

CIR Mariko's

Global Café

My very own potato stamp! 😊



Mariko Knight

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CIR Mariko Knight



(Hampshire, UK)



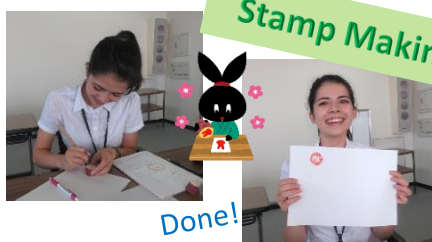
(New Forest, Hampshire)

Hello! My name is Mariko Knight and I am the new Co-ordinator for International Relations (CIR) at Kyotanabe City Hall. I am from a town called Lymington, in Hampshire, UK.

Due my dual nationality (Japanese mother, British father) I have been fortunate enough to experience two different cultures from a young age. My dream is to become a "bridge" that can help facilitate further exchange between the two countries.

At university I pursued a 4 year joint honours degree in Economics and Japanese. Although I have experience of living in Japan, I have only ever lived in Tokyo. Therefore you can imagine my excitement when I learned I was to work in Kyotanabe in Kyoto-fu!

Whilst I am here I hope I can introduce some interesting aspects of culture from outside of Japan, particularly the U.K. At the same time I would love to learn more about my new hometown so please teach me all about Kyotanabe!



August Report
English Class for Kids!



The everyday use of stamps (or seals) rather than signatures in Japan is something that I am still not used to. I had a go at making my own stamp by carving sweet potatoes, (*imoban* in Japanese).

It was surprisingly tricky, my attempt to carve "Ma" (萬) didn't go too well! I can't imagine how difficult it must have been to make stamps out of harder materials like wood.

With a little help I managed to create two stamps; "MK" (my initials) and "まりこ" (Mariko written in hiragana). (The latter has been used for the Japanese version of this newsletter.)

Last month, I had the pleasure of visiting an English conversation class for children run by the Kyotanabe International Exchange Association.

The theme of the lesson was "animals" and the children learnt the names of different animals as well as the noises they make in English, comparing them to the noises they make Japanese. The lesson was rounded off with marching and chanting in time to music of the animal vocabulary that was covered in the lesson.

I was impressed by how quickly the children were able to grasp the new vocabulary and how much they still remembered when there was a review of past lesson topics. It was also fantastic to see so many happy faces and such enthusiasm.

Combining fun and learning in this way is important for all foreign language learners, no matter what age you are!

This month I will give a presentation on the UK and my hometown of Lymington at the ALT · CIR exchange event hosted by the International Exchange Association.