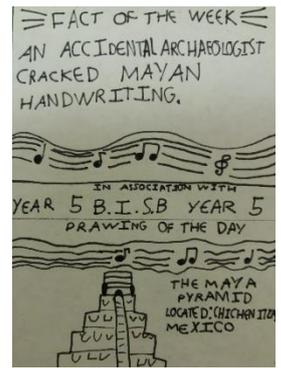


Newsletter 17th January 2020



Dear Everyone,

We have had an action-packed week with the new clubs starting, a museum trip in the Infant Department, the quarter-finals of the FBJM maths challenge and on-going rehearsals for the Lamda exams in the Junior Department, changes to swimming and tennis groups and exciting work taking place in all of the classrooms as the new term's topics really start to take off. Read all about the adventures in each classroom in the Home School book – there is plenty going on!



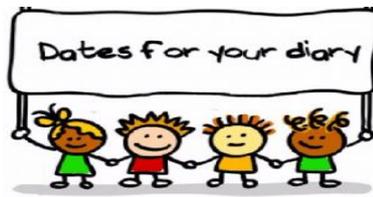
Abhir (yr 5) & friends'
weekly newspaper
article on the Mayans.

We have also had a very productive week emptying out the enormous cellars in both buildings and filling two industrial skips in a very short space of time. Teachers are the worst possible hoarders, and our cellars were full of all those things that you can't possibly throw away as they can always be used for something useful! Think of the once cardboard box that, over the years, was transformed, amongst other things, into a sarcophagus, a castle tower, a grandfather clock and even Santa's sleigh! To say nothing of worn out Christmas trees, mountains of squashed egg boxes and empty cereal packets, 'useful' pieces of wood or metal and ancient text books... After 20 years this does mean that it becomes difficult to actually get into the cellars at all.



After several weeks of preparation, the skips arrived and the work began. Muriel abandoned the office for two mornings, Tomasz parked the minibus and put down his tools and they both swung into action. Within a couple of hours the Infant cellar was empty and the first skip was full. The organisation in the Junior Department was even more impressive with years 5 & 6 working brilliantly as a team, forming a human chain to move the broken and no-longer needed papers and materials out of the cellar, through the playground, through the building and onto the pavement – where the teachers performed miracles packing the mountains into the skip. An hour's work and their cellar was clear too!

We discovered lots of hidden treasures that we thought had been lost – all those precious things that had been put away to be kept for another day ... and were still there, hidden under the Christmas trees! Now we have plenty of space to reorganise our resources, thus freeing off space around the buildings to create new working areas.



Year 3 will be out on an exciting Metro-Art trail on the morning of [Wednesday 29th January](#). This is linked to their new topic 'The street beneath my feet' and will give them the chance to discover the amazing range of art that can be seen in the metro stations throughout Brussels.



It was lovely to see everyone at the coffee morning last week and to welcome new parents. We look forward to seeing you all next week, [Friday 24th January](#), at 9h in the Junior department (don't worry if you are dropping the children off slightly earlier – the coffee and tea are ready in the library 😊!)



Don't forget that the [Spring Term after-school clubs](#) began this week and that they continue until the week of [23rd March](#). Children should be picked up at **16.30** from the building in which the club takes place, this particularly applies to Year 2 children who are attending the Sports club on Wednesday afternoons. They should be collected from the [Junior department](#).

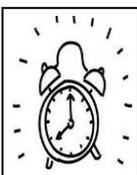


There are still a few places in **Art** on a Wednesday, **Sport** in the Junior department on a Wednesday, and **Board games** on a Thursday, also in the Junior department.



Junior Department parents will have received a letter yesterday about the new WhatsApp number for contacting us in the case of a late change to drop-off or pick-up arrangements. Please **only** use the number for these details.

[Any other messages](#) can be sent as an email to the School Office as normal. Thank you!



Please remember that children need to be at school by **8.55** in time for lessons to start. **There are still children arriving late**, particularly in the Infant Department, which is very disruptive for teachers and pupils who are already working in the classroom.

Please set the alarm a little bit earlier and make an effort!

Don't forget.....



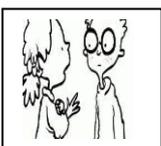
Years 3 & 5 are going to the Beaux-Arts Museum on Tuesday 21st January for a guided tour and workshop on the American artist Keith Haring. Haring was dedicated to the creation of a truly public art that would reach the widest possible audience, giving everyone the chance to enjoy art. Please note that this is a **small back-pack day** and that full uniform should be worn.



Years 1 & 2 are going to the Théâtre de la Montagne Magique on the afternoon of Tuesday 21st January to see a production of 10:10, a fun-filled play based around the idea of playground games. The play will be performed in French, but features music and dancing and spectacular visual effects that hold the children's attention, even if they do not necessarily follow all of the spoken word. The theatre is small and welcoming and, as its name suggests, is a magical place.



Years 1 & 2 had a great day out yesterday, visiting the Musical Instruments Museum in Brussels. They had a guided visit of parts of the museum, finding out about the different families of instruments, and then participated in a workshop where they had the chance to try out some of the instruments. Many thanks to Mme Mayeur for organizing the trip and to the parents who came with us. We hope you enjoyed it too!



Here are the talk topics:

Nursery: *'Tell mummy and daddy step by step how you made the real pizza and how did it taste?'*

Reception: *'If you had your own magic unicorn, what would you ask him as a wish?'*

Year 1: *'Do all countries in the world have the same number of roads, railways and airports?'*

Year 2: *'Which three gods are renowned for their wisdom or intelligence? Which one of them do you like the most, and why?'*

Year 3: *'What do you know about volcanoes? What dangers do they pose to people and animals?'*

Year 4: *'What would be the headline of the week in Y4? Recount your story'*

Year 5: *'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?'*

Year 6: *'Nisha's parents were ostracised by their families and society - what do you think?'*



Stars of the Week



- Reception:** Ibaad: for his excellent and independent work on shape patterns. Well done!
Adil: for his good effort on remembering the letter sounds and starting to blend them, super!
- Year 1:** Aadya, for excellent work on addition and subtraction using number bonds.
Reyansh, for super work in Phase 4 Phonics.
- Year 2:** Asritha for her brilliant work on the Thor worksheet.
Shaurya for doing brilliantly in maths this week!
- Year 3:** Ananya for making some lovely artwork inspired the Brussels metro.
Nevaan for his super rock identification skills!
- Year 4:** Aasritha for being an expert bone specialist.
Shanvitha for an amazing phonics and conjunctions speed test record of 0:44 seconds.
- Year 5:** Anoushka for her positive attitude to all areas of school and learning.
- Year 6:** Swarnima for making such an effort with her homework and taking care and time with the presentation – thank you!

And a fitting thought to end the week...

“One of the advantages of being disorderly is that one is constantly making exciting discoveries.”



—A.A. Milne...



Ps: Apologies to the scientifically minded amongst you for my error in last week's newsletter in referring to 2020 as the beginning of a decade. Having checked this out, it is clear that there are two camps of thought; I clearly belong to the one which considers a decade to start in a year ending in 0 and finishing with a 9 - and remembers the swinging sixties ... (just) 😊!