



The British International  
School of Brussels

## Newletter for the week of September 4<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear All,

This is a very special welcome back after so many months away. We have been delighted this week to see everyone back in school and to have the classrooms once again filled with excited, smiling children - the soul of the school has returned and the buildings are buzzing with energy (and noise – we'd forgotten that bit!)

I hope that the children have come home full of news from their day and that you are reassured that they are all safe and well in school. Thank you for the kind messages of support and encouragement, we will continue to make sure that optimal health and hygiene measures are respected and become a totally routine part of the school day. We are getting used to the changes imposed by the new 'bubble' timetable and, once we have all stopped clock-watching to ensure that children are moving around at the right times, the days will soon take on a new rhythm.

Thank you also for doing your best to respect the new arrival and pick-up times and for keeping the pavements as clear as possible - it's fantastic to see so many people arriving on bikes and scooters. Please could you make sure that your bike is not locked up through, or around, another bike or bike lock, otherwise we have to get the bolt cutters out to free them off! You could also leave us the (named) key in the morning.

### Classes for 2020 – 2021

**Nursery:** Mrs. Davies, with Miss. Di Fine and Mrs. Nagy

**Reception:** Ms. Nathan with Mrs. Julaton

**Year 1:** Mrs Rutayisire & Mrs. Bandaru

**Year 2:** Miss. Bird & Mrs. Tolentino

**Year 3:** Mr. Tranter

**Year 4:** Mr. Viola

**Year 5:** Mr. Stedman

**Year 6:** Mrs. Tranter

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Junior Department Teaching assistants:  
Mrs. Tolentino & Mrs. Solgado

**French:** Mme. Scharf & Mme. Halvorsen

**Music:** Mme. Mayeur

**EAL and learning support:** Mrs. Read

We have made certain changes to the overall school organization this year as we continue to develop the curriculum, strengthening the idea of a coherent, dynamic learning journey that starts in Nursery and Reception the EYFS, or Early Years Foundation Stage, and builds through Key Stage 1 – Year 1 & 2, to Key Stage 2 – Years 3, 4, 5 & 6.

To reinforce this idea, we are therefore no longer using the terms 'Infants' and 'Juniors', but will refer to classes as belonging to EYFS, KS1 and KS2. The two buildings will become '**The Acorn Building**' and '**The Oak Building**' as a reference to our school motto in which '**Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow**'.

We have also changed teacher responsibilities within the school to reflect this change in emphasis. I am pleased to announce that Mrs. Tranter has taken on the role of Deputy Headteacher, and that Mrs. Davies, who continues to be EYFS Coordinator, has also taken on responsibility for all areas of child and staff wellbeing across the school as Head of pastoral care.

And last, but by no means least, we would like to welcome Miss. Bird, who is the new Year 2 teacher, and Mr. Viola, who is replacing Mrs. Vetter on a short-term basis as our new Year 4 teacher. We wish them both well and hope they enjoy their BISB experience!

## Information for the week



**Uniform sales:** the children are looking very smart in their uniforms and the ordering system seems to be working well. Please contact Patricia in the School Office if you need to order items or if you need help.

- If your child needs new items of uniform, please send an email to the school office stating  
i) child's name and class and ii) the item/s of clothing and the size that you require.  
We will prepare the item/s and send them home with your child.

All uniform purchases are to be paid for by **bank transfer**. A note setting out the amount owed, and the bank transfer details will be put in the uniform bag.

(If you are unsure of the size needed, please give a choice of sizes and you can return the items that don't fit).

\*Please note that the grey trousers, skirt or pinafore can be ordered as normal online from M&S, Asda or John Lewis. We have checked with them and they are all delivering to Belgium.



- **A Welcome Walk-in-the-Woods on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> September** will replace our usual first Saturday Coffee Morning. Details will follow in a later newsletter. Everyone is welcome! Come and enjoy a safe, distanced walk in Tervuren forest and meet families both new and old.



- The **Curriculum Briefing meetings on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>, or Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September** for parents will be a video conference with the class teacher. Each class teacher will inform you of your login details.

- **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>** at 18h: Nursery and Year 3 at 19h: Year 6
- **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>** at 18h: Year 1 at 19h: Year 5
- **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>** at 18h: Year 2 and Reception at 19h: Year 4

Mrs. Read, our EAL teacher will join each class meeting to explain her role. A later zoom meeting will be arranged with Mmes. Scharf, Halvorsen and Mayeur during which they will present the French and music programmes of work.



- Over the next few days you should all receive the Edmodo code for your individual classes, which will allow you access to information on class news and lessons. We also invite you to log on to the **BISB Internet Café** using the following code: **i67e62**. This is the school-wide information page and will keep you up-to-date with the latest information on school events and news.



- We are **limiting adult access to** school during the school day. If you would like to see a teacher or member of the administrative staff, please contact the school office for an appointment at the end of the day or send an email to your child's class teacher (who may decide to arrange a video conference meeting).



- Permission forms and the medical form will be sent out on Monday. Please complete these as soon as possible and return them to school. Could you please also remember to complete the **Contact Form** that was sent out this week – this is an important document and must be returned to school office **as soon as possible**. Thank you.

- **Garderie:** Garderie cover is limited to those children with **two working parents**. This is due to the need to respect the 'social bubble' principle. This will be reviewed after October half term.



- **Late pick-ups.** There have been several instances this week of children being picked up late at hometime. We do realise that this is sometimes unavoidable, however, we cannot take these extra children into garderie as this compromises the social bubble. They will therefore be kept separately in the Acorn building until you collect them, but a garderie fee will be charged. Thank you for your understanding.



- **GSM number for the Oak Building** (Years 3, 4, 5 &6) : **0468 45 87 76**

Please use this number if you need to contact the Oak department if your child is going to be late due to a medical appointment, or if you need to let us know about a change to pick-up arrangements.

If you need your child to be collected by a person other than yourself (or by their regular childminder, for whom we already have details), please send a **WhatsApp message** to the Oak Department mobile number: **0468 45 87 76**

- The message should state
- **your name,**
- the **name and year of your child** and the

- name of the person collecting your child.

e.g: William's mum, William, year 4 will go home with ..... (specify if it is another parent e.g Anya in yr 3's mum)

If your child is being collected by someone **who is not a school parent**, we will need to see a form of identification in order for your child to leave.

We hope this will make pick-up arrangements more straightforward when you need someone else to collect your child at the last minute.

Please note that we will **not** allow a child to leave with someone other than their own parent (or childminder for whom we already have the details), without having received a message on the WhatsApp number.

- **Health and Hygiene around the school:**



Classrooms, buildings and bathrooms are cleaned thoroughly every day and disinfectant spray, cleaning wipes and hand gel are available in each classroom. Tables will be cleaned before and after eating.



The children use hand gel as they enter the buildings and will be reminded to wash their hands thoroughly before eating and at regular intervals during the day.



The classrooms and buildings will be well ventilated throughout the day with windows and doors left open. Outdoor lessons and activities will be encouraged.

- **Illness:**



Please check your child's general health every day and **do not** send them to school if their temperature exceeds 37.5 degrees Celsius or if they have been ill during the night and seem unwell.

We will monitor the children throughout the day. A child who seems unwell will be isolated and parents contacted immediately. He or she must be picked up as quickly as possible and taken to a doctor.

Please **do not** send your child to school if they have any of the following symptoms:

- Diarrhoea or vomiting
- Persistent cough, shortness of breath, sneezing or wheezing
- Excessive fatigue or muscle pain
- Cold symptoms – sneezing, sore throat, coughing
- Lack of energy or a loss of the sense of taste or smell

Please contact your general practitioner for medical advice if your child seems unwell. Children who have been absent may not return to school for 48 hours (**2 full days**) if they have had fever, vomiting or diarrhoea.

Please contact the school office immediately if you have been in contact with any confirmed cases of Covid-19, or if you or a family member are unwell. Medical information will be kept strictly confidential.

Thank you for letting us know if your child is absent and also for being extra vigilant if they seem to be unwell. We very much value the sense of trust in the community that means that each of us will take sensible decisions for the greater good of everyone.



We hope that you and your children have enjoyed the week and are now enjoying a well-deserved rest after all the hard work and excitement. Have a lovely weekend (the sun has just come out!) and make the most of the fresh air and late summer sunshine.

*And a fitting thought to end the first week of our new school year....*

