

Newsletter 27th September 2019

Dear Everyone,

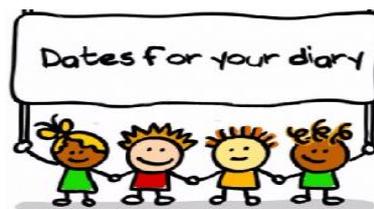


Autumn is officially here and the weather has certainly changed this week. We might grumble about the rain, but the parks and green spaces everywhere really need water – let's hope that the wonderful old trees in the Fôret de Soignes and in our parks in Schaerbeek have a chance to recover from the extreme heat of the summer.

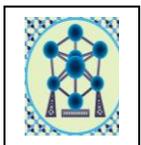
I've heard lots of news this week of everyone's adventures on bikes and scooters last Sunday – what a great way to celebrate car-free Brussels! It's great to hear that the children are out and about, exercising and enjoying the fresh air, it definitely helps them to build up their immunity and keep colds and coughs away. Make the most of this weekend to get

out and collect conkers (horse chestnuts) and start a leaf collection with the leaves that are starting to fall. Take a look at these ideas for some fun activities:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/activities/2015/09/awesome-autumn-leaf-hunt/>
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/activities/2018/10/conker-maths/>
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/activities/2016/09/autumn-treasure-hunt/>



There will be a Friday Coffee Morning next week, **Friday October 4th** from 9h – 10h in the Junior Department Library. Do come along and meet new people, borrow English-language books from a wide selection, enjoy a tea or coffee and celebrate the end of the week. Last time it was suggested that people bring along their favourite recipes so that we can share ideas and enjoy each other's cultures.



The Year 6 children once again have the amazing privilege of spending a whole night, not at the museum, but at the Brussels Atomium, next **Tuesday, 1st October**.

The children will set off after school on Tuesday, spend a wonderful evening admiring the spectacular view from the Children's Sphere, hopefully sleep well all night in the eight mini spheres known as raindrops (designed by a Spanish artist especially for the project), and then come back to school after breakfast and a guided tour of the building. A picnic lunch will be waiting for them on their return.

The Atomium was the main pavilion and icon of the World Fair of Brussels (1958), commonly called Expo 58, and, although it was never intended to survive beyond the World Fair, today attracts over 600,000 visitors a year and is an international symbol of both Brussels and Belgium.

We are extremely lucky to be have this opportunity as the sphere is reserved exclusively for children between 6 – 12 years (plus teachers ☺) and is booked several years in advance!



Points to remember



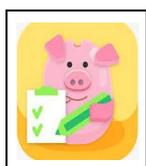
Please make sure that your child now comes to school in a coat. The weather is unpredictable, and, even if it looks sunny in the morning, it may well be raining by playtime. Unless it is raining heavily, we always take the children outside at playtime and lunchtime as they need fresh air and definitely need to run around and play!



Please note that if you feel that your child should not be going outside because of a cough or a cold, they should **not** be at school. Children who are at school will all go outside for playtimes. If they are wrapped up warm, the fresh air will help them to recover from minor colds and increase their resistance to further illnesses.



A professional photographer will be coming to BISB on Friday 18th October, to take school photos that you will be able to buy over the following weeks. Please make sure that your child is at school on that day as the photos are of a high quality and will provide you with a lovely memory of your child's time at school.



School office

Could you please note that, although we are an international school, we are subject to Belgian law, which requires that parents are obliged to ensure that their child attends full-time schooling if they are over the age of 6. Every September we have to inform the Belgian education authorities of all children studying at BISB, so that they know, and can check at any time, who is at school. We cannot therefore approve a child's unauthorised absence from school. This is a matter between the Belgian authorities and parents.

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 4th October.



Here are the talk topics for next week:

Nursery: 'Tell your mummy and daddy where a conker comes from and how it felt in your hand, when we passed it around in circle time.'

Reception: 'If you were the hungry caterpillar, what would you have eaten to not feel hungry anymore?'

Year 1: 'Apart from the many types of fish and shellfish, what other animals live or swim in the sea?'

Year 2: 'What four living things would I put in a food chain, and why?'

Year 3: 'If you were in charge of designing a school uniform, what would it look like?'

Year 4: 'What type of scientist would you become if you had to and why?'

Year 5: 'Not many schools had a uniform on at the EU event. How did you feel in your smart uniform?'

Year 6: 'What are the positive aspects about wearing a school uniform?'



Stars of the Week



Reception: Ektha: for recalling precisely all the things the very hungry caterpillar ate and making a beautiful drawing of it.

Aabir: for building a very creative and singular playdough house in our 'build a house challenge.'

Year 1: Jagrav, for excellent work this week on double letter sounds.

Ayesha, for her super picture of the ocean layers and the creatures that live in them.

Year 2: Shaurya for excellent work in maths this week and for his beautiful artwork.

Kecia for brilliant reading and for her happy and problem solving attitude!

Year 3: Rhithul for excellent effort with his writing about a story setting.

Vihan for using lots of good adjectives and phrases in his writing.

Year 4: Aarohi for her excellent technical drawing.

Daswanth for his dogged and determined maths.

Year 5: Wahed for being very responsible at the science exhibition and his attitude to homework this year.

Year 6: Marina for responding so positively to the expectations of Year 6 and the demands of being a House Captain. A terrific start!

And to end the week with Calvin & Hobbes... Let's hope it's a starry night at the Atomium!



'If people sat outside and looked at the stars each night, I'll bet they'd live a lot differently. When you look into infinity, you realize there are more important things than what people do all day'.