

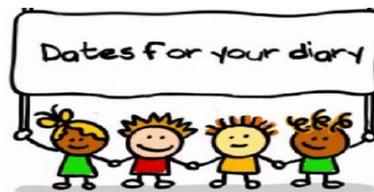
Newsletter 11th October 2019

Dear Everyone,

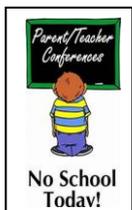


Yet another week has flown past and the classrooms have been busy with children starting the first maths and literacy assessments of the year, along with music workshops in years 5 & 6, fruit-salad making in Nursery, bread and jam making in Year 3, electrical circuits in Year 4, finger gym in Reception and lots of fun with water in Year 1. The buildings are beginning to ring with the sound of songs being practised for the end of term shows and children are busy working and playing in every corner. There's lots of reading going on in both of the newly organised libraries – well done to the Junior librarians and well done also to all the Junior Department job holders – you all seem to be very organised! The first

Junior Department quiz takes place today so the Quiz Master will have been busy. The Year 3 gardeners will soon be working hard on the autumn window boxes too; when the summer geraniums finally lose their flowers, it's a sure sign that autumn is here. Make the most of the sunshine this weekend and enjoy the beautiful colours in the parks and forests.



The first **Friday Coffee morning** after the half-term holiday will be held on the first Friday of term – **7th November**. Come along and enjoy the morning, and, if you are planning to come to our annual Autumn craft/Diwali evening, come and find out how you can help with the preparations. Your help would be much appreciated 😊.



The **Parent-Teacher meetings** will be held throughout the day of **Friday 25th October**. This is the occasion for you to meet with your child's teacher and discuss their progress over the first half term. You will shortly be receiving a note indicating your allocated time slot. Please note that these meetings are for parents to talk with the teachers, and that there will be **no school** on that day. Children should not accompany parents to the meetings.

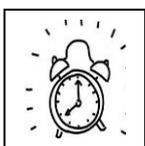
Our annual **Autumn/Diwali Craft evening** will be held in the Infant Department building on **Friday, 15th November** from **6pm to 8pm**. This is a family event for the whole school, so put the date in your diary now and make sure you join us for an evening of crafts and fun. More details will follow.



Note the date in your diary for our **Autumn Family Walk in the Woods** on the afternoon of **Sunday, 24th November**. More details will follow in future newsletters.



Points to remember



All children **must be in school by 8.55am**. Lessons start at 9.00 and children arriving late both disrupt classes and miss out on the beginning of lessons. Teachers cannot answer the doorbell in the Junior Department as they are already working in the classrooms on the upper floors of the building.



School office

There are still a few families who have not yet returned their bank mandate forms for fee payments. Please send these to Mr. Prescott (bisbbursar@telenet.be) as soon as possible.

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



Please note that the rates for Garderie have been increased from 6€ an hour to 6.50€. The rate for half an hour is 3.25€. This took effect from October 1st.



Telenet will be upgrading the cable network in Avenue Emile Max between 17th and 23rd October. There is a possibility that our internet and landline services will be disrupted in the Infant Department during this period.

These services will be **completely unavailable** on **18th and 22nd October**, all day. Please note that we **will not be able to send or receive emails**, but you **can** still contact the school on the regular number: 02 736 8981. The Junior Department will **not** be affected by the work.



Year 5 & 6 had the wonderful opportunity of spending all of Thursday afternoon in a Music workshop organised by ReMuA. This is an association of professional musicians who work in schools, promoting classical music amongst children through their active listening and participative approach. ReMuA has also been recognized for the development of the Venezuelan project “El Sistema” in Belgium. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Sistema. Everyone had a fantastic afternoon dancing, singing, playing instruments and sharing their impressive knowledge of music. Many thanks to Mme. Mayeur for organizing the event. Let’s hope it is the first of many 😊.



The Junior Department Debates got off to a great start last Friday, as they discussed the motion “Should children wear school uniform?” After several workshop exercises trying out the necessary skills, the children set about trying out their first debate. Here is the report and some of the Year 6 comments afterwards:

“On Friday we had a lively debate of whether school children should wear school uniform.

What do you think???

There were two sides, the **Opposition side**; which was **against** children wearing school uniform, then there was the **Proposition side**; which was **sustaining** the motion (the motion is whether school children should wear school uniform).

It was quite a dramatic debate! Here are only a few of the things the opposition said:

- ‘We shouldn’t have school uniform because it is hard work keeping it clean’
- ‘We shouldn’t have school uniform because why do we have to pay more money’
- ‘We shouldn’t have school uniform because we pay money to buy it and then when we outgrow it, what do we do with it!?’

Here are also, only a few, of the things the proposition said:

- 'We should have school uniform so that on school trips the teachers can spot us easily'
- 'We should have school uniform to look smart, tidy and neat'
- 'we should have school uniform to show what school we are from'

As you have read our debate was **sensational**, **fabulous** and **extremely engaging!!!**

"I really enjoyed the debate on Friday about school uniform. It was really interesting in finding out what people think about school uniform and I liked that everyone had their own opinion about it. I would really like another one." **Tala**

"My opinion about the debate is that it was fantastic because everyone got a turn to speak and the speech was awesome as well." **Suhas**

"Firstly, I enjoyed it. Secondly, I've learnt a lot. I'm going to tell you what I've learnt!! I didn't know about debating at first. So debating is when two groups fight for a statement (not physically but by contrasting). I forgot to tell you, there is a judge and timekeeper. Each group has three minutes to tell in their point of view. Our statement last week was "Should pupils wear school uniforms?". Rohan, Suhavi and Asritha were saying we shouldn't wear school uniforms because we will look colourful. Ashvi, Srija and Mokshith, who were against their opinion, they said if we have done a good deed when we're on a trip, people will notice and say what a good school." **Aahil**

"I really enjoyed the debate because I liked the way it was set out. First, we were taught how to debate a debate 'beginner style'. Although it was as the beginner level, I learnt so much: how to propose the *motion*, how to present a statement in an orderly way. Also, I got to vote for the *motion (the motion failed)*.

The motion: which was [this house believes that we should not wear school uniforms] which none of the people in the house believed in. I hope that there are more debates like this because every debate I learn something new." **Maanas**

"The debate was amazing about school uniforms.

I think some people did not like school uniform because they might have thought that it was a waste of money.

Because in India they give the uniform for free and that is why they wanted to debate and get rid of it.

I think the people that wanted to keep the uniform thought that they need the uniform because you look smart and if we are going on trips we will be recognized. Some people will come to school and they will have fashion shows during class and the school will turn into a fashion show party. If one person starts it will spread through the whole school." **Swarnima**

This is a fantastic way of improving confidence, finding out how to express yourself clearly and eloquently, developing opinions and thinking around a subject from lots of different angles. I have no doubt that we will have some real champion debaters in our Junior Department by the end of the year!



Congratulations to Anjali and Rohan in Year 5, who received a Special Jury Award in a Europe-wide event, held in the Netherlands, celebrating Indian classical arts such as singing, dancing and instrumental music. This is the second year that the twins have participated in the finals and they received their award for perfect synchronization, rhythm and tune. Very well done to you both! It's great to see that you have the enthusiasm, confidence and talent to participate in a big competition.



Here are the talk topics for next week:

Nursery: 'Name a fruit do you not like and how do you know you don't like it, have you actually ever tried tasting it?'

Reception: 'Look at the trees out there. How are their leaves changing? Why?'

Year 1: 'What things might happen if there is too much rain?'

Year 2: 'What can we do to make sure that the ice caps in the South and North Pole don't melt?'

Year 3: 'What is orienteering?'

Year 4: 'When does a child need a mobile phone?'

Year 5: 'At what age should a child be given a mobile phone?'

Year 6: 'Are your parents addicted to their mobile phones?'



**Stars of the
Week**



Reception: Kovid: for coming up with interesting words with 'g' as beginning sound.

Sudeeksha: for the beautiful drawings showing the things that make her happy.

Year 1: Jinisha, for making super progress in writing.

Havish, for being 'on fire' in Phonics and Topic this week.

Year 2: Camilla for excellent work in our climate change project!

Aadya for writing a brilliant story this week!

Year 3: Jay – for some great drawing this week of trains and Viking knots.

Ishan – for his hard work and commitment to learning in maths and literacy.

Year 4: Shanvitha for super maths on Time.

Anwitha for creative and descriptive writing.

Year 5: Srija Guggilla for good work and excellent effort..

Year 6: Aishwarya, for presenting (and surprising) me with an exercise book of all the Chinese work she has done independently, having been inspired by our Chinese folder on Edmodo!

And to end the week:

"Learning is not the product of teaching. Learning is the product of the activity of learners."

John Holt

Have a lovely weekend!