journey and personal growth.

If you are a parent of a Year 5 or 6 child please do discuss this opportunity with them at home and encourage them to apply - the deadline is 8.00am, Monday 26 October.

Here are the links to the application forms:

House Captain →
Primary Prefect →
Service Leader →
Green Leader →
Tech Leader →
School Photographer →

House Cereal Box Challenge

Sincere thanks to the families who have donated Cereal boxes, we are not quite there yet so we have extended the deadline, and the event will now take place next **Thursday 29 October.**



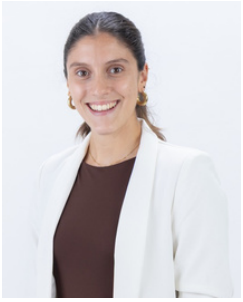






House Cereal Box Challenge 2025 – Video Highlights

Meet Travelling Tyson - A message from Ms Cristina

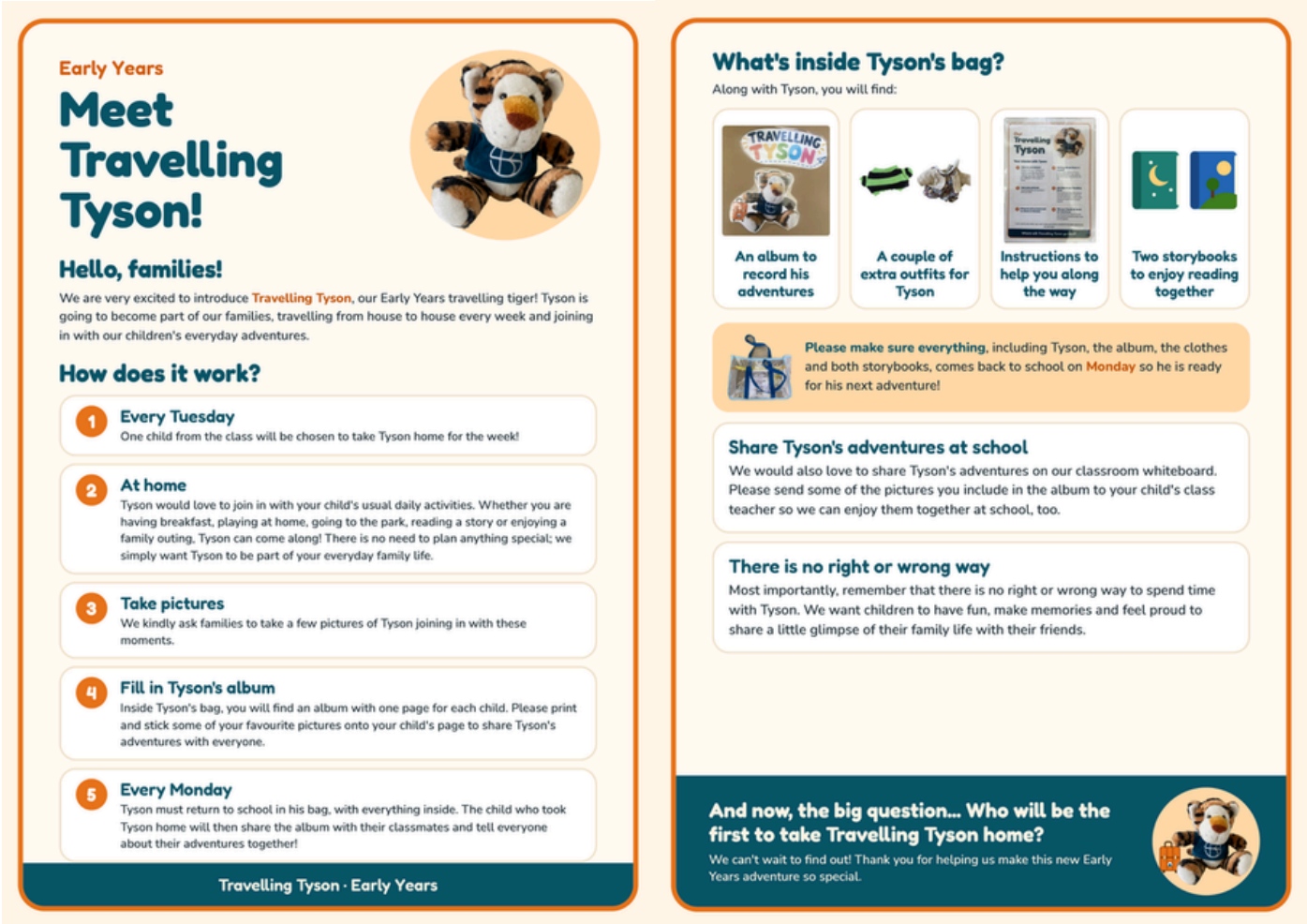


We are excited to introduce 'Travelling Tyson', a special initiative for our Toddlers and Early Years children! Each class has its very own tiger mascot, ready to join the children on little adventures beyond the classroom.

The idea behind 'Travelling Tyson' is to strengthen the connection between home and school, giving children and their families the opportunity to share special moments together. As Tyson travels from one family to another, he will become part of everyday adventures, creating lovely memories and bringing the school community closer together.

Through this initiative, we hope to encourage children's language and communication skills as they talk about their experiences, develop their confidence in sharing stories, and strengthen their sense of belonging. It is also a wonderful opportunity to nurture imagination, curiosity and social-emotional development, while helping children understand the importance of sharing experiences with others.

We cannot wait to see all the places Tyson will visit and the adventures he will have with our families! We look forward to sharing his journey and discovering together where our travelling Tysons will go next.



Christmas Performance 2026








We are delighted to announce the details of this year's Annual SBS International Bangkok Christmas Performance as follows:

Toddler - Year 2
Date: Wednesday 9th Dec
Time: 9.00 - 11.00am
Venue: Sports Hall
Audience: Parents of Toddlers - Year 2

Yrs 3 - 9
Date: Wednesday 9th Dec
Time: 1.45-3.45pm
Venue: Sports Hall
Audience: Parents of Y3-Y9

Please make a note of this in your diaries, so that you can book your tickets early and reserve your seat!

Halloween is approaching!



We cannot wait to see your spooky Halloween dress-up on Friday! Please remember that if you choose not to dress-up with a Halloween theme you will be required to wear normal school uniform to school. Please see below for details on the days spooktacular events.



Can you help?

We are looking for your help and support in sharing your professional experience with our students across the school.

Please could we ask for a couple of minutes of your time to complete the following survey found

Click here to complete the survey

The survey will close on **Monday 26th October at 4pm.**

Upcoming Events

- **Thurs 29 Oct** - House Cereal Box Challenge (rescheduled date) All students should wear House tops and PE Shorts to school today
- **Fri 30 Oct** - Halloween Dress-Up Day
- **Fri 6 Nov** - Divali Assembly/Celebration
- **Wed 11 Nov** - Remembrance Assembly
- **Fri 13 Nov** - World Kindness Day
- **Mon 16 Nov** - Shoebox Appeal Begins
- **Tue 24 Nov** - Loy Krathong
- **Fri 27 Nov** - Red Tigers Birthday
- **Fri 27 Nov** - T1 Active8 Finishes
- **Sat 28 Nov** - Open House
- **Tues 8 Dec** - 12 days of Christmas begins
- **Wed 9 Dec** - Year 3 - Year 9 Christmas Performance - Parents invited 1.45 - 3.45pm (Sports Hall)
- **Wed 9 Dec** - Toddlers - Year 2 Christmas Performance - Parents invited 9.00 - 11.00am (Sports Hall)
- **Fri 11th Dec** - Half Day Finish at 12.30

Reminders

Parent Handbook
May I politely signpost you to the Parent Handbook which is a very useful reference for you. It contains a wealth of information on our policies and processes.

Click here to Parent Handbook

Closing

Human communication has been the headline in this week's newsletter. Whether it be Mandarin immersion, talking about Tyson's Travels, verbally explaining suitability for a leadership role, or developing the phonetic awareness of pure sounds and how this leads to seamless reading, writing and oracy.

Communication and language is not only a pillar of our Cambridge Curriculum, it is the doorway to curiosity, self-expression, and lifelong learning. As we continue exploring the wonder of words in the classroom, we invite you to keep the momentum going at home - whether that's sharing a favorite bedtime story, practicing new vocabulary over dinner, or simply listening to your child recount their day. Thank you for partnering with us as we nurture articulate, confident, and enthusiastic young communicators! Enjoy the upcoming weekend!

With kind regards,
Rachel Crossland
Early Years & Primary Principal




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SCUBA DIVING CLUB
SSI SCUBA EXPLORERS
8–10 YEAR OLDS
Basic scuba skills in the SBS Bangkok pool. Learning to use scuba equipment under direct supervision. Games and challenges that teach buoyancy, communication, and teamwork underwater. Introduction to marine life and coral reef care.
SBS Bangkok's 25m swimming pool
8 weeks, plus one full-day practical session
PRICE
฿19,000
FEE INCLUDES
• Instructor costs
• Dive equipment rental
• Certification
CONTACT
If you have any questions or would like to discuss this amazing opportunity, then please do not hesitate to contact:
Ms. Ainsley
ahenderson@sbsbangkok.ac.th


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SCUBA DIVING CLUB
SSI SCUBA EXPLORERS
10+ YEAR OLDS
Build essential scuba skills through SSI learning, supervised pool sessions and an open-water experience, leading to the internationally recognised SSI Junior Open Water Diver certification.
SBS Bangkok's 25m swimming pool
8 weeks, plus one full-day practical session
With an Open Water Dive trip to Koh Tao
PRICE
฿33,000
FEE INCLUDES
• Instructor costs
• Dive equipment rental
• Certification
• Flights, transfers and accommodation
• Costs for the Open Water Dive trip to Koh Tao
CONTACT
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ahenderson@sbsbangkok.ac.th

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SHARE!
THE SBS BANGKOK EXPERIENCE



REFERRAL PROGRAMME

Earn THB 20,000

for each successful new student enrolment you refer.

A thank you to our SBS families and staff
Your trust and recommendations help us welcome families who share our values and strengthen our community.

Easy steps

1. Recommend SBS Bangkok to a family you know.
2. Submit the referral form before they register.
3. Receive **THB 20,000** for each successful enrolment.

For more information and submit a Referral:

Let's grow the SBS Bangkok community together!

admissions@sbsbangkok.ac.th 081-577-8222

Terms & Conditions apply.

SBS International School
Bangkok

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Inspire Academic Success,
Nurture Holistic Wellbeing,
Cultivate Curiosity & Passion

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Admissions

Monday - Friday
8.30am - 4.30pm

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