

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE FOR SCOTLAND'S SCHOOLS

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2023



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Cover photo:
Pupils from Stornoway Primary

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EDITORIAL

SUSAN LAWSON
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



大家好,

Welcome to CISS's Summer 2023 Newsletter.

The last few weeks of term, leading up to the summer holiday is one of the busiest times of year in our schools. I appreciate how much you will be looking forward to a relaxing and reinvigorating summer break.

I have been working as a Professional Development Officer with CISS since the summer of 2020. It is an exciting and fulfilling role with lots of innovative projects running at different times, all with the common theme of supporting schools in their delivery of Mandarin language and culture.

I split my time between working for CISS and teaching in schools in my Local Authority area of Stirling. As a teacher of Primary Mandarin, I have the privilege of visiting many different schools and I can see just how hard teachers and school staff are working, particularly at this hectic and exhausting time of year.

For all of us, the past year has involved implementing lessons learned during the pandemic and settling back into a sustainable way of working after the huge disruption of the previous couple of years.

For CISS, this means hybrid working, with staff located across Scotland taking advantage of the technological advances necessarily imposed on us all during the pandemic.

These changes have also had a huge impact on how Mandarin language is taught in our schools. Our Virtual Exchange Teachers, based at South West Jiao Tong University in Chengdu, are about to complete their sixth block of online lessons in Scottish primary classrooms, live from China, while CISS's Mandarin teachers, Minrong Zhang and Xiaoyan Zhou continue their development and delivery of the online Discovering China programme, supporting Mandarin learning in High Schools including National Qualifications.

Last summer, we welcomed seven of our former Virtual Exchange Teachers to Scotland to teach in person in schools across the country. Their previous experience of online teaching in Scotland along with the accompanying professional Learning offered by CISS, proved to be an excellent introduction to our Education system and went a long way in preparing them for what they would find once they set foot in a Scottish classroom.

We will be sad to say goodbye to our Chinese Exchange Teachers this summer as most of them return to Tianjin and Chengdu after either one or two years teaching in our schools. We have been getting excellent reports about just how well they have adapted to their roles and we are sorry to see them go. We are looking forward to welcoming a new group of CETs for the beginning of the 2023/24 session.

We wish you all a healthy and happy summer break.

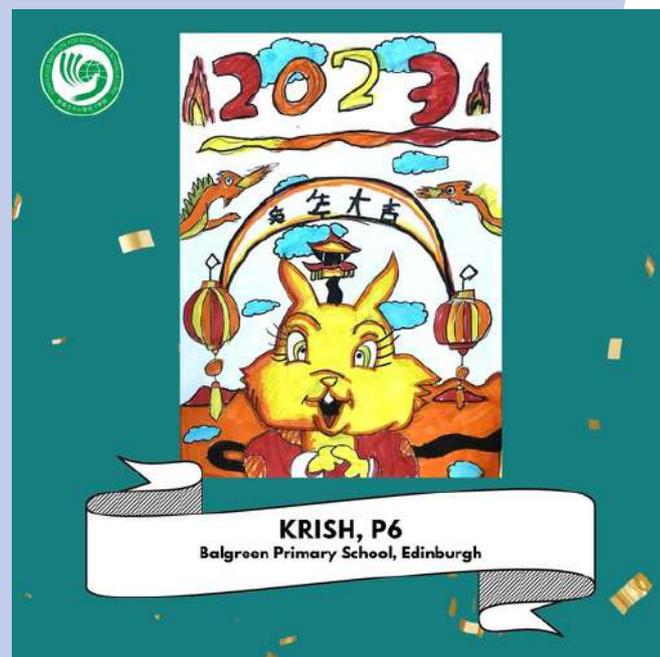
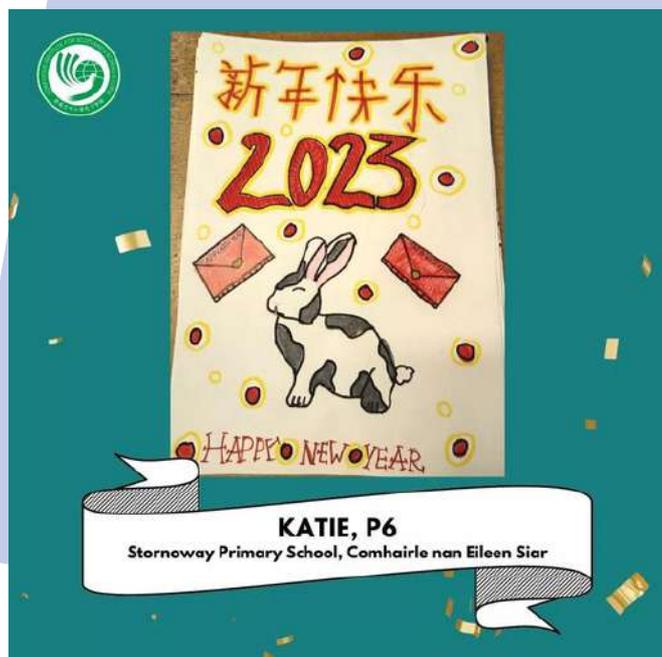
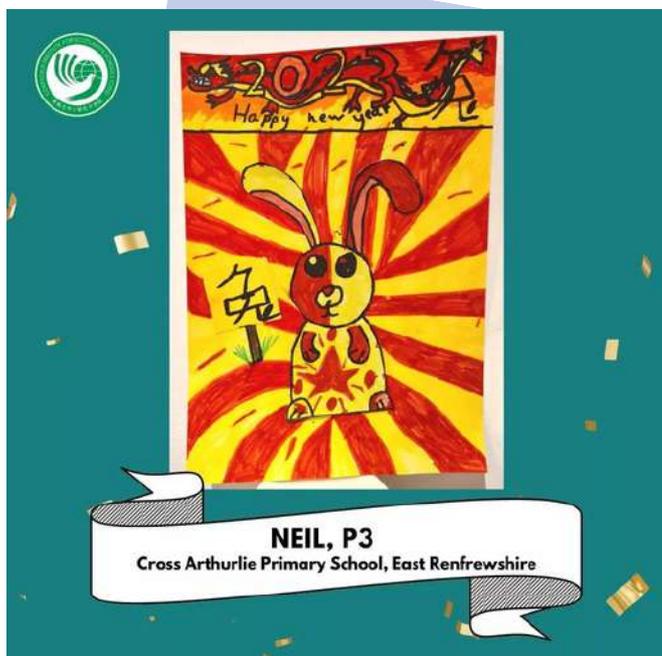
Susan

GIFT DESIGN COMPETITION

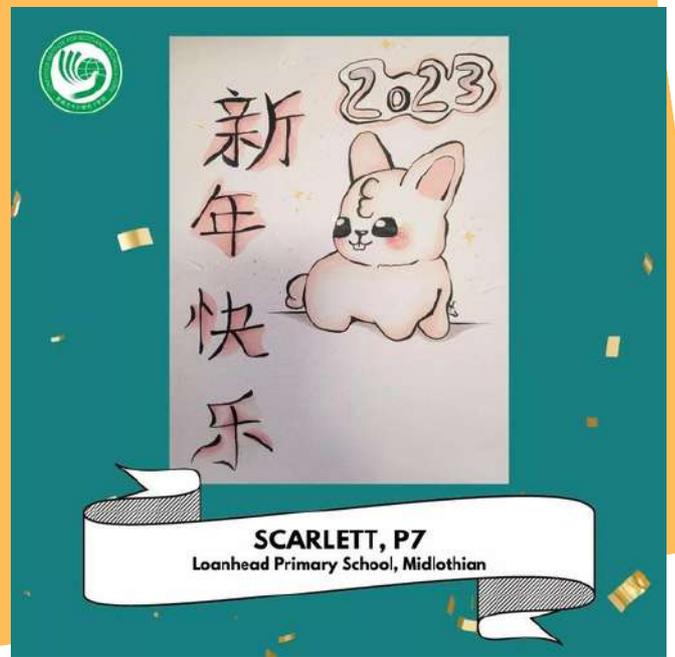
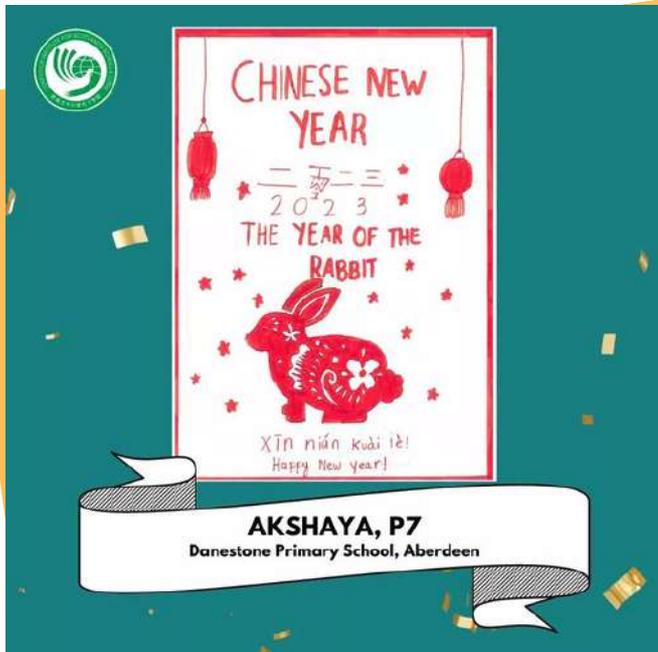
At the beginning of 2023 CISS held a poster design competition to celebrate the year of the rabbit. We received nearly 600 entries from schools across Scotland and it was very difficult to narrow it down to 8 winners in two categories: P3-P6 and P7.

Here are the winners.

P3-P6



P7



Thank you to all pupils who submitted an entry. You can see the posters that we felt deserved an honourable mention on [our website](#).



DISCOVERING CHINA CNY VIRTUAL CELEBRATION & SHOWCASE OF LEARNING

To celebrate Chinese New Year and the hard work of pupils who have been taking part in Discovering China 2022-23, CISS hosted a CNY Virtual Celebration and Showcase of Learning on 3rd February 2023. The event was a mix of performances by pupils, contributions from Chinese teachers, cultural information and interactive quizzes. Pupils submitted videos to be shown during the showcase. You can take a look at those videos [here](#).



AN ADVENTURE WITH PANDAS

On Wednesday 19th April 2023, in celebration of the UN Chinese Language Day 2023, CISS partnered with RZSS and Southwest Jiaotong University to present An Adventure with Pandas marking the return of Edinburgh Zoo's giant pandas back to China.

Over 5000 Pupils joined the online event from all across Scotland, with over 90 schools in 18 Local Authorities taking part. During An Adventure With Pandas, pupils took a virtual tour of the Chengdu panda park with panda specialists,

saw inside Edinburgh Zoo's panda enclosure, learnt some panda related Chinese characters and took part in our online quiz.



WATCH THE EVENT FILM



The event was co-hosted by CISS Project Coordinator Calum Gibb and FU Jiaming, CET and former VET based in Midlothian Confucius Classroom Hub.

Our Mandarin Teacher Xiaoyan Zhou gave a mini Mandarin lesson with games and an introduction to Chinese characters.



Classroom resources from the event can be found on our website.



DISCOVERING CHINA MEET UP

Our Discovering China pupils and their schoolteachers travelled from different areas across Scotland to Glasgow on 11th May during their exam leave. This was their first time visiting their Mandarin teachers in person who have been teaching them online throughout the year. The one-day event consisted of an abundance of cultural activities and drew the 22/23 Discovering China National Qualification classes to a perfect end.

The group first visited the Burrell Collection where they saw Chinese art. With guidance from Mrs Zhang, they traced the artistic development of China from the Neolithic period to the Qing dynasty and experienced the ancient civilisations in person.

The arts of Buddhism, Daoism and Confucianism, ceramics and porcelains from Qing Dynasties, Chinese drinking culture history...all of these intrigued our Mandarin learners greatly. 'Oh, San cai (three-color glazed pottery)! This must be from Tang Dynasty'. Our NQ pupils guessed the dynasty based on the features of one relic and they were correct!

After the trip to the Burrell Collection, our pupils had a fantastic time at The Ramshorn, in the heart of Glasgow's city-centre and home to SCILT/CISS. They tried out Chinese calligraphy, face mask designs and jianzi (shuttlecocks) that had been introduced through our online courses. The environmentally friendly way of using reusable paper and water (as ink) amazed both teachers and pupils.



CISS NEWS

After displaying their artistry, they enjoyed the tea ceremony with Mrs Zhou, who introduced how the Minnan word for tea was used as the source and adapted for multiple languages accordingly. Everyone tried the tea Mrs Zhou made with authentic Chinese snacks - food and drink is an important part of the culture, of course this wouldn't be excluded! Trying on Chinese traditional costumes was an exciting experience for all our visitors. Our pupils from across different areas of Scotland dressed in clothing from different dynasties. They hit it off immediately.

Mrs Bell, Discovering China's Secondary course leader, Professional Development Officer from SCILT awarded our learners certificates along with small gifts in recognition of their hard work throughout the year. All the non-graduates will continue to do Mandarin with us next year.

I would like to use a saying by Confucius to conclude the summary of our day - A visit by a friend from afar is truly a delight (有朋自远方来，不亦乐乎). Our learners from different levels gathered together and celebrated their learning and achievement. We would like to congratulate all of them!



CISS NEWS



Discovering China is an innovative project run by SCILT that aims to support GTCS teachers and their provision of Mandarin in state schools across Scotland. Online lessons (Nat 4, Nat 5, Higher, Advanced Higher) are delivered by one of our GTCS teachers of Mandarin and live streamed into the classroom via Microsoft Teams in Glow. Find out more [here](#).



THE HAPPINESS OF A MANDARIN TEACHER

Xiaoyan Zhou

"A teacher is the most glorious profession under the sun!"

The progress of human society is inseparable from hard-working people from all professions. People who are inspired by teachers who are equally enthusiastic and dedicated about educating people. To say the least; I feel extremely happy because I am a teacher.

For me, nothing can surpass the delight brought about from seeing the faces of students breaking out into smiles upon acquiring understanding. Happiness lies in the knowledge that students have embarked on the industry they hoped for, followed by their expansion of knowledge, as well as the influence and cultivation of the spirit.

I am beyond grateful to be a Chinese teacher in Scotland. CISS provides school pupils in Scotland the opportunity to learn Chinese online through the Discovering China course. These pupils would otherwise not have access to a Mandarin teacher and through the course, they can learn Chinese and take its SQA exam. I am immensely proud to be part of this project.

I feel blessed to have met such lovely students through the Discovering China course; students who have won Chinese speaking awards and students who are going on to University to study languages such as Chinese, French and German in September. Would it not bring immeasurable feelings of delight, to see so many budding linguists with such promising futures?

I feel happy because these past three years, I've taught a student who has overcome all kinds of obstacles and yet continues to study Chinese.



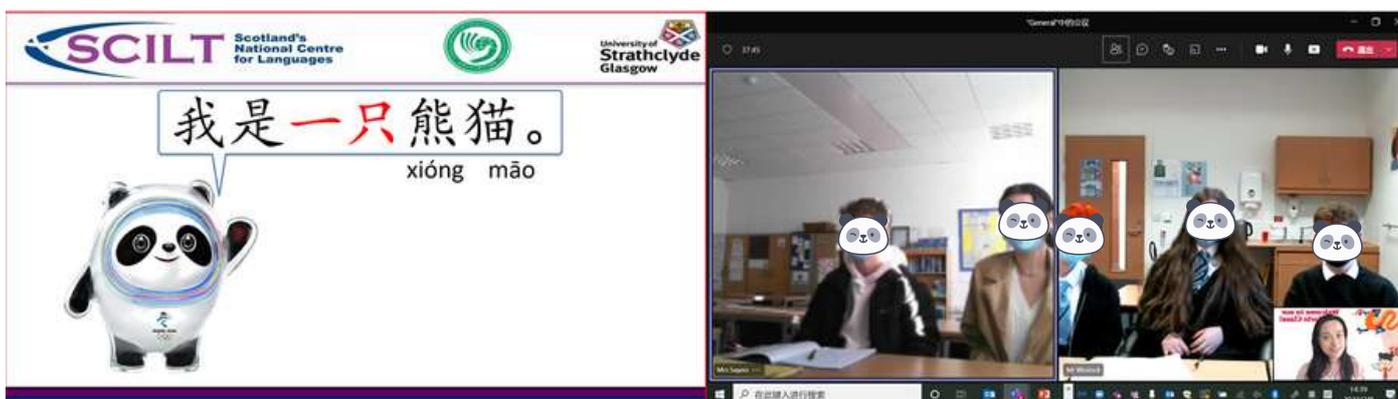


In the past three years, she has not only experienced the challenges of Covid, but also autism, social anxiety and migraines. Through all this, she has still not stopped learning Chinese, and is preparing for the Higher exam in March this year. Suffering from autism and social anxiety, during our online classes she keeps her camera off and rarely turns on the microphone, but because she practices independently, I believed she can do it. One challenge was the red recording icon during the speaking test, which would cause her to panic; an almost invisible thing for us yet an insurmountable gap for her to overcome. After practicing and practising with the red recording button, she finally completed the speaking test smoothly and flawlessly, and got an exceptional score of full marks.

This is, of course, a colossal achievement for a person with social anxiety. In May, when all the Discovering China NQ students visited Glasgow to participate in the immersive event, I saw her happily communicating with other students, trying on traditional Chinese costumes and taking photos with everyone. It was almost impossible to tell that she is a student with autism and social anxiety and seeing this and having the privilege of following and contributing to her progress in life, I couldn't help but feel moved.

I feel happy because I work in a team that unconditionally supports and help each other. Without the joint efforts of everyone, we would not be able to achieve what we achieve.

A new semester is about to begin, and I am looking forward to the arrival of the new class with great happiness. I love teaching because it truly brings me contentment and joy!



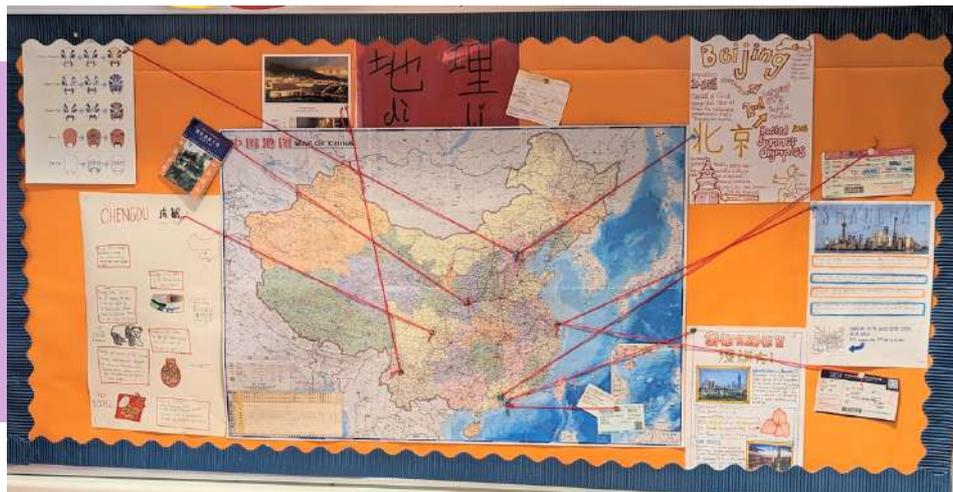
GROVE ACADEMY

Here at Grove Academy in Dundee we have been continuing our Mandarin learning across year groups P6-S6. Recently, S2 have been researching cities from across China to create an interactive map, while in third year the focus has been perfecting directions and conjunctions. Our N5 and Higher pupils have been focusing on completing their final talking performance exams, while our S5/6 China Elective have been enjoying watching the Chinese version of The Voice and learning their numbers in order to play some card games with bilingual cards.

我星期一有：九点挑战、体育课、语文课和学校机会。
我星期四有：数学课、科学课、中文课、美术课和德文课。

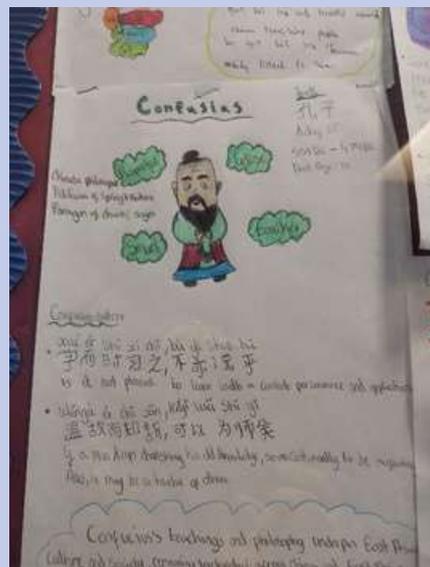
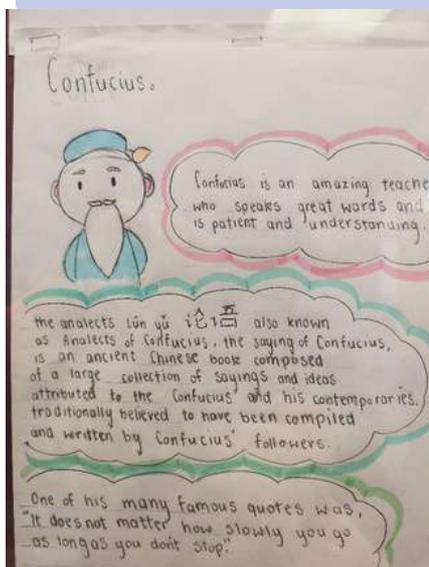
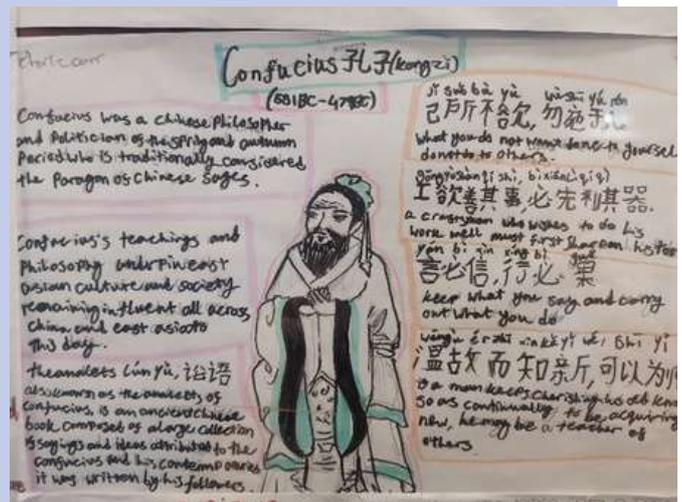
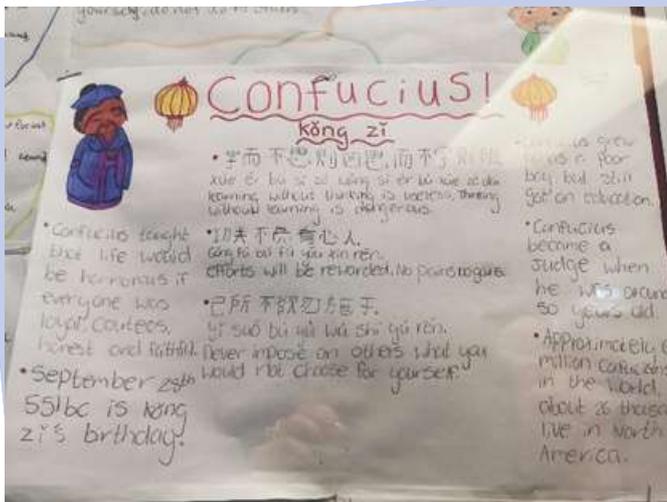
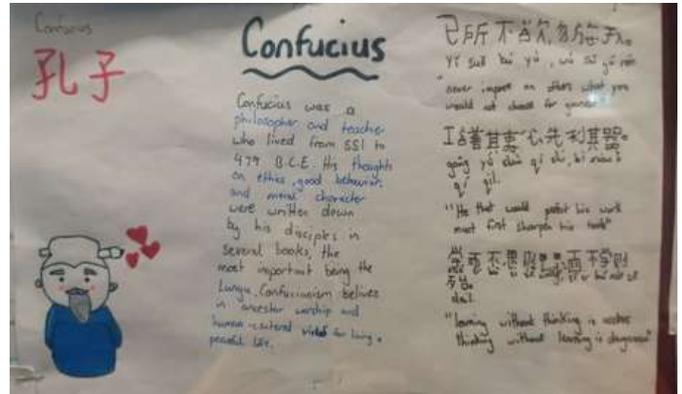


We are excited to be pursuing the path of becoming a Confucius Hub, after introducing Mandarin 3 years ago through an online learning program and slowly building the subject up. We are also pleased that Mandarin will continue in our cluster with Barnhill P.S becoming a primary hub. We are looking forward to strengthening out relationships with Tangshan No.2 High School near Tianjin and Nanhui High School in Shanghai.



GRANGE ACADEMY

S3 Mandarin pupils have learned about the story of Confucius and produced posters about his most famous sayings. This has helped them develop a greater understanding about Chinese history and traditional culture.



EAST AYRSHIRE

Our S2 pupils enjoyed learning about different aspects of Chinese culture during our Chinese New year celebrations, including paper cutting, using chopsticks, singing Chinese songs and practising Chinese Kung Fu. The pupils had great fun and developed their knowledge about Chinese culture.



EAST AYRSHIRE

A group of our Mandarin pupils enjoyed a screening of the recently released Chinese film 'Wandering Earth' 流浪地球 at the local cinema in Kilmarnock. They wrote lovely reviews and recommendations about the movie.



The Wandering Earth II
24th Friday March 2023 is when we watched the movie. I went with two mandarin classes, one of them being my own. I watched with Lauren, Evie and Lily.
The type of movie was sci-fi.
The movie was about trying to move the Earth away from the moon and people rioting because they wanted to live a digital life whilst others were determined to survive and live their life by moving the Earth away.
I liked the part of the movie where the man gave the girl the flowers but then people trying to take their identities and shut down the space elevator because they were pro-digital life started attacking and he sacrificed himself and fought them all by locking her in the room.
I would recommend the movie because it is interesting and the CGI was amazing.

Movie Evaluation 28/3/23
I went to go and watch 'The Wandering Earth 2' on Friday 24th March at Odeon Kilmarnock with all the S3 Mandarin classes. It was a science-fiction (sci-fi) film about the human race trying to move the Earth away from our moon and solar system because the sun was growing bigger and the moon was moving closer to the Earth. The part which impressed me the most was the CGI throughout. I would recommend the film because it had great graphics.

1/23
我三月二十四跟着同学和老师去电影看《流浪地球2》。《流浪地球2》是一部科幻电影。电影是关于一代人类，这代人类在地球上建造了一万艘火箭发动机，将地球变成一艘火箭，逃离太阳系。电影使我印象深刻的是电影CGI的质量，让电影更好看。我建议大家去看因为我感觉很好看而且我觉得你也会喜欢。

CLOBER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dong Hanshu

Hello everyone! This news is from the hub in Clober Primary School. At the beginning of school, we ushered in the Chinese Year of the Rabbit. The rabbit is an animal that students like very much, so we combined rabbit elements with traditional paper-cuts. The students made and designed paper-cut patterns on red paper symbolizing luck. Every rabbit is holding a carrot - so cute!



Also, we learnt what the Chinese couplet is and some classes made the rabbit couplet. After drawing rabbits of different shapes, they wrote down their expectations for the New Year in words.



EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE

There are also some students that have a soft spot for Chinese dragons. We prepared dragon masks for them, and the students made the coolest dragons by hand, colouring and collage.



After the Spring Festival, we started a new theme - fruit. The students learned the Mandarin of all kinds of fruits and made fruit bookmarks. Look, aren't the children very creative? I am very happy that children like to learn Chinese and enjoy the process of experiencing Chinese culture. Hopefully we can get more knowledge about China in the coming time.



ST. NINIAN'S HIGH SCHOOL

A TRIP TO THE BURRELL COLLECTION



On Monday 20th Feb 2023 a group of our S1 Mandarin pupils visited the Burrell Collection. It was a wonderful cultural learning opportunity for pupils. During the trip, students were able to view and study Chinese ceramics, paintings, and calligraphy. We discussed the historical context of each piece, as well as the cultural significance of the artistic styles and techniques used. This trip also provided an opportunity to practise Mandarin vocabulary related to art and design.



Overall, the trip was very successful in engaging students and providing them with a deeper understanding of Chinese culture beyond what can be taught in the classroom. By linking the trips to the Mandarin curriculum, students were able to reinforce and apply what they had learned in class in a real-world context.

ST. NINIAN'S HIGH SCHOOL

EDINBURGH ZOO TRIP

Written by Kate Hazelwood, S3

On 19th December, Mandarin pupils from S2-S5 went on a trip to Edinburgh Zoo. A lovely tour guide showed us around some enclosures and gave us lots of interesting knowledge on the animals there. We went and met two pandas called Sunshine (Yang Guang) and Sweetie (Tian Tian). Both were munching on huge bundles of bamboo. Did you know that Giant Panda in Mandarin is 'da xiong mao'? We saw a red panda high up in a tree and later saw it climbing down.



We also saw Scotland's only sloths sleeping peacefully in a hanging basket! At lunch the seagulls decided they wanted a bite and took someone's sandwich! It was a very fun day! We saw so many animals and I even can't pick my favourite animal! We are all so glad we had this opportunity!

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Written by Ryan Hamilton, S3

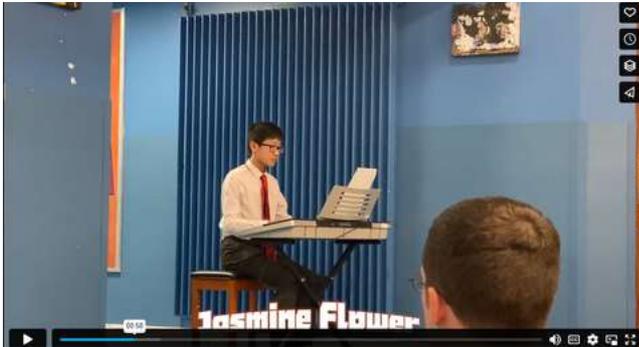
To celebrate Chinese New Year we took part in many activities. We had ping pong competitions, sang different songs in Chinese, played the traditional Chinese instrument hulu si, learned dragon dance, Kungfu and performed Chinese fashion show.

We also watched a Chinese New Year celebration live stream in class. We really enjoyed learning about the Chinese New year traditions in depth and we found it to be a very good and enjoyable experience.



EAST RENFREWSHIRE

ST NINIANS HIGH SCHOOL



CHINESE NEW YEAR

On 26th January 2023, Mandarin pupils in St Ninian's High School celebrated the Chinese New Year of the Rabbit in the school forum. The event had two sessions. The first session consisted of performances of Chinese dance, Chinese music, Chinese Folk Song, Tai Chi, Chinese story telling, a Mandarin Word Wizard demonstration, and the Head Teacher Award. The performances demonstrated the great collaboration between Mandarin and English. Pupils and parents thoroughly enjoyed the Chinese Dumplings, Spring Rolls, Prawn Crackers and Chinese tea during the second session.



Our pupils also attended the CISS' CNY Virtual celebration on 3rd February. Our pupils submitted their performance videos for this showcase.



EAST RENFREWSHIRE



MANDARIN AT LUNCHTIME

S1 pupils attend the Mandarin Club every Thursdays. They have learned basic greetings, numbers, age, food and simple sentences.

Some pupils prepare for speaking competitions over lunchtime. Theodora has been working consistently at lunchtime with Miss Li to prepare for a prose reading at the SCEN Cantonese Speaking Competition. Miss Li has coached her to mainly work on her speed, intonation and volume of reading aloud to better convey emotions and engage the audience.

Pupils use the lunchtime club time to help plan and design a programme of Chinese Events in school as well as to ensure their performances are authentically Chinese.



EAST RENFREWSHIRE

2023 CHINESE BRIDGE MANDARIN SPEAKING COMPETITION

On 28th and 30th March, Abdullah, S6; Osman, S2; Maria, S1 took part in an intense online competition where over 300 students from across the UK were competing. Well done to our students, the judges were impressed by their high quality performances in speech and translation. They all made it through to the Final of the Chinese Bridge Mandarin Speaking Competition for UK Schools. They represented St Ninian's to compete in the final competition on 5th of May at SOAS, University of London. Our S1 pupil Maria won the First Prize of the Individual Intermediate Category in the Final of the 2023 'Chinese Bridge' Mandarin Speaking Competition for UK Schools. She is truly an inspiration for other learners! Very well done, Maria.



EAST RENFREWSHIRE

CNY AT WILLIAMWOOD AND BARRHEAD HIGH SCHOOLS

To celebrate Chinese New Year 2023, we arranged for several events across both Williamwood High and Barrhead High.

On the 20th of January, a group from Edinburgh performed excellent Lion Dances at both schools. The same group also demonstrated Chinese martial arts and Kung fu. We also had a group come to perform a concert of Chinese music at Barrhead High School. The concert provided an introduction to traditional Chinese music and learners were given the opportunity to try using some of the musical instruments such as the Erhu.

These events went down well with all of the staff and learners involved and raised the awareness of Mandarin and Chinese culture in both schools. The events to mark Chinese New Year were enjoyed by all who took part.

We look forward to holding another celebration next year and possibly making it even bigger and more exciting.



EAST RENFREWSHIRE

MEARNS CASTLE

During Chinese New Year, the Chinese department at Mearns Castle worked in collaboration with Home Economics to add Chinese dumplings to the rotation of recipes. Pupils loved the opportunity to try something many of them had never tasted before!



There was also a Chinese New Year poster competition celebrating the year of the rabbit for S1 and S2 pupils, and we were treated to a surprise lunchtime visit from a hungry lion, thanks to the wonderful performers from Yee's Hung Ga Kung Fu Academy in Edinburgh.



EAST RENFREWSHIRE

Mearns Castle High School's Chinese Club have also had a jam-packed year, meeting every Thursday at lunch time to take part in Chinese cultural activities, learn more about China and have lots of fun!

Pupils have had the opportunity to taste a variety of delicious Chinese snacks, practise their chopstick skills, take part in Chinese crafts and celebrate different Chinese festivals. Pupils particularly enjoyed decorating Chinese fans and painting their own Beijing Opera Masks.

Most recently, Chinese club have been watching Chinese films and testing their Mandarin listening skills. Pupils have also really enjoyed playing the video game Just Dance to Chinese songs!



DALRY PRIMARY CELEBRATES THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT

Xīn nián kuài lè! 新年快乐! Happy New Year!

Dalry Primary School's Confucius Hub has been running within the Tynecastle learning community since October 2017. In September 2022 we welcomed Yujing Ding from Tianjin on a two-year cultural exchange. Yujing works in the primary schools within our learning community.

To celebrate the Year of the Rabbit we entered the Chinese New Year poster competition which was run by the Confucius Institute for Scottish Schools. The competition was open to all Scottish primary schools, and CISS were delighted to receive nearly 600 entries, almost double 2022's entries!

There were eight winners of the CISS Chinese New Year 2023 poster competition, and I am absolutely delighted to report that our learning community won four of the eight prizes. Huge congratulations to Swara Shirke, Ayush Ayra from Dalry Primary School, Rosie Hutchison, Craiglockhart Primary School and Krish Velmurukan, Balgreen Primary School. We also received an honourable mention for our runner up Aaliyah Deepak Krishnaveni. The final decision was based on the creativity of the design and the use of Chinese language and characters. Each winner received £50 of Amazon vouchers.



LEITH ACADEMY



In mid-February 2023, Leith Academy hosted its annual school-wide Spring Festival celebration.

All the organizational work of this event was done by the senior students, especially the school's Language Ambassadors and Equality Ambassadors, who used their spare time to prepare the venue and activities.

This year's Spring Festival celebrations included chopsticks competitions, mahjong games, Spring Festival couplets written with brush and ink, tea and traditional Chinese snacks tasting. During these activities, pupils learned how to hold a brush, simple Chinese characters, how to use chopsticks, the rules of mahjong game and other skills. As Leith Academy is the Confucius Hub for secondary schools in the City of Edinburgh Council, pupils are exposed to Mandarin and Chinese culture from S1, therefore, they are no strangers to Chinese culture and history. The school is also a multicultural and diverse school with pupils and staff from more than 55 countries. It is one of the school's ethos to promote diversity and multiculturalism.

All the pupils and staff had a great time and look forward to more events like this in the future!



BEAUTIFUL SPRING, WONDERFUL CHINESE

Yang Xiran

This beautiful spring, we once again embarked on a wonderful journey of learning Mandarin. Through the Internet, we reunited with our study partners and we also spent a meaningful Chinese Language Day at Edinburgh Zoo.

This semester, through the Internet, we made many connections with friends from Binhu Primary School in Tianjin, discussing and exchanging information on endangered wild animals, making joint efforts to protect the ecological environment, sharing the beautiful campus environment, and showing each other our community garden and the green plants planted by our own hands.

Although we were separated by the screen, we sang and danced. It shows the friendship between Chinese and Scottish children. All the children of P5-6 in Torryburn Primary school enjoy it. What they look forward to most every week is connecting with their friends in Tianjin! Apart from the fun, the children on both sides, also learned a lot about the ecological environment and animal protection that they did not know before.



The beautiful Chinese language makes the annual Chinese Language Day even more wonderful. We learnt about giant pandas through the internet and all kinds of Chinese characters related to giant pandas. We learnt joy in Chinese and learnt Chinese characters, such as the grass character and bamboo character, every part was so wonderful!



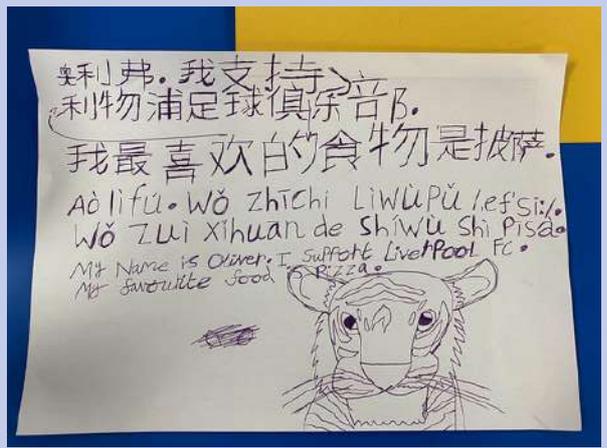
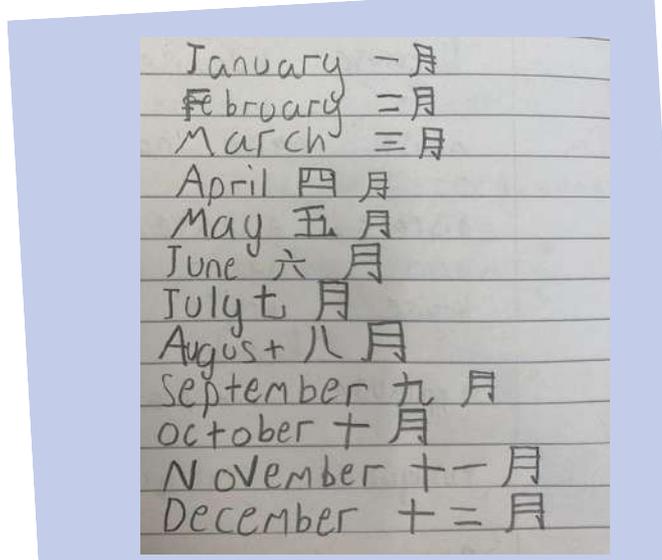
FIFE

After the Chinese Language Day event, the children from Torryburn Primary school planned to make postcards together for CISS's Panda Card Project. The children wrote Chinese characters by hand, and sent postcards to Edinburgh Zoo to say farewell to the lovely pandas Tian Tian and Yang Guang. The children took pictures with them, hoping that they could send the affection of Scottish children back to China. At the zoo, we also reviewed the Chinese words we had learned, which made this year's Chinese Day even more perfect.



As the month of June approaches, it is not only the lovely pandas that are leaving, but also the P7 children from various schools. In order to help them learn Chinese easily in secondary school, I have taught basic Chinese knowledge with P7 children from 14 primary schools, including writing simple Chinese characters and consolidating simple Chinese. After a period of learning, the children can introduce themselves in Chinese and have a basic understanding of Chinese characters.

I believe that this wonderful spring, the beautiful Chinese language will surely be a good memory for the children which will hopefully be the motivation for children to continue learning Chinese.



INK BLOWING PAINTING

Ink blowing painting is a modern creation technique in traditional Chinese ink painting. There is no need for a brush, just drip ink on paper and use a straw to blow it into shape, fingers or cotton buds are then used to add colours to complete the painting.

I introduced the symbolism of Chinese ink painting and plum blossom in Chinese culture, explained the techniques and tools needed for this task and demonstrated the steps in the creation process. Students were very keen when it was their turn to start painting. Each student was given a piece of paper, a straw and a cotton bud, along with some red and yellow paint. As soon as I dripped ink onto their paper, students started to blow the plum branches.

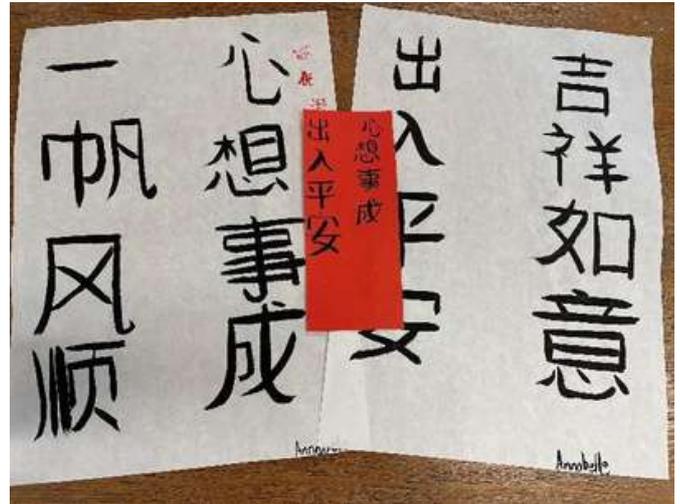
While painting the plum blossoms, students were immersed in classic Chinese music 'Three Stanzas of Plum Blossoms'. After students blew the branches, they used cotton buds to dot red petals, some also used yellow paint to dot the stamen.



CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY

S3 pupils practised traditional Chinese brush writing "Shufa" during the Mandarin group. Although for most pupils, this is their first contact with Chinese calligraphy, they have quickly gained skills: how to hold the brush correctly, apply their brush movement using the correct amount of ink and to begin to express links between harmony of motion, semantic content and 'artistic' expression.

Well done to all pupils involved.



MAKING DUMPLINGS

With S1-S3 pupils we worked with the Home Economics department in their Foodie club where we made dumplings with two kinds of filling, one with beef and one with vegetables. The pupils really enjoyed using the rolling pin to roll out the dough into a variety of shapes and making dumplings before boiling them. At the same time we made Chinese fried noodles as well. They were really proud of their achievements. "Learning about different cultures is an amazing experience and eye-opener. I loved participating in the activity."



BROOMHILL PRIMARY

MANDARIN OUTREACH PROGRAMME 2022/23

Ni hao (你好) from Broomhill Primary School.

A partnership since 2019 with The Confucius Classroom Hub outreach programme at Jordanhill School provides our P5-7 pupils with an introduction to the learning of Mandarin and Chinese culture. Ms Yanshu Song, a fantastic Mandarin teacher from the Jordanhill hub, visits our school two hours a week, over the course of the school year, to deliver ten-week blocks of lessons to P5-7 pupils. Through her high-quality lessons the children make excellent progress developing skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing Mandarin. Pupils are engaged and enthusiastic throughout lessons.

Our P7 pupils who transition to Jordanhill School for their secondary education continue learning BGE

Mandarin classes and can select to continue their studies for year-long NQ classes, for National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher.

Developing an understanding of Chinese culture is a key feature of Mandarin language learning. The RZSS Beyond the Panda education programme provides our P5 children with an understanding of China, its language, geography, wildlife and habitats, and in particular learning about the giant panda. A P5 trip to see pandas at Edinburgh Zoo is a highlight for the children.

In P6 pupils learn about Chinese New Year traditions and P7s study the Moon Festival.

PUPIL ACCOUNTS OF MANDARIN LEARNING - MAY 2023

We have a brilliant Mandarin teacher from Jordanhill School, called Ms Song. She is teaching us about greetings, animals and numbers. Before lessons started some of the boys and girls were nervous and others were excited. Now we all love the Mandarin lessons because they are fun. The class is always curious about our next lesson. We are excited for our trip to Edinburgh Zoo in June to see the pandas. I am really looking forward to China Day next month, so I can try Chinese food and chopsticks with my dad and classmates.

Blane, age 10

Four weeks ago, I started Primary 5 Mandarin lessons. It felt very strange studying a language I already know. It has been nice to revise words I have learned at home and some new Chinese songs. Our teacher Ms Song is amazing. Her Mandarin lessons are very fun. I am excited for our trip soon to Edinburgh Zoo to see the pandas (I absolutely love pandas). Also, to do Chinese art with my mum at China day in school in June.

Lauren, age 9

Four weeks ago, we started learning Mandarin. The teacher's name is Ms Song. She is very kind and taught me numbers, animals, writing and more. The lessons are very fun and entertaining. I am going with all the P5s on a trip to Edinburgh Zoo and I think it will be fun. I am feeling exciting for the family learning day in June because there is going to be Chinese food there that I've never tried and I will learn how to use chopsticks with my mum and dad.

Toby, age 9

At the start of term 3, our teacher Miss Pryde told my class that we were going to start having Chinese Mandarin lessons. The class were very excited. Ms Song, our Mandarin teacher from Jordanhill School, is teaching us animal names, numbers and basic greetings. The lessons have been fun and interesting and we never know what we are learning next. Even though I already go to Chinese lessons at the weekend, it is good to revise and learn some new language. The teacher is amazing. We sometimes have little quizzes about what we are learning. I am looking forward to going to Edinburgh Zoo next month and the China family learning day.

Chloe, age 10

CHINA FAMILY LEARNING DAY

A China Family Learning Day is planned for June 2023. This builds on the success of our first family learning event (in February 2020, pre-Covid) which began with our headteacher explaining to P6 families about the vision for 1+2 Modern Languages in Scotland and our school's involvement with the Confucius Classroom Hub at Jordanhill School. The children then showcased their Mandarin language skills and knowledge about Chinese New Year to their families.

After the learning showcase, parents and carers enthusiastically joined their children to learn more about Chinese culture, including: watching Chinese tea ceremony demonstrations; tasting jasmine green tea; using chopsticks to sample delicious Chinese dishes; learning the art of Chinese calligraphy; learning how to tie decorative knots; and enthusiastically taking part in Tai Chi. Fantastic feedback from parents and carers who attended the event told us that it was a resounding success in helping families learn together about the charm of Chinese language and culture. This year China Day will be hosted for our P5 families, to mark the initial year of the Mandarin programme.



CHINESE BOOKS

Books have become an invaluable tool in our Chinese language learning. The school library is currently building a Chinese literacy collection through donations from Jordanhill School and funding from our Parent Council. As well as igniting curiosity and extending vocabulary learning of pupils new to Mandarin, the books are also maximising our Chinese children's bilingual abilities. A wide range of titles translated into Chinese are available on our online Giglets reading resource.



Books that originate from China are opening beautiful windows into Chinese culture and language for our pupils.'

*Mrs Cameron
Headteacher, Broomhill Primary*

CHINESE LUNCHTIME CLUB

Chinese language club welcomes pupils from Primary 6-7 and is facilitated weekly by two Mandarin speakers, Ms Yue Amanda Huang, a Language Assistant through the British Council programme, and Mr Simon Lui, our school's Support for Learning Worker. The children have so far learned traditional Chinese songs, new Mandarin language, and made 3D dragons, Chinese fans and origami. Pupils not only get to experience Chinese culture and language but also enjoy a peaceful, creative process.



JORDANHILL SCHOOL

CHINESE NEW YEAR IN P6

In Mandarin this year, Jordanhill has been busy learning all about the Chinese New Year.

Primary 2 did a super performance of a show all about the Chinese New Year with words, songs and even a dragon dance!

In Primary 6, we had a poster competition. We had to make posters all about the Chinese New Year and the winners got a panda postcard and a pencil that looks like bamboo.

Primary 6 also did an activity with Chinese ink as well as learning a Chinese New Year song. We were also learning about the zodiac and how to say all the animals in Mandarin. Learning about why people celebrate Chinese New Year and what they do to celebrate was fascinating. We also learned about the fierce monster, Nian. Primary 6 had so much fun learning all about the Chinese New Year.

Alicia Idessane, P6A



It has been an amazing experience learning about Chinese New Year. I enjoyed learning about the lucky colour red and how it scared away the ancient monster named Nian. Chinese people also believed that fireworks could help too, this was a big part of Chinese history.

This year Chinese New Year lasted 15 days, depending on the lunar moon calendar. The new year can also be known as Spring Festival. There is a different animal for every year. This year was the year of the rabbit, and if you were born in 2011, this is your year!

Children often receive red envelopes with some money inside as a little present. Other popular gifts to give family include tea sets, crockery and other goods. It was a fantastic experience to have this opportunity to learn about all the amazing traditions and stories for Chinese New Year.

Sukhmani Kaur, P6A

JORDANHILL

This year in Primary 6 we learnt all about the Chinese culture. I was particularly fascinated about the history of the gigantic country, also the Chinese citizens are loving and sharing, especially at this time of the year. Like all festivals around the world there is loud music, dynamic dancing, and powerful colours. There are family feasts and giving of presents. Adults usually give their children small red envelopes called 'Hong Bao' containing money. Many preparations are made before Chinese New Year like cleaning the house to get bad fortunes away. Many Chinese decorate their house with paper lanterns, that can be lit up. I really enjoyed this year's Mandarin lessons and look forward to discovering more about the language in Primary 7.

Colin Bennett, P6B



This year in Primary 6 we learnt about China and its culture.

I was fascinated by the Chinese zodiac and the great race. I loved learning about the animals and their meanings. This year is the year of the rabbit, we look forward to an artful year filled with happiness.

The tale of Nian caught my attention. This tale pulled me in because I love the way the old man defeated Nian using loud noises and the colour red. I was born on the year of the dragon, which makes me energetic. Colours also intrigued me. I love how the colours have meanings just like the zodiacs.

I really enjoyed this year's Mandarin lessons and look forward to learning more vocabulary.

Jeviy Delta Santa, P6B

JORDANHILL SCHOOL

MANDARIN IN S2

S2 Mandarin Pupils

All throughout S2 Mandarin, everyone has sincerely enjoyed it. With the lessons never being dull or boring, and the teachers always can and do explain everything very clearly, S2 Mandarin has been a fulfilling journey with loads to love and having a lot more of the language under our belt. Throughout this we will share our thoughts and comments on S2 Mandarin.

All eight pupils had their say in this piece, the first pupil stating that, "S2 Mandarin has been a wonderful experience for me, and I am so glad that I have chosen this course to go forward with." It was a very enthusiastic response from this pupil, and we are glad!

Pupil two also stated very positively, "Never have I been more thankful to have chosen this course/subject. Learning Mandarin has been a joy!"

Pupil three suggested, "Learning S2 Mandarin has been interesting and enjoyable. The way the teachers teach and put their lessons together really helps me and the other pupils." Everyone can agree that what pupil three said really summed up how helpful the teachers have been this year.

We then asked pupil four, 'Why did you choose Mandarin and have you found it enjoyable?' and pupil four responded with, "Mandarin has always been an interest to me. And I do enjoy it."

Pupils five and six also said "we both have enjoyed this year so much!" and for the final pupils, me and my friend. We both say that, "this year has never been more enjoyable."



MANDARIN IN S3

S2 Mandarin Pupils

Mandarin is a very fun subject, and I am very happy I took it. As one of four individuals in my entire year who chose to study N5 Mandarin, I have become aware of the positive impacts of learning it as a smaller class. One of these impacts is that learning felt more direct and targeted towards my academic needs, rather than the standard learning system of larger classes, making my learning vastly more efficient. Another benefit of our N5 Mandarin Learning as a group of four is that it has also helped me to develop strong bonds between my few Mandarin classmates, providing a shared sense of connection (and occasionally friendly competition) in our class. These bonds helped us build an academic harmony within our class by breaking down the barriers that prevented it from forming in the first place. No matter our differences as individuals, when we

learned as a small group, we became interlinked through our shared desire to learn Mandarin.

This year we also hugely benefitted from having Huang Laoshi, our British Council language assistant in class. Huang Laoshi is a very good teacher and she helped us a lot with our speaking and pronunciation. In addition to practising speaking in Chinese with us, Huang Laoshi also gave us two cultural Lessons: one is when we made paper fireworks which was very cool and messy, and the second was when she talked about whereabouts in Shan Dong Province she was born. In this lesson she talked about the legendary Chinese teacher/philosopher Confucius. We also learnt about some of the fascinating places in Shan Dong Province. Overall, we really enjoyed having Huang Laoshi with us this year.



CHINESE NEW YEAR

S1 pupils were again given the opportunity to learn about various aspects of Chinese language, culture and tradition over a number of different subject areas. They began their learning in language lessons with some background information about Chinese New Year, learning some phrases in Mandarin and trying out some paper cutting.



In Home Economics they learned about Chinese Food, were able to taste different Chinese ingredients then develop their team working skills by making a Chinese Stir Fry!

In Drama S1 pupils found out about different Chinese Legends to create, write and perform their own Shadow Puppetry Show.

In Music, pupils discovered many Chinese Instruments learned to play the traditional "Jasmine Flower" on the glockenspiel. This was recorded and used in the drama performance.

In PE we were happy to allow S1 pupils to try both Taiji and some Qigong.

NATIONAL 4 PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT

Our S6 pupil Ashlee has successfully completed her National 4 Mandarin course and we would like to say a big thank you to her teacher, Xiaoyan Zhou, for all her help and encouragement. Ashlee says,

"The course was both fun and educational and has persuaded me to continue studying the language in my own time after the course ends. I would highly recommend it to anyone with a passion for languages."

PRIMARY 7 CHINESE NEW YEAR TRANSLATION EVENT

Primary 7 Pupils from local primaries also took part in our Chinese New Year Transition Event. Over three weeks they were able to take part in a number of different learning experiences from Mandarin New Year greetings to calligraphy. The highlight was the last week when they attended our Forres Academy Temple Fair in our school library, with support from our DYW Mandarin senior pupils are members of our S1/2 Mandarin Club.



MANDARIN FOR LIFE AND WORK SENIOR CLASS

Our S5 and S6 class have successfully completed at least 2 units of this award with many achieving all 3 units of the course and took part in the Adventure with Pandas online session for our last ever lesson! We are really pleased that two of the class have chosen to study National 5 Mandarin next session!

MANDARIN CLUB

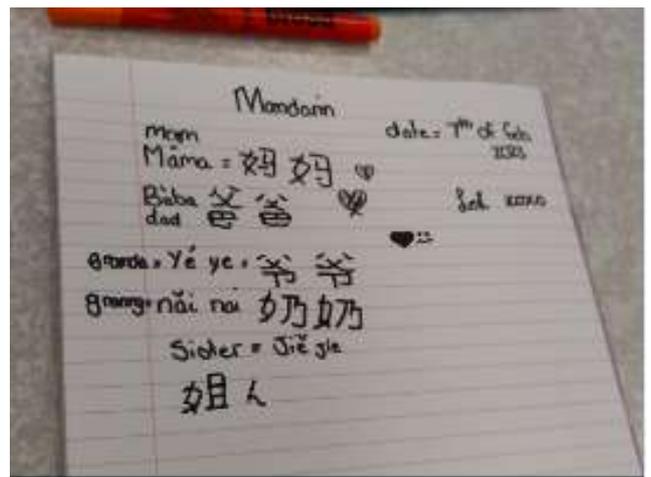
S1 and S2 pupils at Forres Academy have been enjoying our Chinese Club on Wednesday lunchtimes with Lily. Following on from the success of making moon cakes we have been learning about different festivals and hope to make our own dumplings this term!



BUCKIE HIGH SCHOOL

Lily has been working with S1 and S2 classes each week. They have been learning lots of topics including numbers, colours, animals, family members, sports and body parts. They are doing really well and enjoying learning different characters too.

For Spring Festival they took part in a Buckie Temple Fair where they made traditional fans, red lanterns, tried paper cutting and tried some Chinese food. They also got to try the traditional ring game, "Ta da". Lots of fun!



BRAEHEAD PRIMARY

STIRLING

THE OPENING OF THE STIRLING PRIMARY CONFUCIUS GARDEN

Susan Lawson

The health and wellbeing benefits of learning out of doors are well known and this year many Confucius Classrooms have included projects on provision of outdoor spaces in their planning.

One Hub school to do just that is Braehead Primary School in Stirling. After three years of planning, design and construction, their Chinese Garden was finally opened on 4th May at an exciting event involving staff and pupils, past and present.

Pupils first began researching the elements of Chinese gardens in 2020, creating designs showing what their ideal garden space would look like. They learned that for a garden to be authentically Chinese it should include buildings, rocks, water and of course, plants. Their building was to be a pagoda but they were disappointed to learn that, for health and safety reasons, they would not be able to include a river of Koi fish. The pupils' solution was to combine the water and rock elements to create an imitation river made up of painted rocks featuring beautiful Koi fish designs, which appears to run under a wooden bridge. A Moongate was another 'must-have' for the pupils, who designed an ingenious method to incorporate it into the garden without leaving it open to intruders.

Last summer, both Primary 5 classes took a trip to the Chinese Hillside at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh to do some fact finding on Chinese plants that could cope with Scottish weather conditions and these were planted over the last few weeks before the grand opening event.



The event itself included Chinese songs from Primary 6 accompanied by Li Laoshi on the pipa, a traditional Chinese musical instrument, a Tai Chi demonstration from Primary 5 and a spectacular Lion dance by the YHGE troupe from Edinburgh.

The ribbon was cut by Mairi Breen, Braehead's former Head Teacher who was responsible for applying for the school to become one of the first Confucius Classrooms in the country, back in 2015.

Current Head Teacher, Loraine Dollard, said, "It is so lovely to see the culmination of the community, staff and children's ideas for our garden come to fruition. The Confucius Garden will be well used by our school to further promote the learning of Chinese language and culture but also mental health and wellbeing. It will provide an oasis of calm where children can take some time out and reflect."

STIRLING HIGH

Since the beginning of the year, the Chinese teachers and learners at Stirling High School have tried many new activities and accomplished many things for the first time. As part of the Chinese New Year celebration, third and fourth year pupils took part in a school trip. They visited the University of Glasgow to participate in their Spring Festival event, where they experienced traditional dances, games, and other cultural activities. Afterwards, they went to an authentic Chinese restaurant to taste dumplings, noodles, and other delicious foods. The pupils also enjoyed browsing the shelves at a Chinese supermarket before wrapping up the trip with a visit to a bubble tea shop. This experience, from what they saw to what they ate, undoubtedly piqued their interest in Mandarin and Chinese culture.



Another group participated by creating and directing a video of a Peking opera story in their spare time. This joyful experience not only improved their language skills and abilities but also strengthened their friendships.

Another first, was our participation in the British Council online speaking competition, the 2023 'Chinese Bridge' Mandarin Speaking Competition for UK Schools. Our three individual contestants worked hard and competed enthusiastically, leaving a lasting impression on the students. Several pupils participated in the individual and group rounds. One sixth year pupil, Isla made it to the finals with her outstanding performance in the heats.



STIRLING

We have a brand new mural in the department, welcoming you to our Confucius department. This was designed by our Head Teacher.

Finally, Stirling High School presented pupils at Advanced Higher Mandarin for the first time this year. This is a milestone for the school, which now has pupils taking exams at all the SQA levels. Good luck to all!



WESTERN ISLES

STORNOWAY PRIMARY

This session, pupils at Stornoway Primary School have been celebrating Chinese New Year, through a whole host of activities. Chinese New Year, was a whole-school focus for January. Activities included descriptive writing about the new year dragons, using mapping skills to identify China on a map, and comparing school days in China with school days in Stornoway. Pupils entered their Chinese New Year posters into a national competition – with a pupil in P6 being named one of the winners. P7 pupils took part in a virtual Scholastic event with author Kevin Tsang.



WESTERN ISLES

We worked with An Lanntair on a Creative Learning Partnership, led by a local artist. Pupils created their own Chinese lanterns and all classes were involved in working together to create a large 3D paper dragon, which will hang on display in the Confucius Classroom. This was a great way to develop the knowledge, skills, and cultural awareness required of citizens in the globally interdependent world of the 21st century.

This year's P5 pupils took part in a Virtual Exchange Teacher (VET) Programme. The eight-week programme was delivered by two teachers from Jiangsu University in Zhenjian. During the programme, pupils learnt Mandarin phrases such as greetings, names for family members, numbers, and the days of the week.

Sandie Robb, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) led virtual lessons and face to face workshops, where the children learned about China, its language, culture, geography, giant pandas and other Chinese wildlife.



We celebrated our learning at a whole school assembly, where children showcased their learning and the completed dragon was shown to all the children. Our Confucius Hub classroom will be decorated with artwork and displays from January's Chinese New Year activities – including the 3D dragon. Dedicated Topic boxes have been purchased, for all year groups to work from.

BEYOND THE GIANT PANDA

Sandie Robb, RZSS Project Coordinator for Languages

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 @Sandie_Robb



Beyond the Panda over this last year has continued the successful 5 week course for upper primary. Reaching schools from Ayrshire to the Outer Hebrides!

Of course, many of you will have heard the news that the giant pandas at RZSS Edinburgh Zoo will return to China at the end of this year. This is not the end of Beyond the Panda. The programme has evolved each year since 2013 and is continuing to do so. In fact, this gives Beyond the Panda a chance to go beyond the giant panda!

RZSS still holds Chinese animals at both of their sites. The new course will focus more on these animals and the habitats they live in but we also won't forget the giant panda which is still one of the most iconic Chinese animals.

The new course will be 3 weeks live virtual sessions followed by 'an expert for the day'.

'Expert for the day' is an in-person visit to the school. Outreach sessions for the class or classes who have taken part in the upper primary Mandarin course will be arranged but then additional one-off language outreach sessions can be organised for other classes including the lower primary depending on time available. Fill the day or days to suit your needs.



ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND (RZSS)

Beyond the Panda has also expanded the programme beyond China with its comparison outreaches, Giants and Stripy Tails. These compare two animals from different RZSS projects or conservation breeding programmes with those in China. All still offered in Mandarin but are also offered in the other associated language. For example, Giants compares the giant panda from China with the giant anteater from South America, linking Mandarin and Spanish. Stripy Tails compares the red panda from China with the ring tailed lemur from Madagascar, linking Mandarin and French. These projects are for upper primary level but the sound files and some game resources have been

developed by S4-S6 students. A big thanks to students from Musselburgh Grammar for Giants and to George Watson's College for Stripy Tails. Over 2023-24, another set of students will be working on 'Cats' comparing the Pallas cat in China to the wildcat in Scotland, linking Mandarin and Gaelic. The 'Cats' programme for upper primary will launch April 2024.



Find out about all the resources and programmes Beyond the Panda can offer at beyondthepanda.org.uk



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