

Today has seen the first real appearance of winter in Brussels but **next week will be much colder** with the temperature predicted to be below freezing for 5 days in a row, even during the day, with overnight temperatures reaching down to -9°C. This means that it is imperative that all children come to school with a warm coat, gloves, a hat and a scarf. The weather next week will be dry so the intention is that the **children will be going outside to the playground as normal**, even though we will continue to make a judgement about this each playtime. If you think that your child may not be well enough to go outside in these temperatures then they will not be well enough to attend school in the first place.

The other weather related point to make is that it is always possible that a decision could be made on safety grounds to close the school **if the weather becomes too bad**. Any such decision to close the school would consider the safety of people travelling to and from school as well as safety during the day at school. This is not anticipated within the foreseeable future, but this could always change. **If a decision is made that it is necessary to close the school** then we will inform parents of such a closure by email by 07.00 in the morning as well as place that information on our school website by 07.00 each morning. If parents are in any doubt then they can always phone the school for confirmation.

We have this week had a **confirmed case of chicken pox** in the Infant department. You can consult the link below for more information <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/Pages/Introduction.aspx#close> but if you are ever in any doubt in a medical situation we would advise that you consult with your family doctor.

Parents who may wish to see the **Junior department's December production of the Nightingale** can access it via the link below:- <http://www.bisb.org/project/junior-department-christmas-production-the-nightingale/>

We would like to thank the 'Prime Minister's father' for producing this superb video recording of our production.

If any child wishes to start or continue **piano or violin lessons** in school then please feel free to contact the school office as we have teachers who are able to come into school to teach individual children. Parents may wish to look at the link below to understand how children benefit from music lessons in many ways. <https://mic.com/articles/108022/science-just-discovered-something-amazing-about-what-childhood-piano-lessons-did-to-you#.FKzMyk50x>

Next week on Tuesday 17th January our Year 3 and 4 children will be going to the Moulin d'Alimentation Museum in Evere for a visit to The History of Ice-Cream and also a cookery workshop. This visit will be conducted in both French and English

Our Year 5 and 6 children will be going to the same Museum On Tuesday 24th January. Please see

<http://www.evere.be/content/ice-cream-histoire-fondante-de-la-glace>

for more information.

On January 31st our Year 4, 5 and 6 children will be visiting the Theatre Montagne Magique and this visit too will be in French. The Year 3 children will be going here on Wednesday, February 1st and both visits will be part of their French curriculum. Please see

<http://lamontagnemagique.be/project/bizar/> for more information.

For all children going swimming each week please note that our swimming venue, the Castle Club, have introduced a new rule as from January 1st that **anybody with shoulder length hair must wear a swimming cap.**

Therefore please make sure that if your child has hair that is not short hair then they must have a swimming cap from now on.

Please note that the correct dates for our visit for our **Year 4, 5 and 6 children to go to the residential week at Rippledown House** in the UK (see <http://rippledown.com/> for more information) are May 8th to May 12th and not as indicated last week. We are now confirming the travel and accommodation reservations for the trip so if there is any reason why anybody in these classes will not be able to attend then we need to know now. There will be no charge to parents for the trip as all of the costs are being covered within the school budget. It is therefore very important that we know straight away if there is anybody not going as we do not want to pay for tickets that are not going to be used. Accordingly could every parent with a child in Years 4, 5 or 6 please send an email into the school office confirming that their child will be going on this trip? Please note that non-EU children do NOT need a UK visa to go on this trip as there is a Europe wide agreement between countries for such school trips.

Please don't forget that every Friday morning there is a **parents' coffee morning** held in the Junior department library at 09.00 and this is a great social occasion. It also gives parents an opportunity to change their library book in the Parents and teachers section of the library.

The **talk topic homeworks** for next week are as follows:-

For Nursery What do you think Sleeping Beauty was dreaming about when she was asleep?

For Reception Why is it important to eat fruits and vegetables?

- For Year 1 What sort of toys did your parents have? Would you rather have their toys or yours?
- For Year 2 How would you explain snow to someone who had never experienced it before?
- For Year 3 What happens to the animals and birds when the winter weather is very severe?"
- For Year 4 How could the problem of the Uru Chipaya Indians be improved?
- For Year 5/6 Who is MRS NERG?

2016 has been a very active year for families wanting school places at BISB and **we have in fact received a record number of applications throughout the year.** The consequences of this are that we can see already that most classes in the infant department will be full for September 2017. Accordingly we will start sending out initial 10% invoices for the 2017/18 school year in the next couple of weeks for payment in February in the New Year. This is the only way that we can ascertain who does and who does not wish to retain their school place for September and thereby we shall have better information to give to future enquirers. As always the second 10% payment will be in June, 2017.

Parents should be aware that now we have only 4 **Nursery places at BISB for September 2017.** Therefore if you are thinking about a possible place in the Nursery at any time before September 2018 then you should contact the school office immediately.

This week's star pupils of this week were:

- Reception Suansh for making a good start recognising odd and even number patterns.
Aahid for his good understanding of numbers above ten.
- Year 1 Jacob for great work in Literacy all week
Aditya for great listening and being so quick and eager to answer questions in all our discussions
- Year 2 Alexander for much improved handwriting
Aarav for producing lovely pieces of work for our winter display
- Year 3 Arsalan for working very hard, finishing all of his work and for his excellent science experiment write-up.
Aahil for being responsible, always trying his best, completing his homework well and always being ready to get started!
- Year 4 Bhargav for brilliant place value and persuasive writing.
Shivang for bringing excellence to Science lessons
- Year 5/6 'Miss Mohanta' for producing and delivering an excellent lesson about the Umahara Headdress as part of our Around the World in Eighty Treasures project.

And finally this week's thought for the week is:-

“Energy and persistence conquer all things”.

- Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

BISB School Calendar – Academic Year 2016 / 2017

Autumn Term

Thursday, September 1, 2016

Start of Autumn Term

Friday, October 28, 2016 School Closed - Staff Training Day

Monday, October 31, 2016 Half Term

- Friday, November 4, 2016 Break

Friday, November 11, 2016 School Closed - Public Holiday
Armistice Day

Friday, December 16, 2016 at 12.15

End of Autumn Term

Spring Term

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Start of Spring Term

Monday, February 27, 2017 Half Term

- Friday, March 3, 2017 Break

Friday, March 31, 2017 at 12.15

End of Spring Term

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

School Closed - Staff Training Day

Summer Term

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Start of Summer Term

Monday, May 1, 2017

May Day Public Holiday

Thursday, May 25, 2017

Ascension Public Holiday

Friday, May 26 2017

Half Term Holiday

Monday, June 5, 2017

Pentecost Holiday

Friday June 30th 2017 at 12.15

End of Summer Term

Provisional start of Autumn Term - Monday, September 4th, 2017