

Embracing Diversity. Challenging Minds.

11th September 2015

CONNECT03

GREETINGS FROM NEXUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, PUTRAJAYA



NEXUS
INTERNATIONAL
— SCHOOL —

PUTRAJAYA

Whole School

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MALAYSIA DAY

On Tuesday 15th September we will be celebrating Malaysia Day at Nexus. Learners and Teachers are encouraged to come to school dressed up in their traditional clothes on that day. We will be hosting 3 assemblies:

8.45am	Whole school assembly on the Field
1.20pm - 2.00pm	Primary assembly in the Theatre
2.10pm - 3.10pm	Secondary assembly in the Theatre

There will also be a Malaysia Day Exhibition Corner set up next to the PTA room. Parents are warmly welcome to join us for all or any part of the day's festivities. For further details you may contact - Hidayah (halim.n@nexus.edu.my) in secondary or Sahmalah (sakthivel.s@nexus.edu.my) in primary.



HAZE GUIDELINES

API reading	Decision guideline
≥ 100	School limits outdoor activities
≥ 130	No outdoor activity, including breaks/lunch
≥ 200	School closure and activities cancelled. SMS and email to parents. Information on school website

Final Call for Ski Trip to Japan, 6-13 Feb 2016

We are planning to join forces with Garden International School and take a Ski and Snowboarding trip to Japan at Lunar New Year February 2016. This will be open to students in Years 5-13 at GIS and Nexus This is a fantastic opportunity for young people to not only learn a new skill (or improve existing skiing standards) but also to experience the rich and vibrant culture of Japan as well as get to know some learners from other schools in the Taylor's family.

Japan-based transport, accommodation, food and skiing will be provided by "Canyons" (www.canyons.jp), who will be coordinating the entire week for our group. Canyons, a well-established adventure company, have previously been used for ski trips by many other international schools and ourselves last year. Ski and snowboard lessons will be in groups of 4 students to each instructor - an exceptionally good ratio - to enable effective learning and excellent progression in skills. We plan to be on the slopes for 5 full days, with an optional extra half day skiing, boarding or snow shoeing. "Canyons" use the internationally recognized New Zealand Snowsports Instructors Alliance standards in the qualifications of their instructors and assure top quality instruction.

The price for this trip is an estimated RM8000 (subject to final flight costs and exchange rates) which includes flights, transport in Japan, accommodation, meals, ski equipment rental and ski instruction. **More information and a booking form are available from the School Leadership Office. Deadline 18 September 2015.**



Primary News

Year 6 Ambassadors

As a result of our reputation as an innovative, learning focussed school and our numerous awards - IPC Mastering school, Apple Distinguished school etc. we receive a lot of visitors from the education community and beyond who are interested in what we do.

The following learners in Year 6 have been chosen to be our ambassadors for the next few weeks.

Nashveen Nair Mathavan
Aminah Syed Yahya
Muhammad Aldalali
Syed Hazeeq Farhan Bin Syed Mohamad Fairus
Arianne Mohamad Qabil
Nur Mira Marissa Ruslin
Lim Yu Chen
Samara Mutinda

Their tasks will involve talking with visitors about how we learn at Nexus and occasionally showing them around our school.

Languages of the World

This board, located near the Early Years library is for new parents who may be looking for other parents to contact and communicate in a language other than English.

We encourage all existing parents to leave a short message in your mother tongue for other families from the same country, together with your name, email address or where can people find you.

It is another way to welcome new families at Nexus and at the same time it is the first step to promoting the Mother tongue at school, which is a new exciting project that we are working on.

Visit NEXUS.EDU.MY For More Info

Learning in Year 6 - Poetry

In Language Arts, Year 6 have been learning about similes, metaphors and personification in poetry. They have written poems about rivers, which links to their learning in the IPC theme "Go with the Flow – Rivers."

The River at Night by Ava

The thunder roared,
While the sun snored,

The river ran to the sea,
As busy as a buzzing bee.

The river is wide,
But nothing like a slide,
The waterfall slides down,
Something like a clown.

The river arrives at the sea,
As pleased as it can be.
Finally it's journey is complete,
Now it can rest it's tired feet.

The Cold River by Scott Woo

The river is cold as a frozen ice.
The water danced in the moonlight.
The fishes swim as fast as a speed - boat.

The River's Friend by Jeeahn

The river is a beautiful living wonder of nature.
The river had a friend called Emily
They played with each other everyday
Emily splashed water at the river
And the river just smiled and carried her into the water
The river told Emily to stay where the water was calm
Then it walked away and observed Emily as she played.
As years passed, the river grew old
It didn't have any power.
The river just stared at Emily and her children walking around.
Emily's children grew older and had enough strength to play with the river
The river was happy and felt like it was starting a new life.

Relaxing by the River by Alyssa

When I arrived the sun was blazing hot,
The river called my name,
I took off my shoes, it stroked my toes,
It was flowing gently passed me.

Secondary News

NISP Green Intentions 2015

This year the Green Council will be leading the community on the following green initiatives:

1. Working towards the Eco-Schools Bronze Award.
2. Continue sorting paper in collaboration with the Tzu Chi foundation, who turn the waste into cash to fund disaster relief, disadvantaged children in KL and a range of other international service projects.
3. Term 2 will see the start of recycling plastics in collaboration with the Tzu Chi foundation.
4. Term 2 will see us striving to make the canteen packaging more environmentally sustainable.

We will continue to embrace experiential education and celebrate our connection to the environment by providing opportunities such as:

- Year 9 'Root & Shoots' Art project
- Embracing the Global Sustainability Goals through the Humanities curriculum
- Year 7 3Rs Service Learning project

Learning in Secondary

"Success!" in the English Department

This week in Year 8 English the learners took part in their entry point activity for the success unit. Here is Ms Sarah's poetical report on the lesson.

The "Success" Lesson

(with thanks to Roger McGough)

Chaos ruled OK in the classroom,
as bravely Ms Maureen walked in.
The learners were all engaged, on task
and her voice was lost in the din.

"The theme for today is **Success**
and a time limit will be set.
Make a 3D model of your definition,
so that you'll never forget"

Mr Kyle didn't think they could do it.
Would the learners prove him wrong?
Failure is a part of learning,
could they finish before the gong?

The learners worked their hardest
they communicated ideas well.
Collaboration was at it's peak
but would they beat the bell?

"Please may I get more
scissors, sir?"
an eager learner enquired.
"Of course you may," said Ms Steph,
"I'm so glad that you're feeling
inspired."

They cut and they stuck and
they painted,
and they modelled and they molded.
The time ticked by but time was harsh,
their planning soon unfolded.

"Time's up!" Ms Sarah exclaimed.
"Let's see who has finished."
The learners' looked on horror-struck,
their spirits were soon diminished.

The success balloon had burst,
only one group had succeeded.
The rest were still incomplete.
Failure was being conceded.

"How does this make you feel?"
Ms Steph asked the quiet room.
Some heads bowed, some murmured sadly,
The air hung with doom and gloom.



“We should have worked harder,”

One intrepid learner uttered.

“We needed to work together,”
another learner muttered.

“So why did we do this to you?”
the learners all were asked.

“What was the lesson we learned today?”
There was a pause, then at long last...

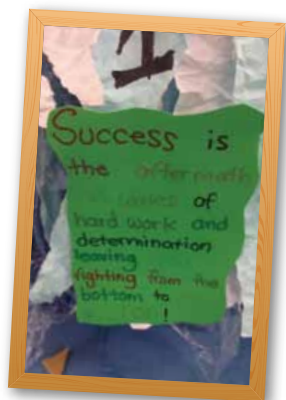
“Don’t be afraid of failure,
you can’t learn to change without it.
If you don’t fail, you don’t learn
Success takes work and lots of grit.”

“Whoopee!” shouted the teachers.

“That’s exactly it!
We wanted you to
experience
how it feels not to quit.”

“Now, go and finish your
models.

We want you to reflect.
How can you achieve
better next time?
What do you need to
perfect?”



So the learners got back
down to learning,
finishing their models with pride.
Smiles beamed all across the hub,
because they all knew they had tried.

The teachers surveyed the models,
success was now wide spread.
They nodded their heads admiringly.
‘Now there’s a success lesson’ they said.



“Eating dogfood makes you smart” in TOK...?!

On Thursday 8th of September, after a much needed lunch break from the IB life the Year 12’s a.k.a “seniors” walked into their last lesson of the day; Theory Of Knowledge. As complicated as TOK already was, we were welcomed into class with the days lesson projected on the board regarding “Dog food”. Confused? So were we. Mr Vincent, started the class off by introducing an article he found stating that consuming dog food does indeed increase the I.Q of a person, so much as to twenty points! This may be all fun and games until statistics, surveys and numbers were presented right before our eyes. Was it a fact? Was this real? Was that the secret to success?

As class carried on as usual, Mr Vincent with a sly smirk on his face pulled out of his pocket, a can of dog food! Disgusting? Thats right. What was he gonna pull out next? Unfortunately it was a fork. Mr. Vincent, Ms. Hilliger, and Mr. Andrew started to group in front of us, each holding their own fork ready to conform to such behaviour. Mr Vincent dived in for the first scoop and as he lifted his fork. Behold, a dark and jelly like substance sat on that shiny silver fork. Just the face of regret written all over the faces of each teacher. After minutes of anticipation and slight hesitation, he went for it. Then passing it on to Mr. Andrew, Ms. Hilliger, and finally some volunteers...

Joke’s on you! Of course we wouldn’t eat dog food yet alone believe such nonsense written by no one of authority. In reality the “dog food” was a surprisingly tasty blend of Mars bars, and orange jelly fabricated by the one and only Mr. Vincent himself. After all the hype settled down, we were presented with the question “Just because I saw my teachers eat dog food, did they really?”. The fact is, numbers do make things more seem realistic, and as seen in the

article they conducted a survey using 60 or more people to eat raw dog food in a can and afterwards asked them to sit a test.

Did this prove the fact that dog food does make you smarter? As a class, this made us realize that not everything that we perceive to be 'true' really is true, and how our senses can sometimes deceive us. It was a “ruff” day but a truthful one.

Report by Muhammad Zakwan Zarudin & Syed Alwi (both Year 12)

Our Hub!

Year 8 learners have started their own working party to continue to develop the Year 8 Hub into a fantastic learning space. Work began during their PD session on Wednesday, where they drafted an agenda, assigned class reps, discussed and finalised Hub etiquette and rules. The Hub Working Party will meet every Thursday lunchtime from 1.10 in the Year 8 learning Hub, Level 4.



LOTE NEWS

Language Clubs

Starting next week the Languages department will be offering Language support in 4 languages during lunch times. This is open to all learners. These sessions will be run by our Year 12 and 13 learners who will make them fun and worthwhile sessions. Things covered might include:

- If you need help learning some vocabulary
- If you don't understand some grammar point and need it explaining
- If you are really stuck with a piece of homework and need help with it
- If you simply want to speak in that language
- If you want to watch an age appropriate film in that language
- If you need to catch up some languages work

but learners can request anything else too; Mr Najman and his team will try to arrange it for you.

The sessions will be as follows:

Tuesdays from 13.00 - 13.45

- French in room 226
- Spanish in room 225

Wednesdays from 13.00 - 13.35

- Mandarin Chinese in room 227

Fridays from 13.00 - 13.35

- Bahasa Malaysia in room 223

ART NEWS

On Wednesday, in IB Visual Arts, Michael Malloy, a Lecturer in Interior Design from Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane Australia, came to Nexus International to conduct a workshop for the IB Arts learners, Year 12's and 13's, about good layout and graphic expression for their future portfolios. The learners benefited from this as most of their current art work for the IB, must be put onto digital screens and uploaded. During the workshop, which was organised by Mr. Joel Connor with University Applications Placement Services, good practise tips were shared by Mr. Malloy. These tips included information about formatting text, consistent layout, how to show a narrative to your graphic layout, demonstrating variety, clarity technical processes, how to use 'white space' and above all how to show that you are thinking about the layout to your presentations. The learners absorbed many new ideas asked many questions and are now extremely keen to apply this to their work.



Appeal for recycling Material!!

Year 9 are participating in the Jane Goodall's 'Roots and Shoots' Animal Welfare exhibition this term. Their finished art work will be part of an exhibition at Berjaya Times Square in March 2016. As part of the project the Year 9 learners will be making life size sculptures of endangered Malaysian animals made from recycled materials. These are things like: cardboard, plastic bottles, rubber bands, newspaper, magazines, plastic caps, any type of cans, plastic bags, old clothes, packaging. Part of their homework is to collect as many recyclable materials as possible to make excellent sculptures, and this is where we need the help from the Nexus community, we are appealing for found and recyclable materials for Year 9. If you have any of these types of materials and no longer want them then please bring them to the secondary Art rooms (122 and 123) and pass them to either Mr. Mauro or Mr. Saiful. If you wish for more information please contact me on: brooks.m@nexus.edu.my



by Aisha 9X



by Marrisa 9X



by Ruchira 9E

Nexus Sports Latest

U15 Boys Volleyball

Soleh from the boys team wrote: On September 10th 2015, me and my volleyball team went to ISKL to play the first match of the season in volleyball. I played in the U13 matches but i also had to play with the older kids in the U15 matches. It was a good experience for me. Even though we tied our first match and lost our last match, we still had a lot of fun and everyone enjoyed it. It wasn't a competitive match, it was more of a friendly match against other schools so that we could practice before our league starts.



Match Report: U15 Girls Volleyball@ ISKL (10th September 2015)

Report by Intan Idris (Year 10U): First game of the season and we started off really well! After training hard at breaks and lunches we put as much effort in as we possibly could. We listened to the advice and help that we got from our coaches, we developed our communication, and we now have the experience that we had lacked. We are looking forward to getting back to training and playing our next games. Well done to all of the girls that played!

Here are the scores:

Match 1: ISKL Blue (25) v Nexus (23)

Match 2: ISKL Blue (25) v Nexus (21)

Match 3: ISKL Yellow (21) v Nexus (25)

Match 4: ISKL Yellow (22) v Nexus (25)



U13 Boys and Girls Football

Bernard wrote: On Friday (4th of September, 2015), us U13s went for a football match at ISKL (International School of Kuala Lumpur). Our first match was with ISKL. We got ourselves ready and did some warm-ups, the referee then blew the whistle and it's time to start the match. It was quite easy to move around the field, partly because their grass was fake grass and wouldn't catch your shoe unlike real grass. In the end, we won 2-1 which was the final score of the match. We then took a long rest while the girls had their match. Once the girl's match was over, we then got ready again and discussed what our tactics were. "This time we're playing against ISKL's Gold team" said one of the team's members to the whole team. They were absolutely hard to play against because most of them were really tall and only some were muscular. We tried our best to score goals and to defend our own goal, but in the end we still lost 5-1. Even though we lost the last match, we were not enthusiastically down, our spirits were still high up in the sky. We were really tired after the match against the ISKL Gold team. "Well, at least we won one match and lost one, it's pretty much fair to everyone" I said.



Upcoming Sports Fixtures

Reminder - attending sporting fixtures requires parental consent letters to be signed. Without these we cannot allow learners to play. Team coaches will give these consent form letters out to players 1 week in advance of the fixture date. These must be signed and returned as soon as possible, as only then will participation be confirmed on the team sheet. Parents, fans and friends are warmly invited to come and cheer on our Nexus teams. Here are the dates so that you can plan to spectate.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 12th	U13 Boys and Girls Football at Nexus
Saturday 12th	U15 Boys and Girls Football at Nexus
Monday 14th	U18 Boys and Girls Volleyball at ISKL
Monday 21st	U18 Boys Volleyball at ISKL
Tuesday 22nd	U15 Girls Volleyball at MKIS
Tuesday 22nd	U18 Boys Football at GIS
Monday 28th	Primary Swim Gala at MKIS

Here is a reminder of what sport teams and sports activity clubs are available this term:

Nexus Sports Training - Term 1 2015/16						
		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	7.40 - 8.25am Whole School	Team Swim Club Gemma/Paul/Grace/Andy		Team Swim Club Gemma/Grace/Andy/Paul	Swimming Confidence Paul	Team Swim Club Gemma/Andy/Paul
	8.15 - 8.40am Whole School		Whole School X-Country Field - Gemma/Grace/Andy		Whole School X-Country Field - Gemma/Grace/Andy	
	8.25 - 8.43am Primary only	Multi-Sport Activities Sports Hall - Grace	Multi-Sport Activities Sports Hall - Grace	Atlantic Challenge Sports Hall - Gemma	Atlantic Challenge Sports Hall - Gemma	Aerobics Sports Hall - Kerry
Primary Lunch	12.30 - 1.00pm	Primary Girls/Boys Basketball Gemma			Primary Boys/Girls Benchball Grace (G) + Gemma (B)	
	12.30 - 1.00pm					
Secondary Lunch	1.10 - 1.45pm	Secondary Boys Volleyball Sports Hall - Andy/Wen Nie		Secondary Girls Volleyball Sports Hall - Gemma/Grace/Isabelle	Secondary Boys Basketball Sports Hall - Paul/Andy	
	1.10 - 1.45pm		Fitness Club Fitness Suite - Mr Paul	Fitness Club Fitness Suite - Mr Andy		Fitness Club Sports Hall - Mr Chris
CCA	3.15 - 4.20pm		Boys + Girls Football Mr Marlyn/Mr Paul	Girls Team Basketball Sports Hall - Mr Woon	Boys Team Basketball Sports Hall	
	3.15 - 4.20pm		Team Badminton Gym - Coach William			
	3.15 - 4.20pm		Team Swim Club PE Dept - Andy/Gemma			

MUSIC NEWS

New Music Staff

The Music Department would like to welcome two new members of staff to the department. We are very honoured to have such excellent and well qualified musicians and teachers join our ever-expanding team:

Mr Don Nizam - Double Bass & Electric Bass Teacher:



Don is one of KL and Malaysia's renowned bass players. Don's musical journey began when he was 8 taking classical guitar lessons, but the interest waned. It was only when he was 14 when he took playing guitar seriously. Rock and jazz genre became his main interest and Don learned the art without formal musical training.

It wasn't long before his raw talent saw him performing professionally with a jazz fusion band at the age of 19 in 1991.

To further hone his skill, Don took up Diploma in performance at ICOM in 1996, and he was awarded a scholarship from Berklee College of Music Boston, USA in 1998 from where he

graduated. His patience and understanding in performing music opened the door to become a guitar a bass instructor in 2006.

Don is a music performer with over 25 years of experience Don has performed at most jazz and music festivals in Malaysia.

Mr Stephen Tok - Piano and Vocal Teacher:



Stephen completed his Bachelor of Music degree in both Piano and Voice Performance at West Virginia University and his Master of Music degree in Performance (Collaborative Piano) at Bowling Green State University in the United States. While abroad, he was awarded with performance grants and assistantships in accompanying from both institutions to refine his skills as a classical pianist, singer and a coach-accompanist. He has performed and taught in the US; giving solo and collaborative recitals, and working with students ranging from elementary school level to university level.

In addition to his teaching at Nexus International School, Stephen teaches Piano, Voice, Singers' Diction, Chamber Ensemble, and other music courses at UCSI University and Bentley Music Academy. He is also passionate about making a positive difference through music and the arts, and has worked closely over the last six years with StART Society (a non-profit organization that provides fine and performing arts classes to under-privileged children).

When time permits, Stephen free-lances as an accompanist and a vocal/diction coach. In 2012, Stephen received an award for Best Musical Direction at the BOH Cameronian Arts Awards for the Malaysian première of Jason Robert Brown's musical *The Last Five Years* at the Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre. His other notable music and vocal directorial collaborations with KLPAC include Michael John LaChiusa's *Bernarda Alba* (2010), Kander and Ebb's *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (2012), and Malaysian composer Onn San's *Marrying Me* (2013).

FINAL CALL to Sign-up for Instrumental/Voice Lessons

If you missed the sign-up session for Instrumental or Vocal Lessons then you can still sign-up online here: <https://sites.google.com/a/nexus.edu.my/music-department/sign-up-for-instrumental-lessons>

N.B. This is only for learners who want to start new lessons - All previous lessons will continue automatically unless we are advised ASAP. The school will provide/loan, **free of charge**, the following instrument: Trumpets, Trombones, Flutes, Clarinets, Saxophones, Violins, Violas, Cellos and Double Bases.

Timetables for Instrumental Lessons

If you want to find out the time of the Instrumental/Vocal lessons then please look on the Music Department Website here: <https://sites.google.com/a/nexus.edu.my/music-department/instrumental-timetables>

Grease the Musical - Auditions



The Grease auditions went amazingly well with so many learners wanting to be involved and performing so well.

Well done to all the learners who auditioned, it takes real nerve to perform in front of others. Here is the confirmed Cast List, a Huge Congratulations for these learners for achieving one of our few prestigious 'lead role parts':

Danny - Aiman Johanuddin
Roger (Putzie) - Thinees Thirumoothy
Kenickie - Jacob Allen-Lynn
Sonny - Danish Farizal
Doody - Danny Shariat
Sandy - Riana Adams

Jan - Hamidah Abd Rahman
 Rizzo - Isabel Putri Smith
 Marty - Aisyha Syed Yahya
 Frenchy - Intan Mohd Idris
 Patty - Hah Ni Tran
 Eugene - Eric Zhechenzhang
 Vince - Jachym Jarkulisch
 Johnny Casino - Stephen Ong
 Cha Cha - Iman Amalin Hadtamizi
 Teen Angel - Priyalini Ai Bharath
 Miss Lynch - Victoria Camia

Well done also to the following learners will also got through the audition stages to be involved in the production:

Chorus

Selma Qabil
 Marissa Samusi
 Michelle Smith
 Bridget Pang
 Hui Xin Tan
 Priti Prabhu
 Muziah Barek
 Qutreen Khairul

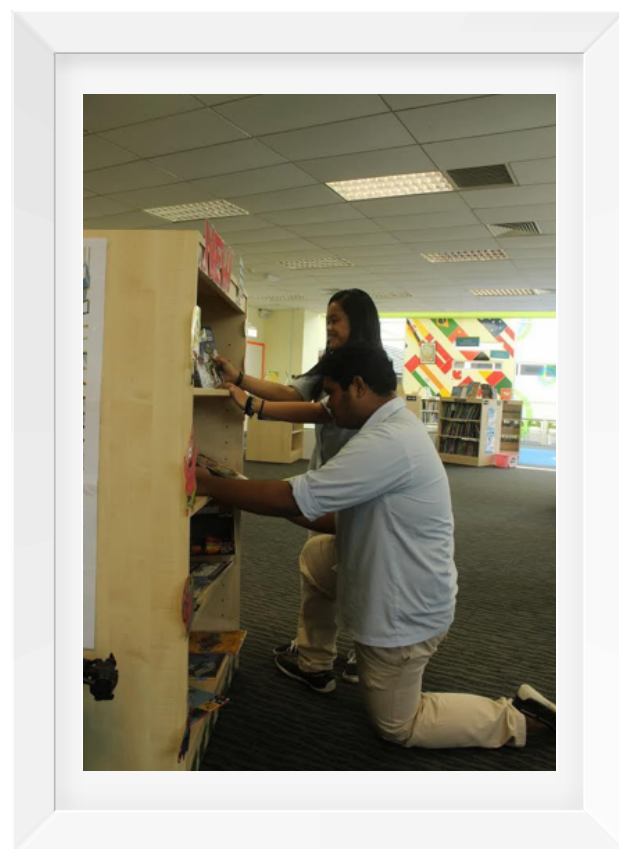
Stage manager - Kamilia Broderick

For all of the learners that were unsuccessful this time the will be many future opportunities so please try again next time.

Dates For Your Diaries

Thursday 5th November	Y11 Drama Production
Thursday 19th November	Nexus' Got Talent
Wednesday 9th December	Grease the Musical - 7pm in the Theatre
Thursday 10th December	Grease the Musical - 7pm in the Theatre

CAS Reflection: Muhamad Zarif Zaiful Anuar



My experience as a library assistance wasn't that great at first as it required a lot of thinking and looking for things in order, to place the book in the right order and the right place but after a few sessions, it became much simpler. This activity has helped me to become more creative and organise through thinking about how to catalogue the books. First I would put the books into their number and shelf group in order to speed up the process and also to place everything at the correct location. I feel more organised after my first few sessions of library assistance and I wish to further and continue and acquire more knowledge and experiences throughout the activity.

Library News

A huge thank you to all the volunteer parents who gave up so much time to help cover books in the library at the Book Blitz. The camaraderie and hard work were second to none and the beautifully wrapped towers at the end of day showed just what an amazing team we had on the day. Particular mention has to go to Marianne Chang for organising the event. There is no doubt that all the children will be thrilled to have new books to add to their reading lists.



CCAs Start Next week

Growing Stuff!

This is a new CCA for Year 7 learners (combined with Years 5 & 6) run by Ms Elly and Ms Stephanie. It will run on Tuesdays in Science and will be an amazing introduction for children to learn new and interesting ways to produce new plants.

