



**MERITTON**  
BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

NOV-DEC 2025 / Edition 11

# MERITTON NEWS



**WHAT IS VALUES-BASED  
EDUCATION (VbE)?**

MERITTON

# Spirit Week

8th-12th DECEMBER 2025



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# MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

**W**e are now nearing the close of what has been a very busy and productive term. The school has gone through some changes in the last few months: many new teachers, new students, and new parents, all of whom have enjoyed some great events for our community over recent months.

Whether it be values-based assemblies or an Art and Music Festival, the term has been a busy one and we are all in need of a well-deserved break.

Our Walkathon this week was a great success, while our Secondary students enjoyed a special camping trip in a beautiful part of the country.

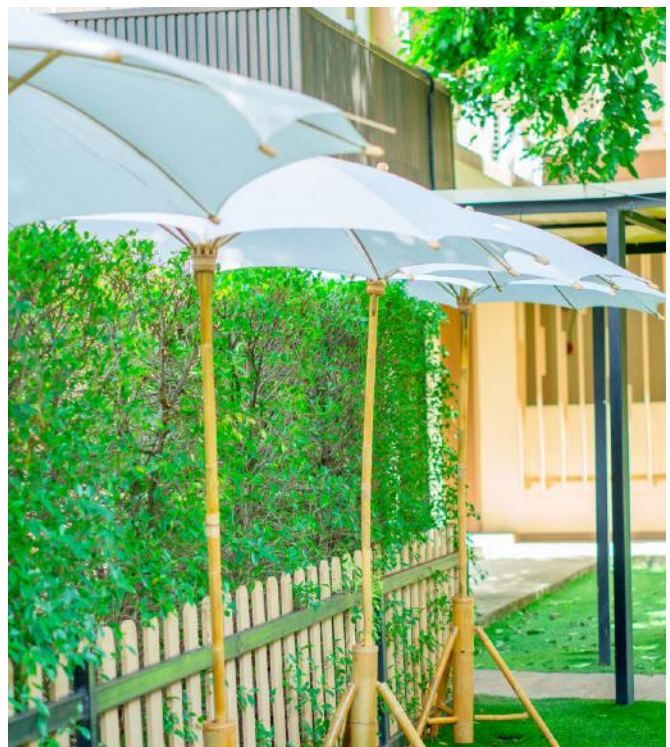
Sadly, we say goodbye to several of our valued staff and I would like to thank them for their dedication and hard work over the years.

It only remains for me to wish all of our community a wonderful festive season and, hopefully, a great time to celebrate with family and friends. A very happy Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

A reminder that the first day back for students is Tuesday, January 6th. On Monday, January 5th, we will have a staff training day, including First Aid training for staff.

My very best wishes,

*- Peter J McMurray  
Head of School*



# FOCUS VALUES



## BRITISH VALUES

British values are a set of five key principles that guide how people in a modern and diverse society live and work together: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.

Since 2014, the UK's Department for Education has published guidance on promoting British values in schools to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain. All schools across the UK have a duty to actively promote these fundamental values as part of their teaching and school culture.

The Five British Values and How Students Connected Them to Their Learning About Remembrance Day

### Democracy

As part of their Remembrance Day learning, some classes explored how democratic societies value each person's voice. Examples included taking part in discussions about fairness, sharing ideas respectfully, and reflecting on how historical events shaped the freedoms we have today.

### The Rule of Law

Students learned why rules and laws exist and how they help communities stay safe and fair. In some lessons, examples included discussing classroom agreements, reflecting on behaviour choices, and considering how shared expectations help create peace and stability—especially during times of conflict.

### Individual Liberty

Students explored the idea of individual freedoms and personal choice. Examples of class activities included expressing opinions in discussions, learning about the experiences of individuals during wartime, and considering how personal liberties have been protected throughout history.

### Mutual Respect

Building mutual respect was an important part of the learning. Examples included listening to different viewpoints during Remembrance Day discussions, working cooperatively on group tasks, and showing kindness when learning about the experiences of others.

### Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Some classes explored the diverse cultures, beliefs, and backgrounds of people involved in past conflicts. Examples included learning about contributions from different communities, showing curiosity about varied perspectives, and appreciating the range of traditions connected to remembrance.



**Read The Guidelines:**  
Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools



# KINDNESS



Kindness means choosing to help, care, and treat others with understanding and patience, even when it's not easy, and those small kind actions can spread and make our whole community a better, happier place.

**A**cross the school, students explored kindness as an essential value that strengthens relationships, builds community, and supports personal wellbeing. Different year levels approached this learning in age-appropriate ways.

In KS1, examples included noticing and celebrating small acts of kindness, talking about how kindness makes themselves and others feel, suggesting simple ways to show kindness at school and home, and participating in kindness activities connected to the Values into Action project.

In KS2, students have been putting kindness into action beyond the classroom. After learning about kindness in lessons, they were encouraged to apply it in real life — by caring for animals, helping in their local community, or showing thoughtfulness at home with their families. These simple, meaningful actions helped students understand that kindness is not just something we talk about, but something we practise every day.

In KS3, students reflected more deeply on the challenges of showing kindness, especially in situations where it is not easy. Examples included discussing real-life moments when kindness can be difficult, identifying barriers such as disagreements or strong emotions, and exploring strategies for staying kind even in challenging situations. Students also considered how kindness contributes to resilience and positive relationships during adolescence.

In KS4, students explored kindness as a life skill that supports future success in friendships,



workplaces, and wider society. Examples included discussing the role of kindness in adult life, identifying how it influences teamwork and professional relationships, and reflecting on how practising kindness shapes character and future opportunities. Some students carried out an intentional act of kindness as part of their learning and reflected on its impact.

Together, these learning experiences supported students in understanding kindness not only as something we do, but as part of who we are and how we contribute to a caring, values-driven community.



**VDO**  
What does kindness mean to you?

# ความเมตตา

ตลอดทั้งโรงเรียน นักเรียนได้เรียนรู้ ตระหนัก และปฏิบัติ ที่แสดงออกถึงการมีความเมตตา หนึ่งในหัวข้อของคุณธรรมและคุณค่าหลักแห่งชีวิต (VbE) ที่สำคัญ ซึ่งช่วยเสริมสร้างความสัมพันธ์ การอยู่ร่วมกันเป็นชุมชน และสร้างความสุข ความอิ่มเอมใจของเราเอง โดยนักเรียนในแต่ละช่วงวัยได้เรียนรู้เรื่องนี้ในวิธีที่เหมาะสมกับวัยของพวกเขา ดังนี้

ในระดับ KS1 (Year 1 ถึง Year 2) นักเรียนได้เรียนรู้ผ่านการสังเกตจากคนใกล้ตัว เช่น การรับรู้และชื่นชมการกระทำเล็กๆ ที่แสดงถึงการแบ่งปัน การพูดคุยถึงความรู้สึกที่เกิดขึ้นทั้งที่โรงเรียนและที่บ้าน รวมถึงการเข้าร่วมกิจกรรมเกี่ยวกับการแบ่งปัน หรือการบริจาค ที่สื่อถึงการใช้ร่างกาย แรงใจ และการเสียสละ ที่เชื่อมโยงกับโครงการ Values into Action

ในระดับ KS2 (Year 3 ถึง Year 6) นักเรียนถูกส่งเสริมให้เกิดการปฏิบัติจริงนอกห้องเรียน และนำไปประยุกต์ใช้ในชีวิตประจำวัน ไม่ว่าจะเป็นการดูแลสัตว์ การช่วยเหลือบุคคลรอบตัว หรือการแสดงความเอาใจใส่ต่อสมาชิกในครอบครัวที่บ้าน การกระทำเล็กๆ แต่เปี่ยมด้วยความหมายเหล่านี้ช่วยให้นักเรียนเข้าใจว่า ความเมตตาไม่ใช่เพียงสิ่งที่เราพูดถึงเท่านั้น แต่เป็นสิ่งที่เราฝึกฝนและปฏิบัติในทุก ๆ วัน



ในระดับ KS3 (Year 7 ถึง Year 9) นักเรียนในวัยนี้ได้ฝึกไตร่ตรองมากขึ้นถึงความหมายของความเมตตา โดยเฉพาะในสถานการณ์ที่ยากลำบากต่อตัวเขา ตัวอย่างเช่น เมื่อนักเรียนต้องอยู่ในเหตุการณ์ที่มีความขัดแย้งหรืออารมณ์ที่รุนแรง พวกเขาควรปฏิบัติตนต่อตนเองและผู้อื่นด้วยความเมตตาอย่างไร นอกจากนี้ นักเรียนยังได้พิจารณาว่าความเมตตามีส่วนช่วยเสริมสร้างความเข้มแข็งทางใจ (resilience) และความสัมพันธ์เชิงบวกในช่วงวัยรุ่นตอนต้นได้อย่างไร

ในระดับ KS4 (Year 10 ถึง Year 11) นักเรียนได้ตระหนักถึงผลกระทบในอนาคต ทั้งในมิตรภาพ สถานที่ทำงาน และสังคมโดยรวม เช่น การอภิปรายบทบาทของความเมตตาของการเป็นผู้ใหญ่ การได้ลองวิเคราะห์ว่าความเมตตามีอิทธิพลต่อการทำงานเป็นทีมและความสัมพันธ์ในที่ทำงานอย่างไร รวมถึงการสะท้อนว่าการฝึกฝนความเมตตาช่วยหล่อหลอมอุปนิสัยและโอกาสในอนาคตอย่างไร

ประสบการณ์การเรียนรู้เหล่านี้ร่วมกันช่วยให้นักเรียนเข้าใจว่า ความเมตตาไม่ใช่เพียงสิ่งที่เราทำเท่านั้น แต่เป็นส่วนหนึ่งของตัวตนของเรา และเป็นวิธีที่เรามีส่วนร่วมในการสร้างชุมชนที่เอื้ออาทรและขับเคลื่อนด้วยคุณธรรมและคุณค่าหลักแห่งชีวิต (VbE)





น้อมรำลึกในพระมหากรุณาธิคุณตราบนิจนิรันดร  
สมเด็จพระนางเจ้าสิริกิติ์ พระบรมราชินีนาถ พระบรมราชชนนีพันปีหลวง  
๒๔ ตุลาคม ๒๕๖๘

WITH DEEPEST RESPECT TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN SIRIKIT,  
THE QUEEN MOTHER

# IN MEMORIAM

HER MAJESTY QUEEN SIRIKIT THE QUEEN MOTHER  
AND SILKEN LIGHT OF REMEMBRANCE



## LOY KRATHONG

5th NOV 2025

Loy Krathong is one of Thailand's most cherished festivals, symbolising gratitude, reflection, and the release of negativity as we welcome new blessings. At Meritton, students celebrated this special occasion while learning about Thai culture, environmental mindfulness, and the values behind this beautiful tradition.

This year, the celebration was also linked to our learning about Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, the Queen Mother, whose lifelong dedication to promoting Thai silk has helped preserve and elevate this timeless art. With the kind support of Mon Mai Learning Centre (ศูนย์หม่อมอุบลรัตนราชกัญญา สมิทธิ์พระโสมนัสราชวิทยาลัย เชียงใหม่), students explored the process of producing silk fabric and appreciated the craftsmanship behind traditional Thai costumes.



As part of the festival activities, pupils created their own krathongs using the dry parts of betel palm and fresh flowers, emphasising the importance of offering with care and minimising environmental impact. They also made beeswax candles in clay lamps, and decorated Lanna lanterns to take home.

We hope everyone enjoyed lighting candles, hanging lanterns, and celebrating this meaningful full moon night with their families and loved ones.



Student artworks created under the theme of Loy Krathong were displayed, showcasing their creativity and appreciation of Thai traditions.

Ms Gina, our Art Teacher, is proud of the students' dedication and the beautiful pieces they produced.

### THE RESULTS:

#### Primary:

First Place – Shema (Year 2A)  
Second Place – Napach (Year 2A)  
Third Place – Mai (Year 5)  
Popular vote – Nada (Year 4)

#### Secondary:

First Place – Musk (Year 7A)  
Second Place – Cho Cho (Year 7B)  
Third Place – Run (Year 7B)  
Popular vote – Mond (Year 7A)



# REMEMBRANCE DAY

11th NOV 2025

**O**ur Year 11 Student Representatives were deeply honoured to attend the Chiang Mai Act of Remembrance at the Chiangmai Foreign Cemetery. They represented the school in paying solemn tribute to all those who served their country at time of great need.

Simultaneously, the school community held its own Remembrance Moment to honour the brave people who gave their lives for freedom. This engagement with history offers a crucial opportunity for our young leaders to embrace the profound responsibility of inspiring a future defined by lasting peace.

As we observe the 80th Anniversary of the end of WWII, the school underscores its educational commitment to peace. We wish to ensure that students understand the lessons of history and champion the message so that future generations may never be called upon to face such a sacrifice again.

- Kru Natt, Thai Director



# ART & MUSIC AFTERNOON TEA EXHIBITION

13th–14th NOV 2025

The Art and Music Departments hosted their first Art and Music Afternoon Tea Exhibition, bringing together pupils, parents and teachers to celebrate creativity across our community. The event showcased student artwork, live music and a range of hands-on activities that encouraged imagination and artistic expression.



## HIGHLIGHTS

### Music Performances

Our young musicians from Upper Primary School and Secondary School performed confidently, filling the space with warmth and harmony.

### Creative Workshops

Families enjoyed clay pottery with Ban Mueng Kung, batik T-shirt painting, magnet and badge making and bookmark colouring.

### Afternoon Tea

Guests relaxed with refreshments and desserts while exploring the exhibition.

### Art Display and Silent Auction

Student artworks were proudly showcased, with selected pieces featured in a silent auction to support community causes.

### Community Art

At the centre of the space stood a handcrafted iconic tower, created as a collaborative artwork for everyone to contribute to. Guests and pupils were invited to bring the blank white canvas to life by adding their own creative touches, co-creating a meaningful piece for the school.



## DONATION DRIVE

We received 32,897 Baht in total from this event. All proceeds were donated to the Suandok Hospital Foundation and the Meritton Student Council.



Thank you to all families, staff and pupils for your support, and to Baan Mueng Kung (บ้านเหมืองคung) for leading the pottery workshop. Your involvement made this creative afternoon a memorable success.



# MERITTON SPORTS DAY



MERITTON  
BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

24-27  
NOV  
2025

BE ACTIVE  
BE HEALTHY  
BE HAPPY





# MERITTON SPORTS DAY

24th–27th NOV 2025

## A WEEK OF ENERGY, TEAM SPIRIT, AND JOY!

**M**eritton Sports Day 2025 unfolded beautifully across four vibrant days, each one blessed with a cool winter morning breeze, warm sunlight, and a clear blue sky. Pupils and parents filled the field with excitement, laughter, and determination as they took part in a wide range of fun games and physical activities.

Across the week, students demonstrated growing confidence and teamwork while enjoying races, relays, carousels, and friendly competitions. The field came alive with bright team colours, cheerful cheering, and families who joined us to encourage and celebrate every moment. This year, we made sure every child had the chance to participate, shine, and make lasting memories.

A special highlight was the presentation of our Meritton Values Badges: Courage, Kindness, Confidence, Respect, Honesty, Collaboration, Resilience, and Patience. These badges recognise students who consistently model positive behaviours and attitudes, and we hope these values continue to guide and inspire them in the years ahead.





## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

Thank you to all Meritton families for your continuous support and participation throughout this wonderful week. Your presence brought warmth, encouragement, and joy to every event.

Our deepest appreciation goes to Mr Matt and Ms Brie, our dedicated PE teachers, for their hard work, creativity, and commitment in designing meaningful and enjoyable activities for the whole school.





**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**TO ALL OUR YOUNG ATHLETES.**  
**WE LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER**  
**MEMORABLE SPORTS DAY NEXT YEAR.**

# PARENT MORNING #2 "WELLBEING AND VALUES"

4th DEC 2025

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for the Parent Information Morning. We were grateful to have Khun Sittha deliver an important and engaging presentation on Digital Safety. Parents also took part in a group activity exploring Positive Discipline strategies, followed by an overview of our Values-based Education (VbE) curriculum at MBIS. It was a warm and interactive session, and we appreciate everyone who made the time to participate.

- Mr Brendan, Head of VbE



# MERITTON

# Spirit Week

## 8th-12th DECEMBER 2025

**M**eritton Spirit Week was designed to bring our community together through a range of fun and engaging activities that foster connection and unity across the school. Throughout the week, students and staff proudly showed their school spirit, creating a positive and energetic atmosphere on campus. The celebrations also offered a refreshing break from the usual academic routine, allowing everyone to relax, enjoy the moment, and unwind as we approached the end of a busy term.





# SANTA VISIT

9th DEC 2025

Our young learners enjoyed an exclusive visit from Santa Claus. We were on our best behaviour, we promise! A big thank you to Santa and his helpers for making this Christmas so special and full of joy.



# GIVING DAY

11th DEC 2025





# STUDENT CHRISTMAS WALKATHON

8th DEC 2025

Thank you to the DoE students, PTO members, parent volunteers, and students for making our first Christmas Walkathon a success on Monday 8th December.



It was wonderful to see so many happy and excited children enjoying the activities and walking with their friends to raise money for the Support Foundation in tribute to the late Queen Mother, Her Majesty Queen Sirikit.

Our students demonstrated the school's values of confidence, kindness, respect, and a positive attitude throughout the event.

- Katrina Durkin  
PTO Chairperson





**MERITTON**  
BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

MERITTON  
*Winterland*



# MERITTON Winterland

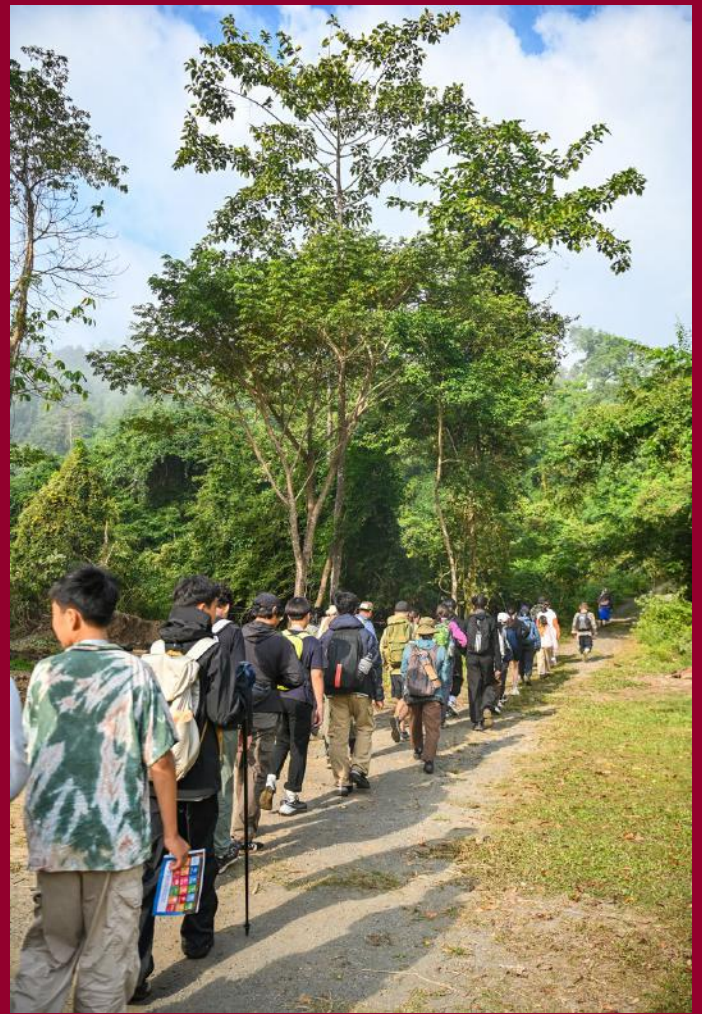


**M**eritton Winterland brought our school community together for a festive Christmas celebration on campus. The event featured lively stalls, cheerful performances, and many shared moments of connection and joy.

We would like to thank our students, families, and staff for their support and participation, which made the event a wonderful success. Meritton Winterland marked the final day of Term One, offering a warm and memorable start to the holiday season before our community enjoys a well deserved break with family and friends.









# CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

*Second half Term 1 2025*

# EARLY YEARS

## PRE-NURSERY CLASS TAKES OFF!

22nd OCT 2025

It's our first week back after the holidays, and everyone has been so excited to share their adventures. Many of our friends went on holidays, some even flew on aeroplanes! Our conversations sparked a wonderful aeroplane role-play outdoors. Each child received their own ticket with their name and seat number, found their seat, and fastened their seatbelt. All ready for take-off!

The children took turns being the captain, co-pilot and passengers, using lots of imagination and language as we flew to exciting destinations. We also enjoyed reading a story all about planes together.



What a fantastic way to connect our holiday experiences with play and learning!



## A SPECIAL VISIT FROM BABY CHICKS!

21st NOV 2025

Pre-Nursery Class have been learning about chickens and eggs, and to help bring our learning to life, Ms Kailah brought in two of her baby silkie chicks from home — one black and one white. The children were so excited to meet them!

They helped to feed the chicks carrots, cucumber, corn, and even had the chance to gently hold and stroke them. It was a wonderful opportunity to practice being caring, calm, and gentle with living creatures.



- Ms Kailah, Pre-Nursery Teacher





## DO YOU SEE THE ANIMALS?

28th NOV 2025

Ms Kailah and Ms V took our Early Years students on an exciting trip to the zoo. The wheels on the bus went round and round, taking our young explorers on a wonderful adventure to discover many different animals, including sloths, zebras, parrots, penguins, and tigers. The children also had the opportunity to feed some of the animals, learning to do so with care and gentleness.

And no, the tiger was not Mr Jared, the gorilla was not Ms V, and the penguin was definitely not Ms Noey. Just to be clear, no teachers were mistaken for zoo animals, no matter how convincing the evidence may have seemed.





# PRIMARY SCHOOL



## EXPLORING LIFE IN THE STONE AGE

30th SEP 2025

In their Unit of Exploration (UoE) lessons, Year 3A students have been learning about the journey of human lifestyles and societies, tracing changes from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. This unit explores how early humans lived, built their homes, and adapted to their environments.

To bring history to life, the students focused on different types of Stone Age homes such as caves, huts, and the remarkable stone houses of Skara Brae. They examined how natural materials like wood, stone, and animal hides were used for construction and then designed their very own Stone Age homes on paper. Each design included key features such as walls, roofs, doorways, and fire areas. Some students went even further, adding imaginative details like storage areas, animal pens, and decorations that reflected daily life.

Building on their designs, students then worked in groups to create clay models of Stone Age shelters. This hands-on project allowed them to experiment with shaping, joining, and strengthening clay, while applying their knowledge of how early people built shelters suited to their surroundings. They also crafted small clay tools and figures to accompany their homes.

Through these activities, Year 3 not only deepened their understanding of history but also practised creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving. Their models beautifully demonstrate how humans adapted to their environment and developed communities in the earliest stages of civilisation.



- Ms Lauren, Year 3A Homeroom Teacher and KS2 Coordinator

# SECONDARY SCHOOL



## NUTRITION PROJECT

30th OCT 2025

Year 8 students have been learning about nutrients, balanced diets, and healthy lifestyles. They designed individual meal plans for people of different ages, genders, occupations, and lifestyles, and were then tasked with shopping for ingredients within a set budget.



Each group was assigned a target person:

- A teen male athlete
- A pregnant woman in her late 20s
- An elderly man with hypertension
- A female university student with diabetes
- A vegan male office worker

The students selected ingredients tailored to their target individual's needs. They then presented their food choices, explained the nutritional value of each ingredient, and discussed how these contributed to a healthy and balanced diet for their chosen person.

- Ms Tharika, Science Teacher

## CHIANG MAI MODEL UNITED NATIONS

21st NOV 2025

Our students proudly represented Meritton British International School at the Chiang Mai Model United Nations (CMMUN) 2025. It was our first ever participation in this prestigious event and an important milestone for our school community. With over 400 students from 14 schools across the region, CMMUN offered an inspiring space for collaboration, global awareness, and academic challenge.

Throughout the two-day conference, our delegates demonstrated values at the heart of international dialogue: respect, open-mindedness, responsibility, confidence in public speaking, and the determination to negotiate solutions with empathy and integrity. They prepared thoroughly, using their research skills and strong position papers to represent their assigned countries thoughtfully and accurately.



Although it is a collaborative event, some awards were given out to outstanding delegates.

- Best New Delegate (Day 2):**  
Jasmine and Seven - *Delegates of Indonesia*
- Best Delegate (Day 2):**  
Jessi and Vanessa - *Delegates of Brazil*
- Best New Delegate (Day 2):**  
Ryan and Anna - *Delegates of Cyprus*

A special thank you goes to Lanna International School and Mr John for hosting and organising such an exceptional event. Our students gained new skills, new friends, and a deeper understanding of global issues, and they represented our school with maturity and enthusiasm.



**Well done to all participants for making our first year at CMMUN such a success.**

- Mr Gerard, Global Perspectives Teacher



## VISITING BOON RAWD BREWERY

1st DEC 2025

*Business Studies Field Trip Summary – Boon Rawd Co., LTD. (Chiang Mai Plant)*

Our Year 10 and Year 11 Business Studies students visited the Boon Rawd manufacturing facility in Chiang Mai, where Singha produces its plastic-bottled water and glass-bottled soda water. The visit offered students a valuable real-world opportunity to connect their classroom learning with an operating production environment. During the tour, students observed the full processing and bottling line, gaining insight into how raw materials are transformed into finished

products through automated systems, quality checks, and line supervision.

Throughout the visit, students explored key business concepts such as organisational structure, the role of suppliers, and the impact of government regulations on manufacturing. They asked thoughtful questions about production efficiency, branding decisions, leadership styles and methods used to motivate staff within a large-scale company.

The experience deepened their understanding of topics from the IGCSE syllabus. Overall, the field trip provided meaningful context for their studies and helped students see how theoretical concepts operate in a real business environment.

- Mr Cory, Business Study Teacher



## ART FIELD TRIP TO CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY ART CENTER

4th DEC 2025

Our Secondary students recently visited the Chiang Mai University Art Center, which is currently hosting two national showcases: The 69th National Art Exhibition and The 40th Contemporary Art Exhibition by Young Artists. This visit provided a meaningful opportunity for students to experience a curated national-level exhibition featuring contemporary works by young Thai artists.

Throughout the trip, students observed how professional artists present their work in a public gallery setting, paying attention to curatorial decisions such as layout, lighting, and the flow of the exhibition space. They were introduced to current practices and trends in Thai contemporary art, helping them to see how ideas, techniques, and materials are being used in innovative ways today.

A highlight of the visit was an expert-led panel discussion that guided students through the journey from studio practice to public exhibition. This conversation encouraged them to consider the role of artists, the challenges of preparing work for display, and the importance of context and audience. By engaging directly with original artworks, students were able to develop their critical thinking and visual analysis skills in an authentic setting.

Following the visit, students are completing written reflections, creating visual responses inspired by the exhibition in their sketchbooks, and producing annotation pages that connect what they observed at the gallery to their ongoing coursework. This learning experience has deepened their understanding of contemporary art while enriching their own creative development in the classroom.



- Ms Gina, Art Teacher



# “WHAT VALUES MEAN TO ME”

## ART AND EXHIBITION COMPETITION

3rd DEC 2025

Meritton students are proudly taking part in the international Values-Based Education Art Competition, “What Values Mean to Me”. This global event invites young people from around the world to express the importance of values through creativity and visual storytelling. Our students have been exploring what kindness, respect, collaboration, positivity, and other core values look like in their everyday lives — and transforming these ideas into powerful artwork.

We are excited to support our young artists as they share their voices on an international stage, and we look forward to seeing their values come to life through art. We look forward to seeing the results.

- Mr Brendan, Head of VbE





# TRIP TO CHIANG DAO

9th DEC 2025

The Secondary Trip to Chiang Dao was an overwhelming success, providing 54 Year 7-10 students and 7 teachers with three days and two nights of challenge, growth, and community building. The heart of the excursion lay in intensive sustainability workshops, where students engaged deeply with practical methods for environmental stewardship. A core component of these sessions focused on Values, encouraging students to reflect on how principles like respect, responsibility, and collaboration translate into real-world action, particularly in an environmental context. The experience was physically demanding but highly rewarding, culminating in a significant hike up and down the nearby mountainside. This physical feat served as a powerful



metaphor for overcoming personal challenges and achieving collective goals, leaving students with a palpable sense of accomplishment.

Beyond the academic and physical demands, the trip fostered essential social connections and celebrated the unique spirit of our students. The highlight for many was the Student Talent Show, which proved to be a showcase of humor, singing and dancing. Teachers and peers alike discovered previously unknown musical, dramatic, and creative talents among the cohort, underscoring the richness and diversity within our school community. The good food, fun tenting arrangements, and the undeniable sense of adventure—despite the universal lack of

sleep—contributed to a memorable, high-energy experience for all participants.

This annual trip successfully blended learning outside the classroom with personal development and fun. Students returned not only with a deeper understanding of sustainability and our school values but also with stronger bonds and countless shared memories. The success of the three-day expedition confirms the value of these off-campus opportunities. We are already looking forward with great anticipation to planning the next adventure for our students next year!

- Mr James, Secondary Coordinator



WHAT IS ..  
**VALUES-BASED  
EDUCATION**  
(VbE)



# WHAT IS VALUES-BASED EDUCATION (VbE)?

**V**alues-based Education (VbE) is a way of running a school that puts positive values at the centre of everyday learning and behaviour.

It means the school actively teaches and models qualities like respect, kindness, honesty, responsibility, and empathy, not only in lessons, but also in how students and adults speak, solve problems, and treat each other.

In simple terms, VbE helps children build strong character, understand and manage their feelings, work well with others, and make good choices even when things are difficult.

The goal is not only high grades, but helping students become capable, caring people who can succeed in school and in life.



Regarding Dr. Neil Hawkes, there are seven pillars of VbE expressed in the acronym M.I.R.A.C.L.E:

- M:** Authentic modelling by adults of positive values
- I:** The Inner Curriculum, creating awareness of our thoughts, feelings and emotions
- R:** Reflective practices, which links to the science of interpersonal neurobiology
- A:** The creation of a calm, purposeful and happy VbE atmosphere, both physical and emotional
- C:** The development of an explicit VbE curriculum and its links to the wider curriculum
- L:** The development of quality values-led leadership
- E:** The comprehensive development of an ethical vocabulary, which nurtures ethical intelligence



"If you are parents, a teacher, a carer, you are heroes, because you are sending messages to the future through the children"

"Values-based Education is when you underpin everything in school. The policies, the way you behave, the relationships, everything, with the set of universal, positive human values."

*(Dr. Neil Hawkes, 2018)*

Learn More About  
Dr. Neil Hawkes



This video of Dr. Neil Hawkes may inspire you to understand the sense of self and how that implies within the school setting and our everyday life.

# VbE TIMELINE



## 1993

West Kidlington Primary School in Oxfordshire begins developing and nurturing values-based practices within the school and its community.



## 1995

- Dr. Neil Hawkes begins researching whether teaching values improves the quality of education in primary schools.
- His 10-year qualitative research project is conducted through Oxford University.



## 1995–2005

- Dr. Hawkes carries out research at West Kidlington Primary, serving as head teacher for over six of these years.
- The school becomes a model of VbE in practice.



## 2000

Journalist Frances Farrer publishes *The Quiet Revolution*, documenting the positive transformation of West Kidlington through Values-based Education.



## 2005

Dr. Hawkes publishes his doctoral thesis, concluding that VbE improves:

- Academic diligence
- Behaviour
- School atmosphere
- Student-teacher relationships
- Wellbeing
- Parental engagement

He also notes the need for broader-scale research.



## 2009

Large-scale research commissioned by the Australian Government (Lovat et al., Newcastle University) confirms the positive impact of VbE and leads to the Values Action Schools Program (VASP) in Australia.



## TODAY

VbE has grown into a global movement for positive change, with over 100 accredited VbE schools across three continents, and many more adopting its practices worldwide.



Read the full article on our website:

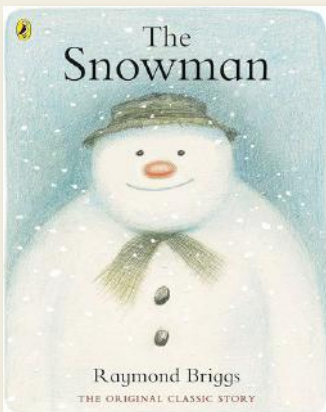
## THE IMPACT OF VbE

# Books

## to Celebrate the Christmas Spirit

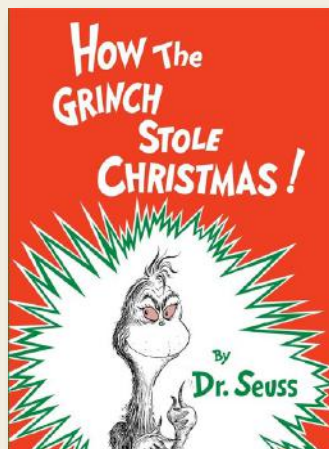
I hope you all have joyous family time together over the next three weeks, and if you celebrate it - Merry Christmas!

*In the spirit of Christmas, I would like to share some favourites of mine.*



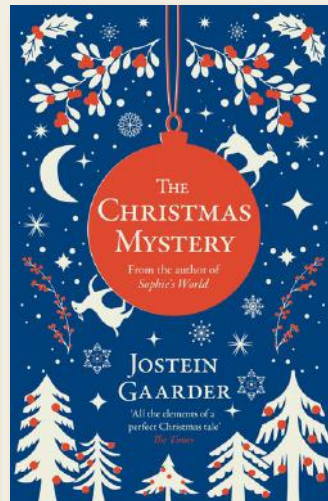
### THE SNOWMAN BY RAYMOND BRIGGS

For KS1, but can really be loved by all, is ***The Snowman by Raymond Briggs***. A wordless magical story, children can delight in the pictures of a young boy who becomes friends with a snowman and they go on adventures together. The book is brought to life in a short film made in 1982, which as a family we watch every year.



### HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS!

For KS2 - another classic - is ***How The Grinch Stole Christmas! by Dr Seuss***. Filled with humorous rhyme and repetition, this story is made to be read aloud. Again, the movie adaptations (live picture and animated) are brilliant and really bring the story to life.



### THE CHRISTMAS MYSTERY

For KS3, a book that I used to read each year, is a book called ***The Christmas Mystery*** by Jostein Gaarder. Full of magic, mystery and time travel!



### A CHRISTMAS CAROL

For KS4, a literature classic - ***A Christmas Carol*** by Charles Dickens. Set in the Victorian times in England, it is a novel centered around social injustice. Dickens was an author who demonstrated inequality in society at this time through his books, and *A Christmas Carol* is a perfect example of this.

- Ms Kathryn, Librarian Teacher

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

20th OCT 2025

Our Professional Development (PD) Day provided staff with valuable opportunities to strengthen both teaching practice and collaboration across the school. The sessions focused on enhancing children's well-being, improving learning support strategies, and fostering an inclusive environment where every student can thrive. As a Values-based Education school, we also reflected on how our core values guide daily interactions and nurture a positive school culture.



  
 Guiding with Heart:  
 Understanding  
 Children's Feelings  
 and Behaviors

We extend our thanks to the team from [MindSpace Psychology Center](#) for sharing their expertise and delivering a session on Understanding Child Behaviour & Social-Emotional Development, which included four key areas:

- Social-emotional development at different stages of childhood
- Analysing behaviour using the ABC model
- Techniques for positive and constructive communication and praise
- Supporting children through challenging behaviour with mindfulness and empathy

Through workshops, hands-on activities, and shared reflections, our teachers and staff worked together to strengthen relationships and align our approaches to supporting international learners effectively. At Meritton, PD Days are a vital part of our continuous commitment to enhancing the quality of learning experiences for our students.

Congratulations to Khun Aod (คุณอ้ออด), our Facility Manager, for being recognised as the first Values Champion of this academic year. His positivity, dedication, and unwavering support to our school community are truly appreciated. Often working behind the scenes, he ensures that our environment is safe, welcoming, and ready for learning every day. We are grateful for his outstanding teamwork and commitment to the values we uphold at Meritton.



## INTIMATE CARE WORKSHOP FOR EARLY YEARS TEAM

24th NOV 2025

We are delighted to share the success of our recent "Intimate Care Workshop" held on Monday, November 24, 2025!

Facilitated by the dedicated Heads Nurse from Mother and Child Hospital Health Promotion Center Region 1, this essential professional development session was highly productive. Our Pre-Nursery, Nursery, Reception Teacher Assistants and MBIS staff gained valuable, practical knowledge, ensuring we maintain the highest standards of care for our youngest learners.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Our TAs learned a lot and are now even better equipped to provide sensitive and professional intimate care. A big thank you to all the Heads, Nurse Wanpen, Nurse Napaphorn and Nurse Plensiri, for an incredibly insightful and well-executed session!

- Kru Natt, Thai Director



# What is a SENCo?

**A** question I am often asked is, "What is a SENCo?" SENCo stands for Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

Essentially, my role is to look out for children's learning needs. If a child is struggling in a subject, my 13 years of experience working with children with special educational needs enables me to identify what may be causing their difficulties.

A child is considered to have a Special Educational Need if they have a learning difficulty or disability that requires special educational provision. They may also be classified as having SEN if they experience significantly greater difficulty in learning than most children of the same age, or if they have a disability that prevents or hinders them from accessing the same facilities as their peers.

However, it is also important to consider family history and the amount of time a child has been exposed to English. Some children may not have a learning disability—they may simply still be acquiring English. This can be a complex process, but as a specialist in bilingualism, I am able to assess this through a rigorous approach involving assessments and close collaboration with teachers, parents, interpreters, and the children themselves.

## WHAT IS THE PROCESS IN SCHOOL?

In the first instance, the teacher will contact me to make a Student Learner Request. Along with this, they will outline their concerns and provide evidence wherever possible. They will also indicate which of the four main category areas are relevant: Cognition and Learning, Communication and Interaction, Sensory and/or Physical Difficulties, and Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties.

Sometimes a child only needs small adjustments in class, such as changes to seating, planned breaks, the use of a wobble cushion, or specific exercises. At times, I support teachers in differentiating their lessons to better meet individual learning needs.

In other cases, the child may require further assessment from specialists. This could involve visiting a Paediatrician, Speech Therapist, or Occupational Therapist.

If a child's learning needs to be monitored more closely, we may create an Individual Education Plan (IEP). This is a collaborative process involving parents, teachers, and specialists, and it is centred around the child. Termly meetings are held to ensure that the targets are monitored and reviewed so the child can make the best progress possible.

It may also be the case that a child struggles with attention and listening but has a high IQ. Because of difficulties with attention, they may not be able to focus long enough to fully access the learning. In situations like this, a visit to a Paediatrician can help identify any underlying causes.



## MY ROOM AS A 'SAFE SPACE'

My room is a safe space for all the children from the school to come to. They can come and visit during their breaks or request to speak to me during lessons. Students come to my room to receive interventions individually or in groups during lessons too.

## HOW DOES OUR SCHOOL KNOW WHAT TO DO??

As a British school, we follow the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice from the United Kingdom. This serves as the school's guide for how to address Special Educational Needs in school (SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years - GOV.UK). We are also guided by the Special Needs and Disability Act and the Disability and Children Act, which are laws in the UK that ensure individuals with disabilities are not discriminated against and are supported throughout their learning journey.

## SEN AND VALUES

We believe that every child is unique and has the right to a broad, balanced, and differentiated curriculum. At Meritton, our children are encouraged to practise the values of patience and kindness when working with peers who have any type of Special Educational Need. Children with SEN may need others to wait a little longer, and they may sometimes find it challenging to manage their emotions. This is why it is important for classmates to show extra kindness, offer second chances, and invite them to join in play.

Our SEN department began only a year ago, and we aim to continue improving and developing our provision. We are currently in the process of writing a SEN policy.



- Ms Emma, SENCo

# Book Drive Project

27th NOV 2025

Our inaugural student-led community project has officially launched, driven by the enthusiasm and leadership of two dedicated Year 10 students, Laura and Charlotte, with support from Kru Natt and Mr. James. The aim of this initiative is simple yet meaningful: to give books a second life by collecting donations and enriching the libraries of local community schools. As the student leaders expressed, "A single book can open a thousand minds."

Over the past weeks, Laura and Charlotte gathered a significant number of books from Meritton students and parents. Their commitment has resulted in the successful first delivery of English books to Ban Tong Gai School (โรงเรียนบ้านตองกาย) in Nong Khwai, Hang Dong, Chiang Mai.



The visit offered a moving reminder of the impact one act of generosity can create. Watching the students at Ban Tong Gai School explore their new books with excitement and joy highlighted the true purpose of this project. It reaffirmed the idea that even a simple donation can inspire curiosity, broaden perspectives, and support a love of learning.

This Book Drive marks only the beginning of our wider efforts to connect with and support the local community. We look forward to seeing more Meritton students take part in future initiatives that foster compassion, leadership, and meaningful engagement.

- Kru Natt, Thai Director



## The First Visit from COBIS

We were pleased to welcome COBIS for their first campus visit. Over three days, the visitors spent time across the school, meeting with leadership, staff, students, and parents, and gaining insight into daily learning, wellbeing, safeguarding, and our wider school culture.

Thank you to everyone who contributed so thoughtfully and professionally. We appreciate the guidance and constructive dialogue, and we look forward to the next steps as we continue strengthening standards and celebrating the very best of our community.

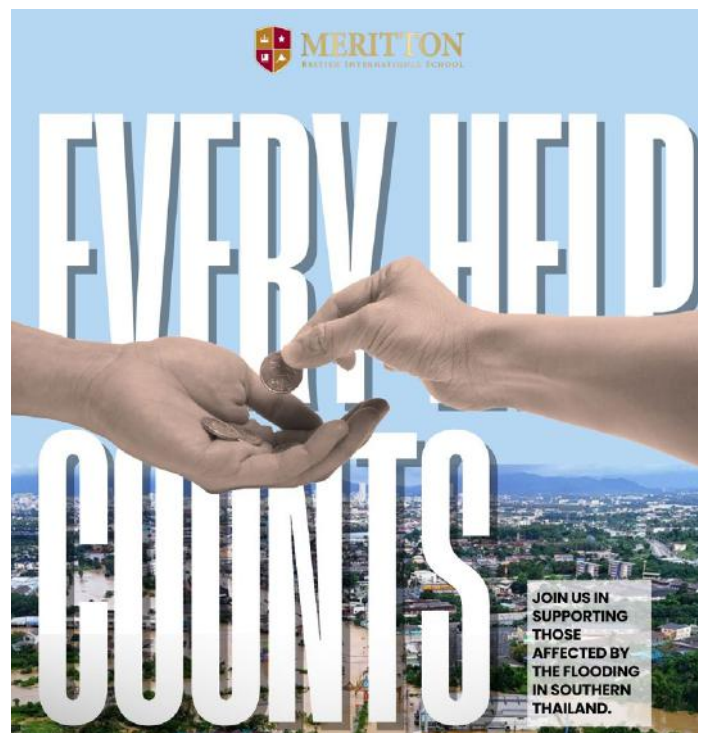


Learn More About COBIS:



## Meritton Community Flood Relief Donation Update

Thank you to the Meritton community for your kindness and support for families in southern Thailand affected by the flooding during November - December. Through our internal activities, we collected 10,130.25 baht, which has now been passed on to the PSU Student Development Section (กองพัฒนานักศึกษา ม.อ. ภูเก็ต), a non-profit team working on the ground to support impacted families and volunteers. Your generosity is making a meaningful difference.



Academic year of 2025-2026

## Upcoming Keydates in Term 2

<b>JAN</b> 2026	<b>Mon 5</b>   Staff Personal Development Day (PD Day) (no school) <b>Tue 6</b>   First Day of Term Two
<b>FEB</b> 2026	<b>Mon 2 – Fri 6</b>   Book Week <b>Tue 17</b>   Lunar New Year Celebration <b>Thu 18</b>   Parent Morning: Wellbeing & Values (3/4) <b>Mon 23 Feb – Fri 6 Mar</b>   Mid-Term Break
<b>MAR</b> 2026	<b>Mon 9</b>   Staff Personal Development Day (PD Day) (no school) <b>Tue 10</b>   Back to School <b>Mon 23 – Fri 27</b>   Sustainability Week
<b>APR</b> 2026	<b>Mon 6 – Fri 10</b>   Parent-Teacher Conferences <b>Mon 13 – Fri 17</b>   Songkran Holidays (no school)
<b>MAY</b> 2026	<b>Mon 11 – Fri 15</b>   International Week
<b>JUN</b> 2026	<b>Wed 7</b>   Queen's Birthday (no school) <b>Tue 9</b>   Parent Morning: Wellbeing & Values (4/4) <b>Thu 18 – Fri 19</b>   End of Year Celebration



**View the school  
calendar on  
the website**



# KEY DATES

## JANUARY 2026

### Monday 5th – Staff Personal Development Day (PD Day) (no school)

A dedicated training day for all teachers and staff to strengthen essential skills and professional practices that support our school community. On this day, there are no lessons and students do not attend school.

### Tuesday 6th – First Day of Term Two



## FEBRUARY 2026

### Monday 2nd – Friday 6th – Book Week

It is a joyful celebration of stories and a chance to encourage a lifelong love of reading. Hosted by our librarians, the week is filled with engaging activities that spark curiosity, imagination, and enthusiasm for books across the school. It is one of our biggest and most anticipated events, and a favourite in our community for the way it brings reading to life for every age group.

### Tuesday 17th – Lunar New Year Celebration

Our Lunar New Year Celebration is a joyful way to honour the cultures within our diverse community. Hosted by our Chinese Culture and Language Department, the event helps students learn about Lunar New Year traditions while celebrating new beginnings together.



### Thursday 18th – Parent Morning: Wellbeing & Values (3/4)

Our third parent gathering to work with the school on supporting children's wellbeing and values education at home and in school.

### Monday 23rd February – Friday 6th March – Mid-Term Break

## MARCH 2026

### Monday 9th – Staff Personal Development Day (PD Day) (no school)

A dedicated training day for all teachers and staff to strengthen essential skills and professional practices that support our school community. On this day, there are no lessons and students do not attend school.



### Tuesday 10th – Back to School

### Monday 23rd – Friday 27th – Sustainability Week

Sustainability Week is an opportunity for our students to explore how everyday choices can contribute to a healthier planet and a fairer future. Throughout the week, learning across the school will focus on practical ways to reduce waste, use resources responsibly, and care for our local environment.



## APRIL 2026

### Monday 6th – Friday 10th – Parent-Teacher Conferences

These meetings give parents and teachers dedicated time to discuss each child's progress, celebrate achievements, and agree on clear next steps for learning and wellbeing.

### Monday 13th – Friday 17th – Songkran Holidays (no school)



## MAY 2026

### Monday 11th – Friday 15th – International Week

International Week is a celebration of the diverse cultures, languages, and experiences that enrich our school community. Throughout the week, students take part in learning activities that promote curiosity, respect, and global awareness, while exploring traditions and perspectives from around the world.

## JUNE 2026

### Wednesday 3rd – Queen's Birthday (no school)

### Tuesday 9th – Parent Morning: Wellbeing & Values (4/4)

Our last parent gathering in this academic year to work with the school on supporting children's wellbeing and values education at home and in school.



### Thursday 18th – Friday 19th – End of Year Celebration

Our End of Year Celebration is a special occasion to recognise the hard work, progress, and achievements of our students throughout the academic year. It is also a meaningful milestone as we celebrate those moving on to the next key stage, marking their growth and readiness for new learning ahead.

# CONTACT INFORMATION






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## Social Media

 **Website** merittonbritish.ac.th  
 **Facebook** facebook.com/MerittonBritish  
 **Instagram** instagram.com/merittonbritishschool  
 **YouTube** youtube.com/@merittonbritishinternation932  
 **Line** @meritton



### Office Hours:

Monday to Friday  
08.00 AM - 05.00 PM (GMT+7)  
\*except public holidays