



The British International
School of Brussels

Newsletter for the week of September 17th, 2021

Children adding
to the collaborative
poetry writing
board on their
way into school!



Dear All,

School life is definitely well underway, with the classrooms and buildings full of busy children beginning once again to focus fully on the learning in hand and the playgrounds resounding with every possible sort of game – the spectacle of KS2 children organizing and enjoying simultaneous football and basketball games, with a diagonal cricket wicket that crosses both of them, is quite astonishing, but our children are nothing if not resourceful!

As you can read in the information section below, trips are beginning to start again, and we are returning to the Nato swimming pool with the years 5 & 6 this week. Please make a note of the various dates as this is going to be a busy term.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the zoom session this week for our two residential trips to Cornimont, we hope you found it useful, but please don't hesitate to contact us if you have other questions. Years 3 and 4 will be away from October 11th – 15th, and Years 5 & 6 from October 17th – 22nd. Full details can be found on Edmodo of kit lists, timetables, menus and travel details.

This week sees three, shorter zoom sessions, setting out and explaining the French and Music teaching programmes for this year. These are on Wednesday, 22nd September, starting at 17:30. Please check the links below for specific times for each Key stage level. Mmes. Scharf and Halvorsen, Mme Mayeur and Miss Di Fine have been working hard on expanding and adapting their programmes, thus raising the profile and range of French within the school and placing a greater emphasis on discovering the rich culture of Belgium through its music and art, history and geography. The fundamental, high-quality teaching of Music and French as essential, specific subjects remains the same, but the scope of each subject will increasingly reflect a Belgian context. We hope that this will give our students a greater awareness of the world around them, from their local communes to the wider place of Belgium on the world scene, and that they will also be well-equipped to integrate into the Belgian school system, should they transfer to local schools at a later stage. We look forward to seeing you online!

There was great excitement this week in Reception as the children started to take home their first wordless books. This is a major milestone in their reading journey, and we hope that you too will enjoy these early stages as they begin to unlock the magic of reading a book for themselves. As you can see from the Home School Letter, there is an increasing emphasis on exploring books and quality fiction in each of the classes as we work on developing a 'Love Reading' culture across the school.

The '**Pupil Voice**' initiatives, revolving around our three House system, in which all the children from Years 1 to 6 are divided into **Hares, Owls and Woodpeckers**, are also gaining momentum, with the House Captains, Class reps and posts of responsibility being assigned in Oak, and Years 1 and 2 holding their very first, Class representative elections with great success – well done to all those children who took on the challenge and were brave enough to stand up and present their election speeches to the class! The Year 1s and 2s will continue to discover each post of responsibility during their weekly assemblies, while the Oak post holders

are already working hard on playing their part in the organization of daily life in school. All the children will have a chance to take on a role in one form or another across the year.

Autumn Term	Year 6	Year 5	Year 4	Year 3	Year 2	Year 1
House Captains Hares: Owls Woodpeckers	Aditya Dashwanth Aadriyan					
Class reps. Hares Owls Woodpeckers		Trishan Geethika Diya	Pranavi Krishav Geoshan	Magizhvini Reyansh Stairya	Tanay Vihaan Yashneil	Myra Rehatveer Prisha
School Council	Anjika & Archana	Abhih	Kyle	Kabir & Ovi	Congratulations on convincing speeches in Year 2! 	
Eco Warriors	Thomas	Navnoor	Mehet	Avni & Mishka		
Librarians	Priyal	Aadarrshini	Inayaa	Vedant & Jinisha		
Quiz Masters	Tharun, Aditya & Thomas					
Sport rep	Anwitha					
Oak Administrative Support	Tanvi					

Well done to everyone for a week of hard work, and a particular well done to the following:



Stars of the Week



Nursery:

Victor for his interest and excellent research on volcanoes.

Michelle for her wonderful enthusiasm during the volcano science experiment.

Reception:

Maanav: for his amazing drawing of his family.

Bala Dhivya: for her fantastic and increasing confidence in class activities.

Year 1:

Ayaan for being full of good ideas this week. We loved listening to his beautiful story about a girl on an elephant. Thank-you Ayaan.

Dhanvitha for working hard with all of her activities this week, but we were particularly impressed with her number bonds work in Maths. Well done!

Year 2:

Saanchi, for using your phonics to write independent sentences with full stops and capital letters!

Yashneil, for having the confidence to deliver an excellent House Captain speech to his classmates!

Year 3:

Arhan, for great work in Maths, adding and subtracting multiples of 10.

Kabir, for super original ideas in his sentence stacks about the Incredible Book-Eating Boy.

Year 4:

Arjun, for his fabulous enthusiasm and knowledge in our topic lesson on the history of chocolate.

Noushin, for her hard work and determination in maths lessons this week.

Year 5:

Kuval, for super, artistic inspiration in Topic.

Year 6:

Anwitha, for her outstanding effort and attention to detail with her comprehension homework.

Information for the week



- Please could you return **all** of the **permission forms** sent out this week. It is particularly important that we have the **Contact Form**, as this has all of your up-to-date information in the case that we need to contact you urgently.
- **French and Music curriculum zoom meeting:** Everyone is welcome to join the meetings to hear all about the French and Music programmes from Reception to Year 6. Mme. Scharf and Mme. Halvorsen will be explaining the exciting work they are doing in French, and Mme. Mayeur and Miss Di Fine will talk about Music and the important part it plays across the school. The invitation can also be found on the BISB Internet Café page.

All meetings will be held on **Wednesday, 22nd September** and will last roughly 20 minutes:

- **17:30 Reception:**
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78806186553?pwd=a3NWTm1sTFRSRDcxQVN0VTRtYWljdz09>
- **18:00 KS1: Years 1 & 2**
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74103332042?pwd=S1I6TDVJNXhTbIRHU3JnZEZpdkQ3Zz09>
- **18:20 KS2 Years 3 & 4**
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77026566002?pwd=Z0NKUkt5WnhmNnppUGxjcGF2Z2tBQT09>
- **18:40 pm KS2 Years 5 & 6**
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78697948663?pwd=UGJWcTVkd3VrZERnYzYzakVwem4yUT09>



- We are absolutely delighted to be returning to the NATO swimming pool for KS2 swimming lessons on **Wednesday, 20th September**. Three lanes are reserved solely for our use, and strict hygiene measures are in force.

The excitement begins for Years 5 & 6, who will be setting off for the pool on a private coach each week with Mrs. Tranter and Mr. Stedman, leaving school in the early afternoon and returning for the normal end-of-school time (traffic permitting – thank you for your understanding if we are slightly late back). Please see class Edmodo pages for details of what you need to take. Years 3 & 4 will have their turn after Christmas.

- The KS1 children, starting with the Year 2 class, will be returning to the Castle Club in Wezembeek for swimming lessons after the November half-term holiday. Details will follow.
- **Year 2 trip to Beersel Castle: Tuesday 28th September**



To support and enrich their current class Topic on Castles, Year Two will be heading to Beersel Castle on Tuesday, 28th September to visit the beautiful medieval monument.

The coach will leave school at 11.00am and arrive back in good time for the usual collection at 3.25pm. The children will need their regular snack and packed lunch as well as a water bottle. Please send children to school in their school sports uniform and appropriately dressed for the weather – in a warm, waterproof coat and sensible shoes. As only the open, outdoor parts of the castle are accessible due to the castle's strict adherence to the Covid safety measures, we are confident in following the safety regulations. We look forward to this exciting and educational visit.



- Please note that **Friday, 1st October** is a staff training day and that there is therefore **no** school for children on that day. They will finish the week on Thursday, 30th September. We have two Staff training days in the year, during which the whole staff follow a training programme in one particular area, allowing us to keep up-to-date with the latest research and work on the ongoing improvements to the curriculum across the school.



- The date for our **Welcome Walk-in-the-Woods**, scheduled for Sunday, 26th September has been changed to **Sunday, 3rd October**, due to the major bike races being held in Tervuren during the weekend of September 25/26th.

This is a family walk for parents, staff and children through the woods and around the lakes in Tervuren, with everyone welcome to come and catch up with old friends and to meet new faces. The autumn colours should already be spectacular and, even if it rains, the trees provide plenty of cover.

The park is easily accessible by tram and perfectly safe for children to run and play. If the weather has been wet it can be very difficult to push a buggy –although we have been known to carry them across the muddy patches! Further details will follow in a later newsletter, but please do block the date 😊.

- **Garderie:** Please inform the office at the **beginning** of the week if you would like your child to attend garderie.



- Please let us know as soon as possible if you think that you may be leaving in the Autumn term. The 90-day deadline for written notice of the child's last day at school at the end of this half term has already passed, but please note that the deadline for written notice of departure for the end of the Autumn term (Wednesday, 22nd December) falls on **Thursday 23rd September**. If we are notified after this date, the deposit is **not** refundable.



- Late pick-ups:** We do understand that this may be unavoidable due to traffic or unexpected events, but please note that any children remaining in school after the pick-up time will be in garderie in the Acorn building and should be collected from there. A garderie fee will be charged. Please inform School office or the Oak GSM number if you are going to be late.



There's nothing quite like two paint brushes for creating great displays!



And a fitting thought to end a week full of stories...

