

Friday 15th January 2021



Dear Parents of Early Years and Lower School,

back to all of our students and their families! It has been an energetic and exciting start to the year 2021 for our Lower School and Early Years students.

2021 began with beautiful blankets of white snow covering our playgrounds and providing great opportunities for staff and students to have fun outside. We have students in class, students online, teachers in class and teachers online all with smiling faces and eagerness to engage in the learning. I am so grateful to all of our staff in school who are providing our students with stability, consistency and support, to the staff online who are working to ensure the lessons are fun engaging and inclusive for everyone and to all of our families for their trust in us as a school and for your help and support with hybrid learning in some classes, distance learning in others and in school provision too. This is absolutely the most unique start to the year for us all, having experienced distance learning last year in 2020 and now working hard to conquer hybrid learning too. With the support of our families we are strong and can achieve great things for our children.

In keeping with the theme of great things, our learning this week has shown the great potential of our students across the Early Years and Lower School. As part of their Unit of Inquiry lessons, year 5 students visited our Starbrookes Cafe to enjoy a meal and write a review just like those on Tripadvisor. This helped to marry real life experiences with our educational process and taught



students how to review critically and fairly. Our students in Year 2 are learning about structures and have been incorporating measurement and drawing of plans in their maths lessons too.

Our year 6 students are engaging in inquiry about migration allowing them to work collaboratively, use their communication skills and to practice research skills too. While Year 3 have been exploring decimals as well as using multiplication to solve and create word problems.



This week has seen the return of our Brookes Plus activities. Students are enjoying a range of different activities with their Homeroom teachers, Learning Assistants and specialist teachers with their year group friends to enhance their educational experiences through sports, arts, music and languages too. Also our Assembly celebrated with Ms Tatiana and some of our Year 6 students helped us all to understand the differences between New Year and the Old New Year. We all learned about the 13 day difference between the two calendars as well as making New Years wishes in each class too.

## Maths

For students in Years 2-6, Brookes Moscow has invested in many at-home resources for our students to practice Maths with their parents. Many students are already using the online platform IXL.com and having fun and success since early December. This is an interactive resource that lets students challenge themselves with current curriculum and try to move beyond their year level. In the next few days, students will also be coming home with new Maths textbooks that will also allow them to extend their learning outside of school. Take some time at home and work with your student to improve their Maths skills.

## Key Centre

Many of our Lower School and Early Years students work with our Key Centre in conjunction with their regular classes. Our Key Centre has many functions at Brookes Moscow including English support and our school psychologists. We currently have four certified Key Centre teachers that work with these age groups. Many of our students need EAL support to help them with the rest of their classes. Prior to the break, our Key Centre staff assessed the students using WIDA which is a world-known programme for determining English language strength. If your student is receiving Key Centre support you would have received an email showing the data and the level of English at this time. If you are interested in your student joining the Key Centre please contact Rick Lewis ([rlewis@moscow.brookes.org](mailto:rlewis@moscow.brookes.org)).

We hope you have an enjoyable, safe and snowy weekend.

Kind regards,



Ms. Laura Rennard  
Principal of Lower School & Early Years



Mr Rick Lewis  
Academic Dean, IB Coordinator & Key Centre Coordinator