

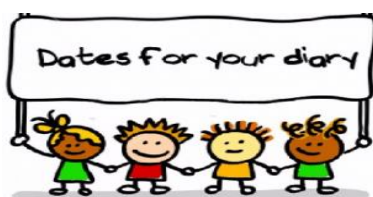
Newsletter 31st January 2020



Dear Everyone,

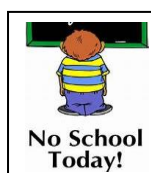
The weeks are flying by and the children are now well into the curriculum for the term and the many extra activities that are happening in every corner of the school. It is an exciting term with challenges for everyone – the Year 2 children will be receiving well-earned swimming certificates this week as their swimming sessions come to an end. All of them have worked hard, but many have shown extraordinary determination and courage, overcoming fear of the water and the certainty that they would sink, despite safety jackets, noodles and a helping hand! Many thanks to

the band of mums that lend a hand every week. Some of the children are becoming proficient swimmers and the others are well on their way – able to enjoy the water and confident that they can now manage a whole width on their own. Well done Year 2s – it's the turn of Year 1s next week. The Year 5s are making equally impressive progress at the NATO pool, so let's hope the enthusiasm helps us to put out record teams for the Splash Event in March (see below). There are also children working hard on the imminent LAMDA exams – practising everywhere from playground to cloakrooms, declaiming poetry and prose with great verve and imagination. This too is a challenge that will require courage, calm and self-composure next week as they face an external examiner. With reports are being written and parent-teacher meetings being prepared, classroom assessments are being carried out in maths and reading – here too the children are being challenged to think carefully, to try hard and work independently, and to find their own strategies for answering the questions. It's great to see most of them taking on the challenge with cool determination and focus – the others are getting there!



The next coffee morning will be on **Friday 7th February**.

9h in the Junior department library for a chance to borrow books and to catch up with the latest news over tea and coffee. We look forward to seeing you there!



Please note that School will be **closed on Friday, 21st February**, as this is a staff training day. There are no lessons for children and no garderie.

School finishes for the **half term holiday** at 15.30 on Thursday, 20th February and starts again on Monday, 2nd March.



Following the change to our reports system, you will be receiving appointment slips for the **Parent-Teacher meetings** that will be held over the weeks of February 10th and February 17th, during which you will receive and discuss your child's half-yearly progress report. Please check your appointment times carefully as class schedules differ. We are very much looking forward to meeting you to discuss your child's progress and targets for the rest of the year.



Brussels Lions Club Swimarathon, 'Splash 2020', on **Sunday, 15th March**.

<http://lionsheraldic.net/splash/pool-occupancy-2020>

Enthusiasm is high and there are lots of swimming stars ready to volunteer for our three relay teams: the **BISB Turtles**, the **BISB Whales** and the **BISB Penguins**.

Each child will need to collect sponsors to raise money for the charities. One year, one family raised €160 but the sky is the limit. Please aim - **if at all possible** - for a **minimum of €15 raised per child**.

In the pool, we will have our 3 BISB teams. Each member has to swim one length (25m) before handing over to their waiting teammate who will complete the next lap. * Children in the Turtles team can swim wearing safety jackets and can be helped to complete the lengths, so don't be put off if it sounds too far and you are just learning – we will help you!

Each child completes between 8 and 20 lengths with some children opting to rest on their turns. Accompanying parents also comprise our teams so **mums and dads are most welcome to join us**.



BISB Turtles (slow): led by Mrs Still



BISB Whales (medium): led by this year's **BISB Splash** Coordinator, **Marina Cioponea (year 6)**



BISB Penguins (fast): led by Radu Cioponea

Marina is taking names and giving out sponsorship forms and information letters. Come and join us – it's a great school and family event, which gives the children an opportunity to enjoy swimming for fun in a big pool, and which allows us to participate in raising money for a worthwhile charity, thus contributing to the wider community.



Above all it's a fun challenge that we can all take part in as a school.

Let's see just how far we can swim together!



Junior Department Orienteering 3. The challenge continues with the Junior department heading back out for another adventure on Friday, 14th February, this time to the Forêt de Soignes in Watermael Boitsfort. Fingers crossed for good weather, but they will be going whatever the conditions – intrepid explorers never mind a little rain (especially in Belgium!)

Don't forget.....



The Year 6 children will be attending another thought-provoking workshop at the House of European History on **Tuesday, 4th February**. This trip includes an exhibition and a workshop, and the children will be looking at the idea of youth protest over the past 70 years. This links to the work they are doing in the classroom this term around geopolitics.

The excitement continues on Thursday with their highly-anticipated Skype call with Tim Marshall, the acclaimed author of 'Prisoners of Geography', a fascinating book that has formed the basis for this term's

topic curriculum in Year 6. Take a look at the Year 6 Home School book for a better idea of the challenging work they are doing.



All change for swimming in years 1 and 2 next week – it's the turn of the first group of Year 1 children to get out their swimming kit and head for the pool on Thursday mornings!

Please make sure that your child has a hat, a swimming costume (speedo type trunks, not shorts for the boys), goggles if he or she needs them and a towel. These must be in a small swimming bag, not their school bag. The swimming group should wear PE uniform and not have too many layers on, as it is very difficult to get lots of leggings and thermal vests off ... and on again! We are encouraging the children to be as independent as possible, so please let them practise getting dressed and undressed on their own at home. The quicker they are, the more time they get to enjoy the water 😊



Please could Junior department parents make sure that you have added the WhatsApp number to your contact list, so that you can send a message if you are going to be late. The school office was inundated with phone calls for both buildings on the mornings of the bus strikes this week and, in such a case, it is

difficult to make sure that multiple messages are passed efficiently to the Junior department. In addition to this, once lessons have started, we do not always hear the doorbell. A WhatsApp message ensures that we know who is arriving late, and at what time. Thank you to everyone who has informed us of changes to drop-off and pick-up arrangements using the new number – it makes communication much clearer.

0468 45 87 76

Any other messages can be sent as an email to the School Office as normal. Thank you!



A record number of our children are taking part in the **LAMDA examinations** next Thursday. Under the expert guidance of Mrs Tranter, they have been learning prose passages and poetry for the last few months, working extremely hard to perfect their performances and thinking hard about how they will discuss the pieces they have chosen. They have read books, studied the differences between verse and prose,

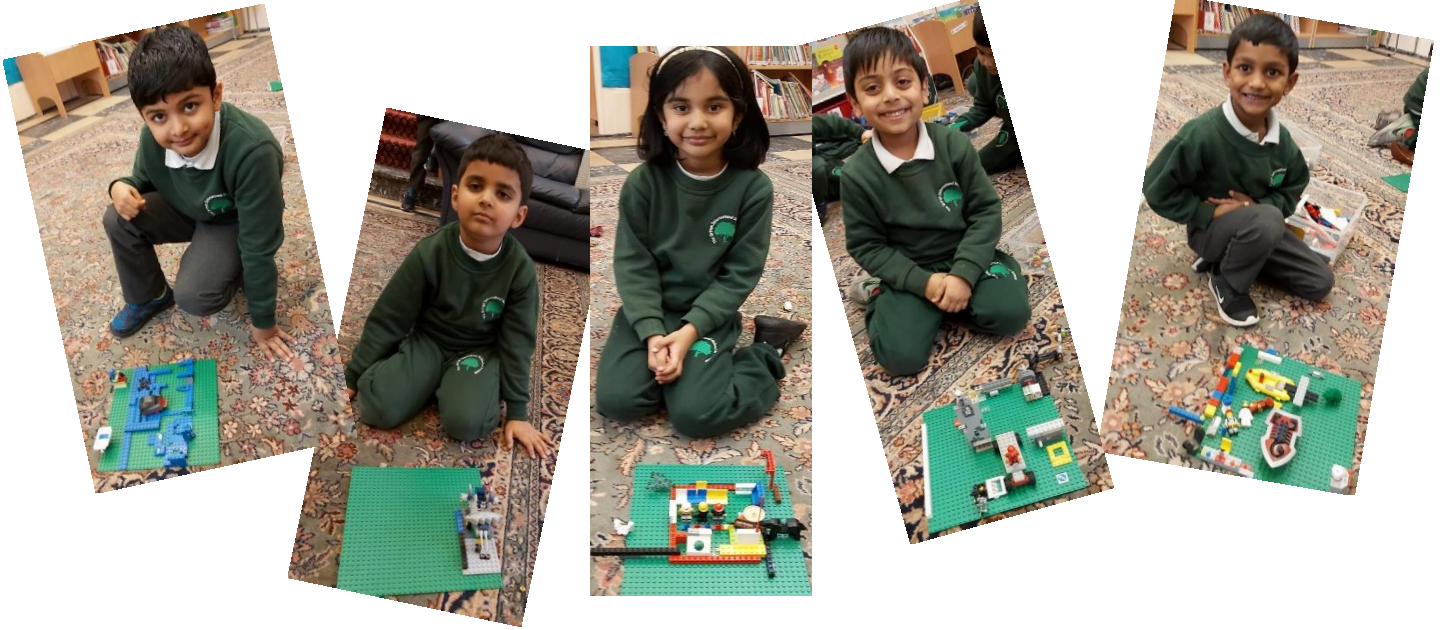
discussed stylistic features in language and worked in detail on each piece. The excitement and apprehension are growing, but each child has made amazing progress and their performances are reaching their peak. We wish them all the very best for the examinations. Public speaking and performance are valuable skills that develop confidence and self-awareness. The challenge is quite definitely daunting, but the children are ready to take it on, and I am sure that they will all rise to the occasion (as they always do 😊) and thoroughly enjoy themselves as they present their pieces.



Club news: The clubs have nearly all reached maximum numbers and the children are enjoying themselves discovering new talents. The Yoga club has been a particular success, with the 16 participants finding muscles they didn't know they had. I presume their inability to retrieve their own socks and shoes at the end is the

result of the zen-like state in which they emerge from the studio every week! Many thanks to Tanya, our yoga teacher, for introducing us to the gentle art with such enthusiasm.

The lego club, meanwhile, has been having fun with a 100-brick challenge – what can you make with just 100 bricks? Take a look at the photos to find out:



Year 3 Metro Art Trail



The Metro Art was so beautiful and I want to go back 1000 times!

Ragha

It was so creative and nice.

Hasini



The Montgomery one was awesome because I liked all of the rainbow colours.

Navnoor

The Diamant art was good because it was shiny and we were a reflection and going in different directions.

Chethan



Vandervelde was so good because it was realistic it showed how Brussels looked before there were any buildings.

Kuval



Tomberg was so funny, there were so many different shapes and I liked the spiral.

Abhih.

At Stockel I like the art because there were so many characters and Tintin too.

Marco

I liked the stop of Stockel because the characters made me laugh. They were doing funny movements and Tintin was running away from the guards.

Mokshith

In Stockel, Herge died before before he saw the paintings.

Aahid



In Diamant I liked the shiny tiles...

Hriday



I loved the Diamant one because it was shiny and I liked the shapes.

Ananya

I liked Vandervelde because I liked the shading and it was so realistic.



Pranav

The Stockel one was good, it was like an animation.

Vihan

In Montgomery I liked it because they used lots of different colours instead of just one plain colour.

Mohith

Vandervelde was realistic with nature. Sharvi

I liked the Montgomery because I liked the volcano and the rainbow.

Diya

Vandervelde was realistic and good because it had so many natural things.

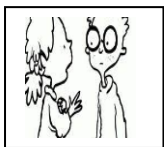
Rhithul

I liked the Tintin one because I read the book about it and all of them were very funny with silly signs.

Trishan

I liked Vandervelde because it was realistic.

Prajwal



Here are the talk topics:

Nursery: 'Where should we eat our lunch, dinner, supper? In front of the TV or a screen, running around the house, or sitting at the table or on floor cushions quietly chatting with the family?'

Reception: 'If you were a giant, what kind of food would you eat?'

Year 1: 'If you were driving the 100-decker bus, where would you go, and who would get on?'

Year 2: 'What were the Vikings famous for? Try to use some of the words we have learned to describe Vikings to your parents.'

Year 3: 'If you could make some art for a metro station using characters from books like the one at Stockel which ones would you choose and why?'

Year 4: 'What are the 5 healthiest things you do? How would explain one of them to somebody?'

Year 5: 'Discuss the difference between primary and secondary sources of information with your family.'

Year 6: 'Should pupils who arrive late be allowed into school? – Discuss.'



Stars of the Week



- Reception:** Tanay for his good work counting beans on our maths activity about Jack and the beanstalk.
Ektha for the enthusiasm shown when building a castle in the clouds with Duplo and shaving foam.
- Year 1:** Havish, for great work on 3-D shapes.
Stairya, for a cool new deck for the bus and a super Viking longboat.
- Year 2:** Kecia for doing a brilliant job with her goddess worksheet this week!
Niteesh for very good progress with his independent writing!
- Year 3:** Mokshith for a well-presented fact file about Mary Anning and for making lots of great observations about the artwork on our Metro Art trail.
Vihan for super reading comprehension.
- Year 4:** Dhanishka for olympic goalkeeping, artwork and research on Lady Di (even continuing after the lesson!)
Aarohi for terrific work on Princess Diana.
- Year 5:** Pranaya for a much-improved reading and performance in her PIRA test. Well done!
- Year 6:** Maanas for ticking, circling and joining the correct number of words in the PIRA test – finally!

And a fitting thought to end the week...

