

## Newsletter 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019

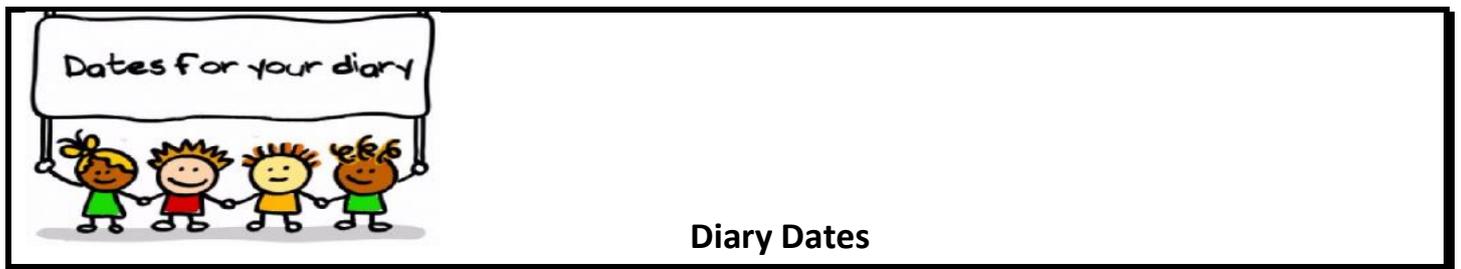
Dear Everyone,



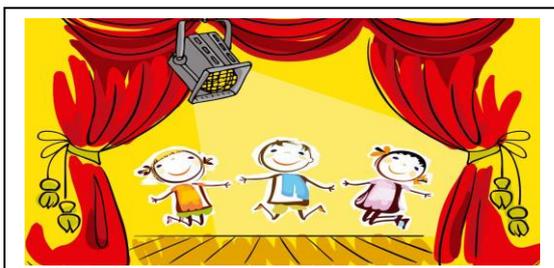
We hope you have all had a good week and are pleased with the way your children have settled into the new school year. The routines are beginning to be well established and it is a real pleasure to see smiley faces coming through the doors every morning. During the day there is a positive buzz of energy around the school, and it is good to see our many new pupils making friends and becoming part of the BISB community. Life will continue to be exciting now that clubs and curricular sport activities have started and the trips begin. Watch this space for news of the Junior Department Science trip next week!



Thank you to everyone who came to the first Friday coffee morning. It was lovely to see familiar faces, and a big well done to the new parents that came – it's not always easy to brave a new event, but it does make such a difference to expatriate life if you have friends to talk to and share your experiences with.



Last week we highlighted the date of the **Parents' Appointment Day on Friday 25 October**. This is a very important date in the school calendar and gives you the opportunity to sit and talk to your child's teacher about your child's progress. Pupils do not attend and you are allocated a specific time slot so that you have plenty of time to ask questions and to discuss details with the class teacher. We realise that this is the last day of term, but would emphasize that it is extremely important that you attend the appointment and make the most of the opportunity to find out more about your child's development and progress. Please do not arrange to leave on vacation as it will not be able to reallocate similar personal appointments during a normal school week. The appointment schedule will be sent out shortly.



### Announcing the BISB Christmas Shows 2019

**Years 1 & 2:** 17h: Thursday 5 December at De Kam Theatre in Wezembeek

**Junior Department:** 17h: Wednesday 11 December at De Listerbes Theatre in Kraainem

**Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception):** Apologies – I mistakenly put the Nursery and Reception shows together last week. The **correct dates** are:

**Nursery 11.30:** Thursday 12 December in the Infant Department.

**Reception 11.30:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December



### Points to remember this week



**Swimming lessons** continue for **Year 2** next Thursday, 26 September. Please remember to send a towel, a swimming costume and **a swimming hat** in a separate waterproof bag. (A small backpack is ideal). Several children did not have a **swimming hat** this week. These are obligatory, and they also help to keep wet hair out of the way while the children get dressed! The material hats are far easier to put on than the plastic ones. Decathlon have a good selection.



The Year 5s will **not** be going to Tennis next week as the entire Junior Department is going to the Science exhibition for the day.



If your child is ill or is going to arrive late or be picked up early, please make sure that you inform the school office so that a message can be passed to the class teacher.

It is also **essential** that the school office has been informed if your child is to be picked up by another person.



**Swimming Years 4 & 6** on Wednesdays: Please make sure that children do not wear any jewellery. We cannot be responsible for any items lost in the swimming pool. Well done for fast dressing this week!



The Junior Department trip to the EU '**Science is Wonderful Exhibition**' is next **Thursday, 26 September**. There has been a slight change in the organization and the return is now planned for **approximately 16.05**. Parents with siblings in the Infant Department may leave their children in garderie (at no cost) and collect them once the Junior Department children have arrived back at school. Minibus children will be transported home, arriving later than usual.

Please remember that this is a small back-pack day and that smart, clean full uniform should be worn. Children need a snack for the afternoon and a water bottle.



### School office

Please remember to let us know immediately if you think that you may be leaving in this autumn term i.e. any time up till December 18th 2019. The 90-day deadline for written notice of departure for the winter term, after which deposits will not be refunded, has now passed.

Please note that the 90-day deadline for departures in the Spring term is January 3rd 2020.

The domiciliation for next month will be taken on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

## Announcing the Junior Department School Council Jobs Initiative



### News of the week:

**Are you:** Reliable? Highly motivated? Cheerful? Enthusiastic? Sensible? Organised and committed? Caring, mature and honest? Polite and well-mannered? Able to liaise and converse with staff, students and the wider community? An excellent role model? Able to think on your feet? ...

**Then the Junior Department may well have the job for you!**

**Training will be provided and the salary, given in House Points, will be paid every Friday by the Junior Office Assistant.**

**Job vacancies....** Junior and Senior Librarian, House Captains, Junior Office Assistant, School Council Representatives, Head of School Council, Orange Sack Waste Operative, Quiz Master, Lunch-time monitors...

The Junior Department is organized into two houses – **Phoenix** and **Unicorn**, and already has House Captains and Class representatives who sit on the School Council, making decisions about the day-to-day running of life in the Junior building. However, Mrs. Tranter has been hard at work and things are getting more exciting, with new challenges in the air and the launch of a 'Jobs Initiative' announcing different positions within the department. Appointments have been made, so I went along to the first meeting to meet the enthusiastic band of successful job candidates, and to hear their opinions on their new positions.

Here are some of the answers to my first question about why the children think it is important to take responsibility within the school: "It will help us when we grow up to take responsibility and to be kind and helpful." "We can set an example." "We can motivate other children to be nice." "We can learn for ourselves how to become more independent and to look at what is happening around us."

The children discussed why they feel they can make a positive contribution in the playground, helping to maintain a calm, cooperative environment. They feel that other children will trust monitors and communicate with them, because they may have a better understanding of playground behaviour than a teacher and may well have experienced the same issues. "Children will be more honest with us because we know what it feels like." "We can join in and then people listen to us."

And here are their enthusiastic explanations of what they are looking forward to in their new positions:

"It's cool. I like having responsibility and I'm excited about doing my new job."

"I'm excited because I'm helping the environment to be better." (An orange bag waste operative)

"I've always wanted to be a teacher and now I can really help."

"I'm excited about getting to know other children better because they will trust me and talk to me."

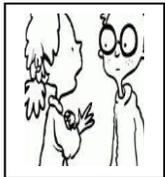
"I can make quizzes for everyone and everyone will learn something new."

"There's lots of things to do so I'm really looking forward to it and it's going to be a lot of fun."

"We can work together; we can't do it all on our own."

"I'm excited about making school better."

The School Council will be working out what they would like to achieve and how they can best organize themselves and the department; motivating everyone to contribute ideas and to join in the fun and hard work. This initiative will further encourage our children to see school as a place where they have real opportunities to be creators, collaborators and critical thinkers. We hope it will encourage them to believe in themselves, to be confident and to tackle challenges with enthusiasm, taking on leadership roles, solving problems and developing life-long skills of communication, empathy and cooperation.



### Here are the talk topics for next week:

**Nursery:** *'Talk about all of the different shapes you see on your way to and from nursery, try and name them in English.'*

**Reception:** *'What do you think makes a good friend?'*

**Year 1:** *'Think of some things that might happen to a raindrop after it falls from a cloud.'*

**Year 2:** *'Which 10 impossible things can I imagine before breakfast?'*

**Year 3:** *'Do you think it is good to have school uniform? Why? Why not?'*

**Year 4:** *'What are the benefits of wearing a school uniform?'*

**Year 5:** *'Do you find our school uniform attractive and appealing? Discuss any changes you would make.'*

**Year 6:** *'Should children not wearing the correct school uniform be sent home?'*

Well done to everyone for a week of hard work, and a particular well done to the following



### Reception:

Twishay for showing a very positive attitude in P.E. sessions and making lots of points for his team.

Yakshith for doing a very good job in sequencing the events that happened in 'The Three Little Pigs' story.

### Year 1:

Aadya for a super effort in writing about the sun.

Hem Ruthvik for being super-quick in our first word-search.

## Year 2:

Anwitha for her beautiful optical illusion artwork and for endless amount of enthusiasm!

Dhriti for brilliant story writing this week and her excellent progress in reading!

## Year 3:

Trishan for being conscientious and hard working in maths.

Navnoor for lovely reading and discussion in our guided reading session.

## Year 4:

Freja for beautiful swimming technique.

Saumya for her written and design creativity.

## Year 5:

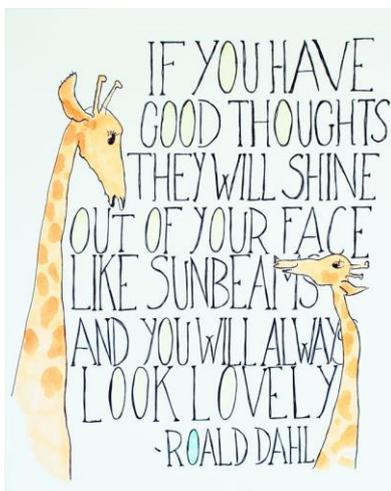
Anjali for an excellent attitude to all areas of school.

## Year 6:

Arjun for the outstanding effort he has shown since the first day of term. I am so proud of you!

And to end the week – the weekend promises to be warm and sunny, which is wonderful as Sunday is Car-Free day in Brussels. So, get out the bikes, skateboards, scooters, skipping ropes, footballs, cricket bats and balls and make the most of plenty of space to play safely. Brussels is really special when there are no cars around!

Enjoy your weekend...



**“If you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely”  
Roald Dahl**

### **Quotes from our School Council meeting:**

“Working together makes me feel happy”

“You shouldn’t always be too serious; you should also be humorous”