

Nursery



Dear Parents,

Phew! What a busy week we have all had in nursery this week, with our new topic 'Food and healthy habits' really getting underway and the children starting with one of their favourite foods, Pizza! The way mama makes it! Or I should say, Ms diFine, Mrs Nagy and Mrs Davies! Of course, we made a very healthy vegetable pizza and only ate a small slice because we all decided pizza is just a sometimes food that we only eat on special occasions.



The children enjoyed chopping and slicing the ingredients and had to think carefully about which layer went where, when constructing their pizza. It was tricky to decide if the cheese went on top of the tomato sauce or the tomato sauce went on top of the cheese. However, it tasted delicious when we finally got to eat it!

Before we made the edible version, everyone had a go at making a pizza on the white board and played an interactive build-a-pizza game. If you look in their home school book this week you will see a photograph of your little one in action playing the game. The game was not only great for introducing new English vocabulary but also had a maths element as we sliced the pizza into half then quarter slices and recognised the shape of the slice as a triangle.

A number of children are growing in their independence skills and are trying very hard to put on their own coat, hat, gloves etc. but many children are still expecting the teacher to always do it for them or just hope their coat magically jumps off the peg and finds its way onto their body! Please continue at home to encourage your little one to at least help get themselves dressed. We know it is sometimes quicker just to do everything for them, especially in the mornings when time is short, but when you do have extra time please be patient and let your child do it for themselves. This is a good habit to get into for starting school, which may seem like a long time away but it will fly by very quickly. Independence skills play an important role in the overall development of your child and their ability to take on a challenge and master something they haven't done before.

Until next week, enjoy the unusually mild winter weather - maybe go out and explore a new park or do a bit of shopping in the sales, or even visit a pizza restaurant! Don't forget to discuss our talk topic which is: 'Tell mummy and daddy, step by step, how you made the real pizza and how did it taste?'

Alison Davies, Anna Nagy and Vanessa diFine

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Reception

Dear Parents,

This week was all about unicorns and the children loved it! We have made crafts both edible and non-dible, read unicorn stories and we even had a unicorn dance!



We've read the story 'Sugarlump and the Unicorn' in which the latter has got magic powers to grant special wishes. So Sugarlump wishes all sorts of things that are granted to him ... you can see how the story finishes on this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lbiLth5CTs> and plus, listen to it again at home with your child.

You will also find a unicorn related maze in the home school book to do at home together with your child. I hope the unicorns will be successful in finding their prizes!

This morning we have decorated ice-cream cones with white chocolate spread and sprinkles, and made them into unicorn horns. The children couldn't contain their excitement and tried every possible way to eat their cones, but we were successful at convincing them to eat them after they left school. So hopefully you might have also tried them, if there was something left!

In Phonics, we have introduced the consonant digraphs 'sh' and 'ch', working with each of them individually and then together to mark the different sound they both make at the beginning and ending of a word.

In Maths we have worked with shape patterns with two, three and four objects at the same time and the children were very good at it. They concentrated a lot on their work and had a brilliant result on their worksheets, so well done to everyone! We have also introduced the concept of symmetry and worked with magnetic shapes. Please go to our class page in the school's webpage to see the work each of your children did. The images are wonderful!

In P.E. we continued working on tag games with instructions and rules and this time it was the turn of the 'Hen and Fox' Tag. So, taking turns, children pretended to be both hens and foxes and chased each other around the playground. It was hilarious as some of them were really focused on their role!

The talk topic for next week is: ***if you had your own magic unicorn, what would you ask him as a wish?***

This has been all for this week, have a lovely weekend and we'll see you all back on Monday.

Mrs. van Wassenhove and Mrs. Julaton

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French

In French with Madame Scharf, we are still talking about winter (l'hiver) : the weather (il pleut, il neige, il fait froid) and the clothes we wear in this season. We sang several songs and drew beautiful pictures.

EAL

In the Reception small group this week, we spent one session talking and learning about symmetry, using vocabulary including *the same, match*. We also read the story *Sugarlump and the Unicorn*, which the children are reading in class. We learnt new vocabulary, and we dramatised the story, practising the tricky phrases: *I wish I could ...*, and *Your wish **will** come true*. The children tried to answer and ask questions about the story using the question words: *what, who, where, why?*



I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read

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Year 1

Dear Parents,

The highlight of the week was our super day out on Thursday to the Musée des Instruments de Musique. In three groups, each with its own guide, the children had a tour of the museum, tried out a selection of instruments and took part in a musical workshop. The first batch of photos can be viewed at <http://www.bisb.org/project/musical-instrument-museum/>. Please ask your child about the day - there was much more to it than I can write here! We would all like to thank Mme Mayeur for organising our lovely day.



In Phonics this week we continued with our Phase 4 'consonant clusters' - this week we looked at pairs of consonants found at the end of words, such as 'best', 'desk', 'shelf', 'slept' and so on. We practised as usual by saying, reading and writing some example words, and this week we did an additional Phonics writing exercise, which you can see in your child's Home School Book. In Grammar, we had our first look at nouns (a person, place or thing), learnt a song about them, and practised adding some noun labels to a picture. We also continued our work on story maps - this week we read, mapped and acted out 'Mr Gumpy's Outing', again in two teams, and using a very full and rather unstable cardboard box 'boat' (more photos in the January gallery on the Year 1 website).

Our Maths focus has been on the next stage of number bonds and doubles: converting the usual addition sums (e.g. $6+4=10$) to a corresponding subtraction sum ($10-4=6$). We did this repeatedly, for number bonds to 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10, using a combination of classroom games, practical exercises and written work - the objective is for the children, who are already quite familiar with the addition number pairs, to recognise quickly the matching subtraction fact(s), and thus reduce the time they spend on 'simple' operations.

We looked at the history of transport in our Topic session, starting from the sedan chair, and then placing the ship, train, bicycle, car and aeroplane in chronological order of invention. The children have also been very busy drawing, painting and making transport-related items to fill the display areas in the classroom.

Please remember that we are going to the Théâtre de la Montagne Magique next Tuesday afternoon (21 Jan), so there will be no PE that day. If you haven't done so already, please send in your permission slip and payment by Monday 20 Jan.

Maths homework for next week will be 'Balloon Pop 1.13' (adding 1-digit to 2-digit numbers). Finally, our Talk Topic for next week will be "Do all countries in the world have the same number of roads, railways and airports?"

Enjoy the weekend!

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru
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French

In French with Madame Scharf, we have resumed our story "Une maison de musiciens". We revised the body parts vocabulary in order to go to the doctor's and tell him/her where it hurts: "J'ai mal à la tête, j'ai mal à la gorge, j'ai mal au ventre ...".

Year 2

Dear Parents!

We have had yet another exciting week. Our trip to the music museum was the highpoint of the week and the children were so happy and excited to learn about all the amazing instruments that we saw in the museum. Thank you to all the brilliant volunteers that helped make this such a successful and fun trip for everyone!

We have continued to work on our topic this week, learning more and more about the Norse gods and the stories and myths about some of these amazing characters. This week we have heard a lot of stories about Loki and his unlikely children, the Midgard Serpent, the Fenris wolf and Hel, all of whom Loki had with a giantess. And, of course, Sleipnir, the eight-legged horse of Odinn, whom Loki is the mother of. The children are very enthusiastic about the topic and have been soaking up the knowledge about the gods, the north and the Vikings. In science we learned about all the oceans on the planet, because the Vikings were great explorers. We found out that the Viking Leifur Eirikson was the first person ever to cross the Atlantic, a thousand years ago, going all the way to North America.



In math this week we focused on using bonds to 10, playing all kinds of games to practise our number bonds to ten. We also practised subtraction (finding the difference between two numbers) revising our number bonds from 2-10. We also worked on adding 1-digit numbers to 2-digit numbers, both by doing practical work and by playing some fun math games to help us learn.

In literacy this week the children have done a lot of reading comprehension exercises, where they have a text that they have to read and then answer questions on. They are steadily improving their reading skills as well as their ability to obtain knowledge from the texts that they read. We also did some writing about the Norse gods that we have been learning so much about.

Talk topic is: Which three gods are renowned for their wisdom or intelligence? Which one of them do you like the most, and why?

Stars of the week go to Asritha for her brilliant work on the Thor worksheet and to Shaurya for doing brilliantly in maths this week! Congratulations to Asritha and Shaurya 😊

Remember that we have another trip coming up on Tuesday 21st January, so it's very important that you all hand in the signed permission slip and the four euros, no later than Monday morning.

And please take a look at our website for some brand new photographs 😊

Have a good weekend.

Elin Hafstein and Ena Tolentino Year2teacher@telenet.be

French Year 2

In French with Mme Halvorsen, we continued talking about 'mon corps', we sang a famous children's song about 'les parties du corps' (the body parts), but we altered the word **pieds** with **orteils**: tête, épaule, genoux, orteils (to see the difference between **doigts** (fingers) and **orteils** (toes)). Then, we

followed up with a fun and colourful bricolage '**Mon corps et moi**' which allowed us to see the spelling of the body parts with the **definite articles: le, la and les**.

Music Years 1 & 2

On Thursday, we went to the Musical Instruments Museum. We had a lot of fun trying out various types of instruments such as the violin, the double bass, the flute and the Tibetan horn, and it was also very interesting to learn about their history. We even saw a harp that was 3500 years old, and the ancestor of the piano that sounded more like a violin!

After our visit, we climbed to the top of this 10 floor "Art Nouveau" building to enjoy the beautiful view of the city, and luckily for us the sun was shining!

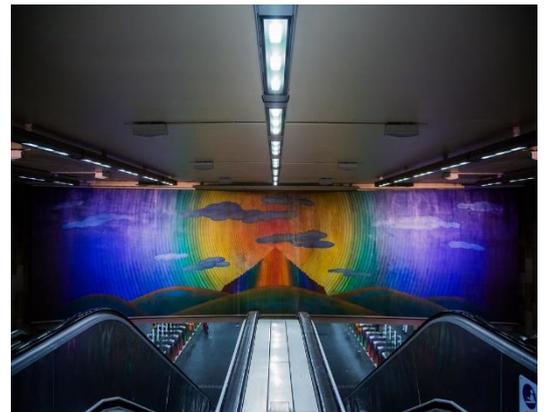
Music Junior Department

This week in music, we learnt and sang a song to remind us that anyone can achieve great results if they have a positive approach. "You can do it" gave us the energy to keep going, even when we question our abilities!

Year 3

Dear Parents,

We've continued to have lots of fun with our new topic this week, 'The street beneath my feet.' In our art lesson we started to look at some of the works of art we will see on our Metro Art's trail. The first one was 'Magic city' by Michel Folon. Half of the class painted their own metro entrance artwork in Folon's style based on the colours of the rainbow. The other half of the class tried to create metro entrance artwork inspired by the geometric piece of work made of hundreds of glass tiles called 'Diamant' by Michel Martens at Diamant metro station. Next week the groups will swap over and so by the end of two weeks they will have tried both styles.



In science this week we've done lots of work on our new topic of rocks. The children had a go at using books and the internet to identify rocks from my rock box, we discovered it was quite tricky because each rock is unique! We then learned the three types of rock – igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. We tested different types of rock to find out their density, whether they were permeable and whether they were hard or soft rock. In geography we started to learn about volcanoes. We discussed how they were formed and identified the different parts of a volcano.

In mathematics we have been learning to sort numbers according to whether they are multiples of 3, multiples of 4 or both multiples of 3 and 4. We then practised the 8-times table by playing 8-times table bingo and then answering some questions that required knowledge of 8-times table facts. We also practised the partitioning method of addition and solved sums with two 3-digit numbers.

In literacy we learned about adverbs used to describe time and place. We looked at some examples then used them in our own work. In guided reading we read non-fiction books about buildings and learned lots of new vocabulary by using the glossary to look up new words. We also revised the terms heading, sub-heading, diagram, label and bullet point.

Thank you to everyone who has already returned the permission slip about our up-coming Metro Art trail on Wednesday 29th of January. If you haven't yet returned it, then please can you return it next week. Also, we need a parent volunteer to accompany us for this outing. We will be leaving school around 9am and returning around 12 noon. Please let me know if you are available to help us.

Kind regards,

Camilla Rutayisire
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Year 4

Dear Parents,

It's been a tough and frustrating week. We've worked very, very hard but, unfortunately, there has also been some boundary-pushing. Someone once told me of Military Service (I would have no idea), 'You learn good stuff, but you also learn bad stuff' and in terms of Y4 children, the same can be said of the Christmas holiday. This week, I have had to tersely reaffirm some classroom rules and haven't been the cheeriest of teachers. Perhaps it's the wintry month of January but I'm expecting the class's behaviour to return to normal next week.

Maths this week was all about calculation and the children applied themselves well. A whole lesson spent on the 7x Table and learning other multiplication facts which are hard to remember revealed some weaknesses to target.

In Literacy, meanwhile, we made headlines and wrote newspaper articles about amazing people and events. This ended in the 'Great Balloon' debate. The children enjoyed this activity, busily researching their chosen hero (e.g. Benjamin Franklin, Mahatma Gandhi) and building up their arguments (and the all-important opening lines).

Which great person would make it into the ultimate balloon as others were eliminated? This involved a 'serious' Show and Tell and subtle persuasion skills. It was great!

Elsewhere, we compared animal and human bones in Science, culminating in the children having to stick together a skeleton of a mystery organism.

Then, in topic we explored the history of sport and how it's changed and got busy on the iPads finding great sporting venues of the world.

No better way to end the week, therefore, than with handball in PE. We did passing drills leading up to a great game at the end.

And that was our week.

Our Talk Topic for this week is: What would be the headline of the week in Y4? Recount your story

Best wishes,
Tim Stedman & Mrs Tolentino
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 4 webpage



Years 3 &4 French

In French with Mme Halvorsen, we reviewed and worked on some verbs. Then, we explored and talked about the artist Keith Haring, who brought elements of popular culture, "low art" and non-art elements into the formerly exclusive "high art" spaces of museums and galleries. We learned that Haring intended to break down the barriers between high and low art because he believed that art was for everyone. In preparation for our visit to the Bozar museum next week, we got to experiment and create fun mini posters inspired by his forms, shapes, colours and themes.

In French with Madame Scharf, we have been preparing our outing of next week to the Beaux-Arts Museum. We discovered who Keith Haring is and the way he draws and the messages he conveys in his drawings. We also drew pictures like his by using the same pictograms.

Year 5

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful, busy week we have had. It has been topped off by an assembly on Internet Safety which is extremely important in this day and age.

In Literacy we began to read our class reader, *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell. The class were dubious at first owing to the thickness of the book, but were soon hooked. Now, every free moment we get we read about the antics and adventures of the 4 children. Mrs Tranter has told us that the author went to BSB and that she lived here in Brussels. How exciting is that? To keep our feet on the ground, we also revised our work on relative clauses for grammar and did a comprehension called *The hippogriff's tusk*. We have learnt an awful amount of new words this week and it will be interesting to see if the class begin to use these words in their stories now.



In Numeracy we have been doing work on the place value of decimal numbers and the addition and subtraction of these. We have discovered that sometimes we can round the numbers and then work them out more swiftly.

For our topic work we learnt about the Mayan gods and goddesses. This was very interesting, and we learnt many surprising facts.

In Art this week we looked at examples of Mayan art and we chose one to copy. Mayan art is very colourful, full of patterns and depicts nature.

In Science we began our work on forces. It was super to see how much the children already knew as a result of the Wildearth safari we had done the week before. This week we spoke about air and water resistance, friction, gravity and people/object forces. We spoke about pushes and pulls and had a lot of fun with this.

For those children preparing for their Lamda exams, please make sure you know your words and practise a lot.

There is a French outing on Tuesday so make sure you are dressed smartly. In the afternoon we will enjoy another safari.

Swimming in the NATO pool was a big hit and the class had a good time whilst being on their best behaviour.

The talk topic this week is: Which of the 4 children in our story do you identify with the most? How would you react to being stranded in the Amazon jungle?

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Vetter

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Years 5 & 6 French

In French with Mme Halvorsen, We explored and talked about the artist Keith Haring, who brought elements of popular culture, "low art" and non-art elements into the formerly exclusive "high art" spaces of museums and galleries. We learned that Haring intended to break down the barriers between high and low art because he believed that art was for everyone. In preparation for our visit to the Bozar museum next week, we got to experiment and create fun mini posters inspired by his forms, shapes, colours and themes.

In French with Madame Scharf, we read out loud a short biography of Keith Haring and prepared our outing of next week to the Beaux-Arts Museum. We drew pictures like the artist by using the same pictograms. We also revised conjugating verbs ending in ER like "dessiner".

Year 6

Dear Parents,

There's nothing like a rubbish skip being unloaded in front of the school to create excitement amongst the pupils. We, the staff, have been doing a 'Marie Kondo' in the Junior Department and managed to fill the skip with relics from long ago, and I am sure that you will have heard, even my LAMDA bag managed to (somehow) find its way in there! With the Years 5 & 6 pupils and teacher chain-gang, we were 'done and dusted' in under 60 minutes.

Continuing with our work on understanding the brain, we watched an informative video explaining the structure and function of 17 areas of the brain. We then constructed our brain hats, following the instructions very carefully.

Very pleased to see that the students knew the definitions for various 2D and 3D shapes, remembered about perpendicular bisectors and the meanings of congruent, similar and adjacent. We revised lines of (and rotational) symmetry and then began work on data handling: mode, mean and constructing pie graphs using angles.

We completed Grammar Test 2, which highlighted confusion concerning determiners and the past progressive tense, which we are resolving.

To support our work on India and Pakistan, we are studying the book, *The Night Diary*:

'It's 1947, and India, newly freed from British rule, has been divided into two countries: Pakistan and India. Hundreds of thousands are killed crossing borders as the tensions between Muslims and Hindus flare.'



Told by Nisha (aged 12) in the form of diary to her dead Muslim mother, she recounts having to flee to India, as her father is a Hindu. Extremely thought-provoking, and the silence, whilst I am reading to the children, is palpable.

Students now have their research projects (map and knowledge organiser) to prepare for submission on 31st January (deadline). Pupils will then be able to show and discuss their work with Tim Marshall via Skype.

On Tuesday 4th February, we shall be visiting the House of European History for a workshop about protesting and fighting for causes. This information is available on Edmodo in the outings folder and you should have received your letter today.

Talk Topic: Nisha's parents were ostracised by their families and society - what do you think?

Happy Weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

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English as an Additional Language (EAL)

This week, in the Junior Department EAL small group, we have been working with the language that the Year 3 children will need in their class science lessons on the subject of rocks and soil. We learnt the names of different types of rock (based on how the rocks are formed: igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic). We wrote an information text, using paragraphs and sub-headings, about these types of rock. We also learnt about volcanoes. We are continuing to work with verbs in the past and present tense, and we talked about two new groups of words: prepositions and adverbs.



In the Year One and Two EAL small group this week, we practised planning and writing narrative texts. We used a story map to outline a story, and the children narrated parts of the story. We based our stories on the Year 2 writing activity for this week: My adventure with the Norse gods. The children identified well with this topic, and they showed great imagination. Using story maps, and with some help to start each sentence, they produced good stories. We noticed that we needed the past tense when writing the stories. We also continued our practice of the high frequency tricky words.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read

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