

Newsletter 6th March 2020



Dear Everyone,

Well, despite the news and despite the concerns and despite the weather, it has been lovely to welcome the vast majority of our children back to school this week. We understand those of you who have chosen to keep your children at home due to fears over Covid-19, but hope that you nevertheless appreciate that we are doing our utmost to ensure that straightforward hygiene measures are being encouraged, and that we are taking a calm, rational approach to the situation. Thank you for letting us know if your child is absent and thank you also for taking sensible

precautions if you note that your child does seem to be unwell. As a community it is important to maintain the sense of trust that all of us will take sensible decisions for the greater good of everyone.

On a positive note it has been a useful exercise to go over basic hygiene rules across the school, and good to see that the children are taking them seriously and, in addition, are taking an interest in the science behind the virus. We have heard some dramatic declarations from the some children that are quite definitely not based on scientific fact, but these serve as useful discussion points to make sure everyone has a good understanding, rather than feeling anxious and overwhelmed by the constant media coverage and adult discussion, which can so easily be misinterpreted by a child of whatever age.

We continue to follow government, WHO and ECDC advice and will keep you informed should there be any changes to our normal routine. **Trips that are planned will go ahead unless we are advised otherwise.** If you prefer your child not to participate in a trip, please keep them at home on that day. When we go on a trip there are not necessarily staff left in a department to take care of children who are left behind. Thank you for your understanding.

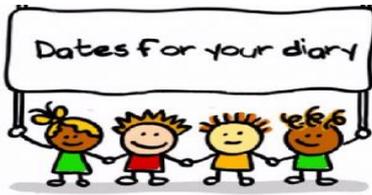
You may have seen several new faces around the school, and we are pleased to welcome Miss Lingua, our new Year 2 teacher. She takes over from Ms Hafstein, who has moved to Sweden before her baby arrives. Mrs Van Wassenhove has also left on maternity leave and will be replaced in Reception on Monday by Ms Nathan (who has already spent several days in the classroom to find out how things work!). We wish them, and Mrs Salgado, who joined us in January in the Junior Department, a very happy and exciting time here at BISB.



We have just received notification from the NATO pool that they are not allowing external visitors onto their Staff Centre premises. This unfortunately means that the Junior Department swimming sessions will be suspended until the restriction is lifted.

Swimming for the Infant Department and Tennis sessions for the Juniors will continue at the Castle Club unless we are notified of any change regarding the facilities. Please note that the Year 1 swimming group changes next week. Could we please remind you of the normal school policy, that if you think your child is not well enough to swim, they should be kept at home. If your child arrives without their swimming kit, they will accompany the other children to the pool and will watch the swimming session.





As mentioned in earlier Newsletters, **SPLASH**, the charity relay swimming event, is next week on **Sunday March 15th**. (We will inform you if there are any changes to the event). We will be swimming in lanes 1, 2 and 3 in relay teams from 13h to 14h. There are lots of enthusiastic swimmers from the Junior Department, but it would be great to have some more participants from the Infants. Please come and ask at the School Office if your child would like to participate. Children can wear safety jackets and choose how many lengths they feel able to swim – I will also be in the water to help them (and would welcome any other parent volunteers 😊) so it's a great chance for them to enjoy swimming in a big pool and to be part of our teams. The event is held at the Omnisport Neder-over-Heembeek pool, rue du lombardsijdestraat, 120, 1120 Brussels, which is close to the Dockx shopping centre and 5 minutes' walk from the Number 7 Tram route - very easy to get to.

Come and join us! Sponsorship forms are available from the School Office.



Cap Sciences and MIM workshops on **Monday, 16th** and **Thursday, 19th March** in the Junior Department :



We are very lucky to be taking part in a two-day workshop organised by Cap Sciences and the Museum of Instruments. The theme of the workshop will be "music and sounds", exploring how sound is transmitted through the human brain and other materials. The part of the workshop takes place on **Monday 16th March** at school, welcoming Cap Sciences to our building, and the second part continues on **Thursday 19th March** with a visit to the Museum of Instruments.



Years 1 & 4 will be visiting Technopolis on **Friday, 20th March** for a day of scientific activities related to their science curriculum.



The next coffee morning will be on **Friday 20th March**. From 9h to 10h15 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!



The Infant Department had a Book Fair and now for the Junior Department

We are really pleased this year to see that our Junior children are reading increasingly challenging books – and a lot of them! So, instead of buying books at the Book Fair at school, we decided to take each Junior class to **Waterstones Book shop** in the centre of Brussels. This means that that they will be able to choose from the entire range in the children's department, which is huge!

The children will be given a guided trip of the department and an explanation of how the books are displayed, then they will have the chance to buy a book if they wish. They can also ask for advice and recommendations from the experienced staff.

Year 6 & 5 go **next week**, Year 3 on Friday, March 20 and Year 4 on Monday, March 23rd.

Dates for the rest of the school year: [BISB School Calendar](#)

Spring Term

Thursday, April 2, 2020

End of Spring Term

Friday, April 3, 2020

School Closed – Staff Training Day

Thurs, April 2nd - Friday, April 17th

Easter Holiday

Summer Term

Monday, April 20, 2020

Start of Summer Term

Friday, May 1, 2020

May Day Public Holiday

Cornimont residential week for **Years 4, 5 and 6** will be from **Monday 4th May to Friday 8th May**

Thursday, May 21, 2020

Ascension Public Holiday

Friday, May 22, 2020

Half Term Holiday

Monday, June 1, 2019

Pentecost Holiday

Wednesday July 1, 2020 at 12.15

End of Summer Term

Provisional start of Autumn Term - Tuesday, September 1st, 2020

Don't forget.....

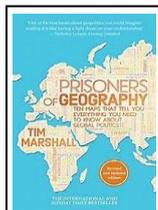


If you are leaving at the end of the summer term (Wednesday 1st July), please let us know, **in an email** to bisbbursar@telenet.be, before **Thursday 2nd April**, as this is when the 90-day notice period begins.

Next week



Year 6 trip to Waterstones Book Shop on **Monday, 9th March**. We will leave school at 9.15 and return in time for lunch. Children should be dressed in clean, smart uniform and have a small back-pack with a water bottle and snack. If your child would like to buy a book, they should bring their money in a named envelope. Books range from 12 to 20 euros.



Year 6 will be visiting the **'Behind the Berlin Wall'** exhibition at the Brussels Parliamentarium on **Tuesday, 10th March**. This exhibition supports the Year 6 Prisoners of Geography project, which includes work on Europe and its vulnerable borders. It also supports our learning about the Cold War and the Soviet Union.

State Security in the GDR Dictatorship

The exhibition *Behind the Berlin Wall - State Security in the GDR Dictatorship* summarises essential parts of the permanent exhibition of the StasiMuseum in Berlin. It draws a line from the beginnings of communist dictatorship in the Soviet-occupied part of post-war Germany to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the peaceful revolution in East Germany. The focus is on the East German Communist Party's main instrument of power: the Ministry for State Security, which remained the centre of power in East Germany until 1989.



Year 4 are going to the Forest on **Wednesday 11th March** for another of their exciting woodland challenges. This continues links with their Year 4 numeracy topics and extends the map and compass work done in the first Walk through the Forest. The children will practice wayfinding, compass bearings and other map skills. They are leaving at 9h and will be back by the end of school. Please remember that it is a small back-pack day and that they children need a snack, water bottle and lunch. They should wear PE kit and make sure they have a waterproof jacket, gloves and several layers of clothing if it is cold.



Year 5 trip to Waterstones Book Shop on **Friday, 13th March**. We will leave school at 9.15 and return in time for lunch. Children should be dressed in clean, smart uniform and have a small back-pack with a water bottle and snack. If your child would like to buy a book, they should bring their money in a named envelope. Books range from 12 to 20 euros.



Infant Department Book Fair to celebrate World Book Day



Thursday was World Book Day and the Infant Department had a Book Fair to celebrate. The hall was full of beautiful books, and by 9h it was also full of excited children and parents – what a wonderful sight. Thank you to all those many parents who joined us to make the day so special, I hope you all enjoy the books you chose!

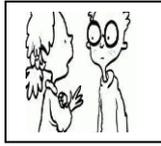
Each class had plenty of time during the day to enjoy browsing through the books so that everyone could find just the right one to take home. Thank you to all of you who sent in an envelope, giving your child the opportunity to choose their own book and to enjoy working out how much they could spend and how much money they would get back. It is really important that children begin to learn how to choose and how to make good decisions – they are far more likely to read a book if they have chosen it, for their own reasons, rather than having one chosen for them! It is also the perfect opportunity for them to talk about the books to their friends and to decide together what they like, and why.

There was great excitement and the books flew off the tables, which was fantastic. Not only were the children delighted with their purchases, but the number of books sold entitled the school to a certain number of books for our libraries, both in the hall and in the classrooms, so we were able to select a wonderful range of books and jigsaws to share around the classes. Thank you – they will quite definitely be enjoyed.



Books
are
magic!





Here are the talk topics:



Nursery: 'What did dinosaurs eat, did they all eat the same things?'

Reception: Ask your mummy and daddy, "Did you have a teddy bear when you were a baby, do you still have them and do they have a name?"

Year 1: 'If you were flying Emma Jane's Aeroplane, where would you go and who would you pick up?'

Year 2: 'On a volcanic island or in a country with volcanoes, what does the landscape look like? Is there a lot of vegetation around the volcanoes? Is there sea or a big ocean nearby?'

Year 3: 'What do you think the advantages and disadvantages of being alive in the stone age would have been?'

Year 4: 'What is the secret of a long life? Say and explain 5 tips.'

Year 5: 'All around we see electric scooters and bicycles for hire. Discuss the advantages of these modes of transport.'

Year 6: 'Would you like to live in a kommunalka?'



Stars of the Week



Reception: Ishitha for writing independently in the art activity.

Ruthvika for thinking hard and sharing great ideas about why we need toys.

Year 1: Ishaan, for his super design of a future vehicle – an air car!

Saimaathmika, for great work in recording the results of our balloon investigation.

Year 2: Vihaan, for great handwriting and taking the time to make writing neat for classroom display.

Pranavi, for taking the time to write good, clear sentences about her favourite book.

Year 3: Ragha for writing a volcano shape poem that showed lots of creativity.

Mohith for good work with mental addition methods.

Year 4: Aditya for fantastic factor work and a prodigious Prezi presentation.

Freja for fantastic factor work and a valiant attempt to finish her Keynote presentation.

Year 5: Abheer for being very responsible and creating such lovely newspapers.

Year 6: Tala, for working so hard with her maths this week – well done!

And, with our exciting book events in mind, here is a fitting quote...

