



Dear Everyone,

What a fantastic week, with so many things happening that it has flown past and we now only have three days left at school to enjoy the magic of Christmas.

On Tuesday, Abheer in Year 5 was compiling his Brussels Christmas News newspaper with the headline **"Very Special Christmas Rehearsal for BISB."** The article continued: **"Tomorrow is going to be a very special day for the BISB Juniors when they play the tale 'When Sasha got swept up the chimney.'**" He couldn't have imagined just how special the

show was going to be.

After all their hard work learning so many complex lines, songs and dances, the Junior Department put on the show of a lifetime with every single person contributing 150% effort, energy and enthusiasm. It was a real triumph of teamwork – the scenery (made by the children under Mrs Rutayisire's expert guidance) set the backdrop and included an impressive Santa's sleigh, which was pulled around the stage by reindeer. Mrs Tolentino did a great job sorting out the props and moving them around the stage. The costumes were bright and colourful – there was a definite gasp in the audience as the baddies of the play, fairies Aahil and Arjun, floated onto the stage complete with frilly skirts, fairy wings and psychedelic wigs! The music was fantastic, everyone knew the words and sang their hearts out – thanks to Mme Mayeur for setting the standards high and helping the children to surpass them. Well done also to the soloists for having the courage to stand up and sing in front of a whole auditorium. I am seriously hoping that Mr Stedman does not decide to change careers and turn into a choreographer, as his dance routines are increasingly complex and spectacular. He has children queueing up to be in the dance troupe, all quite happy to spend their playtimes, lunchtimes and any other spare moments, sweating away in the studio to the latest tunes! As for the acting – not only did the children work really hard to learn their lines (with some of the parts being extremely large), but they excelled themselves this year at really acting in character. Mrs Vetter was ready to prompt at any moment, but in fact wasn't needed at all. A particular thank you must go to Mrs Tranter, whose passion, enthusiasm and rigour ensure that the children do their utmost to meet the challenges, and then surpass themselves. I hope you enjoyed the show as much as I did – I'm sure that for the children it will be one of their main BISB memories.

Yesterday was the Nursery show – with all the magic that little children bring to any performance. They all danced and sang and looked wonderful. Watching them trying so hard makes you realise that this is where it all starts – these tiny ones waving at parents in the front row will one day be Junior children performing on a big stage with all the confidence that we saw on Wednesday.

We have also been out and about in the cold winter weather enjoying the parks around and about. Mr Tranter and his band of parent helpers (many thanks to you all), had a great morning watching wild life, doing PE and playing on the playground in Wezembeek. I thought they came back with muddy shoes and knees, but the Junior Department orienteering trip today was seriously wet and windy and the children were well and truly covered in mud! However, despite the cold and the rain, they had a great time running around looking for clues and using their compasses to find the next destination. A big thank you to Mr Stedman, once again for the considerable time taken to prepare the circuit in such detail, and for making sure that it is accessible to all of the children – working in mixed age teams.

This is the last Newsletter of the year, so I would like to thank you all for your huge support since September – we hope you have all appreciated the activities and events and that your children have really enjoyed the Autumn term. We wish you a very Happy Christmas; enjoy your holidays and we'll see you in January 2020!



We will start the New Year off in style with a **Friday Coffee morning** on the first Friday of term – 10th January, in the Junior Department library, as usual.



Come along and share your holiday news, and for new parents (of whom there will be many), please come along and meet everyone. This is a chance to make friends, find out about what is happening in school, in the wider community and in Belgium too, as people often have good ideas of places to visit. You can borrow English-language books from the library and just relax before the chaos of the weekend begins!

9h – 10.15 Friday 10th December – everyone is very welcome and we look forward to seeing you all.



The **Reception Show**, which is the final show of the year and which I'm sure will be just as amazing as all of the others, is at 11.30 on Monday, 16th December in the Infant Building. Don't miss it!

Please try to be on time, as it is very difficult for the children to contain their excitement once the audience starts to arrive – and for you there is nothing worse than missing the beginning of the show!

Reception - Monday, 16th December at **11.30**



Years 1 & 2 have a very special music trip planned to the **Musical Instrument Museum** in Brussels on Thursday 16th January. They will be going on the coach and will have a guided visit of the museum before taking part in workshops featuring the instruments. A letter with all the information will be sent home at the beginning of next term.

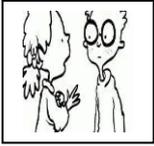
Points to remember



The Christmas holidays start at **12.15 on Wednesday, 18th December** and we look forward to seeing you all back at school on **Monday, 6th January**. The school will be closed over the holidays, but you can contact the school office by email. Please note that there is **no garderie** on the last day of school.



News of the Week



Here are the talk topics:

Nursery: 'What does Christmas mean for you?'

Reception: 'Who took a present from Santa's bag?'

Year 1: 'At school, what has been your favourite part of getting ready for Christmas?'

Year 2: 'Which is your favourite holiday, and why?'

Year 3: 'What creatures live underground?'

Year 4: 'How could your mobile phone help or hinder you in all the adventures in the park today?'

Year 5: 'Can you think of ways in which mobile devices can be handy in the classroom?'

Year 6: 'Why do I have to revise during the Christmas holidays?'



Stars of the Week



Reception: Sudeeksha for her good concentration shown in our finger gym session.

Iliana for her excellent behaviour in class and committed attitude.

Year 1: Nishaank for a super, polite and caring letter to Santa.

Avni for great work in our Christmas Maths activities.

Year 2: Hemitha for being super welcoming and kind to our new student in the class!

Shashwat for doing so well with our very complicated crossword puzzle this week!

Year 3: Hasini for being such a super penguin in Winter production and doing more than her part at the last minute.

Chethan for super singing and living his role as a Londoner in the Winter production.

Year 4: Aasritha for great stage awareness and her lovely presentation.

Akshat for parachuting into the play so well and his Squash brilliance .

Anwitha for great stage awareness and performing.

Year 5: Hithaishi Madieni for superb acting, singing and dancing in the show.

Year 6: Parvesh for his superb acting – a natural – who must accept a larger role in the Summer production!

And a thought to end the week, inspired this time by the Junior Department show. It sums up everything that we have seen in school this Christmas, and it's the children that have been the real stars!

One tiny sprinkle of stardust, that's all the magic we need... we've got to work together and believe in ourselves!

