

We introduced our weekly **Talk Topic for each class as a way of broadening children's vocabulary**, following the guidance "If children can't say it then they can't write it". It is thus an important contribution to each child's use of language. Over the last few years we have also become aware that children at BISB, and indeed all over the world, are tending to spend a lot of time passively engaged with a screen. We feel that this is having a negative effect on their use of language and so we would encourage families to spend as much time as possible talking together and the Talk Topic can also be useful in this area. For the younger children you can discuss the Talk Topic in your own language if not everybody in the family feels comfortable speaking English.

We had a very good turnout for last week's **Walk in the Woods** and everybody enjoyed a couple of hours exploring the woods around Tervuren. The weather was dry and we also got a chance to meet a horse part of the way round. The winter nights are drawing in now so we will have to wait for the Spring for our next outing.

Following last week's pointing out that children should all be in school by 09.00 at the latest (and preferably by 08.55 when they come in from the playground), we are still finding that people are arriving late and thus disturbing the start of the lesson when they come in. At the moment we keep the doors accessible until 09.10 but if this benefit is repeatedly taken advantage of then **we will simply reduce the curtesy of arriving up to 09.10 so that the cut off time becomes 09.05**. Please try to arrive closer to 08.30 than 09.00 as it is not OK to arrive between 09.00 and 09.10.

Please be aware that Mrs Halvorsen's **Year 3/4 French group** will be going to the local library 'Thomas Owen' on Friday December 7th for a 'kamishibai' presentation. This is a form of Japanese street theatre and storytelling using a combination of picture and text to convey a story.

Our Junior department children enjoyed a fantastic experience last Wednesday when they went to see a concert by the Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra. They both saw the orchestra performing live and also participated in the performance.

On Wednesday December 5th **our Year 1 and 2 children will also enjoy the chance to participate with the Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra** directed by Stéphane Denève in the Flagey Concert Hall at the Flagey Concert Hall. This concert will cover stories talking about magical creatures, told by the music of Dukas "l'apprenti sorcier" (best known in Disney's Fantasia) and Franck "les Djinns", a story around maleficent Arabic spirits.

As well as the show dates listed below please note that **the Nursery Show** will this year be on Monday 17 December at 11.30am. This show for parents will be held in the infant department.

We are always very pleased **when children celebrate their birthday with their friends in school**. However parents sending in cakes for the celebration for their child should be aware that many children do not eat cakes with fancy cream and icing, therefore you are welcome to bring in a cake but it has to be plain sponge with no cream or chocolate on. In fact the best ones are the small madeleines that you can buy in Carrefour or Delhaize as practically all children like these. Also please note that the children have to wear uniform every day even on their birthday.

Please don't miss the dates **for the other end of term shows in December**. They will be on Tuesday 11th December at 11.30 for the Reception show to be held in the Infant department, on Thursday 13th December for the Year 1 and Year 2 show at 17.00 at the De Kam Theatre and on Monday 17th December for the Junior department show at 17.00 at the De Kam Theatre. Please note that the De Kam Theatre is a different theatre to the one we used for the summer shows. You can get to the theatre on the 39 tram from Montgomery. The theatre is 350m from the stop 'Beek'.

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

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| For Nursery | If you could have any pet what would you have? |
| For Reception | What are some of the things we can buy with money? What would I like to buy for my mommy and daddy? |
| For Year 1 | What do you expect to see now that winter has started? |
| For Year 2 | If you were a scientist or an explorer, what would you like to find out about? |
| For Year 3 | What information can you find in a newspaper? |
| For Year 4 | Think of 5 ways you could defeat an opponent or overcome a disability? |
| For Year 5 | Beethoven's fifth symphony was the focus of our orchestral workshop. What was the most interesting thing you learnt from this experience? |
| For Year 6 | Are computers better than books? |

For all those families **paying fees by Domiciliation** each month please note that the target date for the amounts to be taken from your account is always the 3rd of each month thus the next deduction will be on Monday 3rd December.

This week's star pupils of this week were:

- Reception Stairya for doing a great job in reading and writing words and for brilliant progress in listening and following instructions!
Saimaathmika, for excellent colouring and for playing fun and imaginative games and for always playing nicely with her friends!
- Year 1 Sanvi for great work on subtraction this week.
Samanvitha for super 'free writing' about her favourite parts of 'Stick Man'.
- Year 2 Surya for his outstanding Antarctica description, which was interesting, informative and original.
Huma for her enthusiastic, beautiful singing and her concentration during rehearsals.
- Year 3 Freja for her great participation in lessons across the curriculum.
Anwitha for super enthusiasm with her reading.
- Year 4 Kashvi for learning lyrics and fancy football
- Year 5 Sai Shreyas for knowing his words and wonderful acting during our play practice this week.
- Year 6 Bhargav for his outstanding preparation for the debate and essay about the Kohinoor diamond. Brilliant work!

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

"The whole problem can be stated quite simply by asking, 'Is there a meaning to music?' My answer would be, 'Yes.' And 'Can you state in so many words what the meaning is?' My answer to that would be, 'No.'

- Aaron Copland (1900 - 1990)

Autumn Term 2018

Wednesday November 28 th	APECS visit to Year 2 class.
Wednesday November 28 th	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 visit to Flagey Concert Hall to see Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra
Thursday, 29 th November	Year 6 theatre trip to see 'Hamlet' by William Shakespeare
Wednesday 5 th December	Years 1 and 2 visit to Flagey Concert Hall to see Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra
Friday 7 th December	Mrs Halvorsen's Year 3/4 French group going to the local library 'Thomas Owen'
Tuesday 11 th December 11.30 Infant department	Reception show
Thursday 13 th December 17.00 De Kam Theatre	Year 1 and Year 2 show
Monday 17 th December 11.30 in the Infant department	Nursery Show
Monday 17 th December 17.00 De Kam Theatre	Junior department show
Friday, 21 st December at 12.15	End of Autumn Term

BISB School Calendar – Academic Year 2018 / 2019

Autumn Term

Monday, September 3, 2018

Start of Autumn Term

Friday, October 26, 2018 School Closed – Parents’ Appointments Day

Monday, October 29, 2018
- Friday, November 2, 2018

Half Term
Break

Friday, December 21, 2018 at 12.15

End of Autumn Term

Spring Term

Monday, January 7, 2019

Start of Spring Term

Friday, March 1, 2019

School Closed – Staff Training Day

Monday, March 4, 2019
- Friday, March 8, 2019

Half Term
Break

Thursday, April 4, 2019

End of Spring Term

Friday, April 5, 2019

School Closed – Parents’ Appointments Day

Summer Term

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

Start of Summer Term

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

May Day Public Holiday

Thursday, May 30, 2019
Friday, May 31 2019

Ascension Public Holiday
Half Term Holiday

Monday, June 10, 2019

Pentecost Holiday

Friday June 28th 2019 at 12.15

End of Summer Term

Provisional start of Autumn Term - Monday, September 2nd, 2019