



The British International  
School of Brussels

## EYFS Nursery

Dear Parents,

What a magnificent week we have had with the start of our new topic "The Sound of Music..." which will cover all things musical, but, as with all themes in Nursery, there may be some unusual and creative ways to do this within the EYFS curriculum.



The children were uber excited to see our music workshop come together over the course of this week and the grand opening, complete with a range of instruments will be on Monday. We played the 'guess what sound is coming from the bag' game, which meant everyone had to use their good listening ears to try and identify which instrument was being played. There were a few surprises, especially the musical bird which squeaks and the book with pages that scrunch! and of course Mrs Davies' very old violin, which had lost its strings!

Each child will get a turn to role play in the workshop but only if they are wearing one of the nursery's sparkly hats and, of course, respect the instruments they are using. We have talked about the reasons and why it is important to share and play together in harmony! Play is not only fabulous fun in Nursery, but it helps your child build relationships, be their own unique self and also work as part of a team. Turn taking and sharing are always a work in progress when you are only three and four, but eventually the children get the idea that it is an important aspect of their Personal, Social and Emotional development.

We also did a workshop on body percussion, which we first showed on the big screen as a power point and then discussed all of the sounds we could make with our hands, feet, mouth etc. Then, of course, we put each movement into practice. This also meant using some imagination and creativity and one little one quite confidently said, 'we could also use farting sounds to make music with our bottoms'! The teachers tried not to laugh too loudly but calmly explained this might be best practised in the privacy of the bathroom!



The highlight of the week was without a doubt the Boomwhackers that Ms diFine brought into school. They are basically different sized, very colourful plastic tubes that, as the name suggests, make booming sounds when whacked together or on something else and not somebody else! We had a very energetic time marching around the nursery using the boomwhackers as drum sticks and we definitely have some budding drummers amongst the children! More activity with these amazing coloured tubes next week and maybe a little bit of composing, so watch this space.

The activity each child did for their home school book this week used a musical theme but was a paper exercise to see how everyone was progressing with their small motor movements. Please remember that the activities that go before this to develop fine motor skills are all practical, using real objects and materials which help get our fingers moving in a more dexterous way. Using small pincer movements is a skill that each

child will develop over a period of time and not everyone will be proficient before they leave Nursery, but they will get support to do the best they can within their capabilities and of course have fun doing the activities!



Just a couple of reminders, can you please send your child into Nursery with a warm, waterproof jacket every day? It is getting chilly and rather damp most days but this doesn't mean we will stay inside. It is important that we have outdoor play each day and a warm, waterproof jacket is just the job, rather than two separate items to wear outside. Plus, if you wish your child to wear gloves outside, please buy mittens that have no finger holes and are preferably made out of waterproof material, otherwise wool becomes very wet and defeats the object of keeping hands warm. Thank you for your understanding.

Until next week, have a great weekend and don't forget to discuss our **Talk topic** which is; "If you were a musician what instrument would you like to play?"

Thank you. Have a great weekend,

Alison Davies, Vanessa di Fine & Anna Nagy [nurseryteacher@telenet.be](mailto:nurseryteacher@telenet.be)

## EYFS Reception

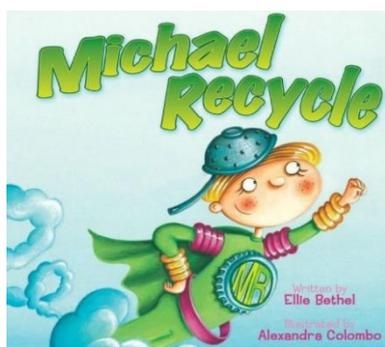
Dear Parents,

The children have started this half term with a lot of enthusiasm, and we can see how excited they are about all the things going on both in class and outside in the playground. They have started practising the songs for their Christmas show which is planned for Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December. More information about the show will be included in this newsletter in the upcoming weeks.



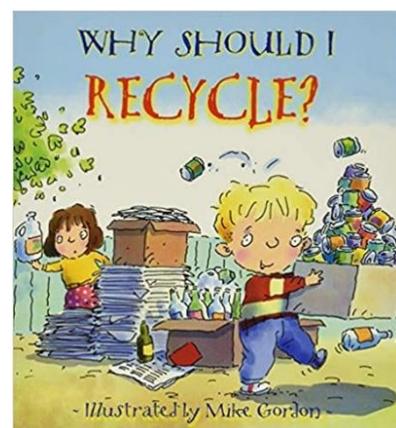
This week and next week we will be working on the subject of recycling. We have been discussing the importance of separating and classifying our garbage according to the material it is made of and we have looked at the different coloured rubbish bags there are to be used in Brussels. We do our small but huge contribution to recycling by separating the waste we generate in class such as paper or card, fruit peelings and yoghurt pots from snack, etc. and disposing it in the specific bins. The children are becoming more aware of this and making a big effort to remember where they should throw each thing. Our storybooks of the

week were 'Michael Recycle' by Ellie Bethel and 'Why should I recycle?' by Jen Green.



which worked together at the same time on four different activities in which they had to measure snakes, magic wands, superhero action figures and

In Maths we have introduced length and height by measuring objects in the classroom with non-standard measurement tools, like linked cubes, Duplo bricks or beads in strings, and using comparative language, like taller or shorter and longer or shorter. For this the children were separated into four groups,



build tall towers with Duplo bricks. You will find some nice photos of this activity on our Edmodo page and on the school website.

We have also worked on counting and matching numerals with the right number of objects. You will find a piece of work related to this in your child's home school book.



In Literacy we have introduced the letter sounds 'b' and 'f'. We have also been practising blending of CVC words and had a good attempt at writing short words on the interactive board.

In our Art session this week we made beautiful autumn crowns decorated with finger painting and leaf stickers. They were all very proud of their work.

We couldn't have our PE session on Tuesday due to bad weather, but we made up for it on Thursday when the sun was shining. We played 'Hoops tag', where the children could stand in hoops to avoid being tagged, and 'Piggy in the middle', where they practised their throwing and catching skills.



Our **Talk topic** for next week is: **Why do you think we have to look after our planet?**

We would really appreciate if you could send to school any toilet paper rolls, kitchen paper rolls, card cereal boxes, egg boxes, washed milk boxes, plastic caps of any kind that you have at home and don't need because we are going to use them for next week's art project. Thank you.



Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs van Wassenhove and Mrs. Julaton

[receptionteacher@telenet.be](mailto:receptionteacher@telenet.be)

## KS1 Year 1

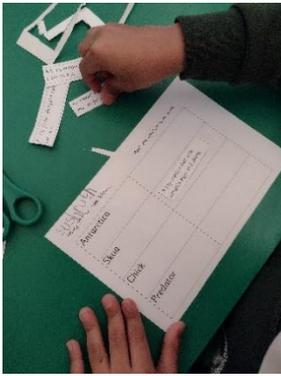
Dear Parents,

Preparations for our winter production, 'Eddie the Penguin Saves the World' continue to dominate our week. Year 1 is a hive of activity – reading fascinating facts about penguins, rehearsing songs and lines and creating scenery, props and art work. We are loving it! By now I'm sure that you will have seen the letter about costumes for the show. A paper copy was sent home a few days ago and an electronic version is available on the Year 1 page of Edmodo. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you are unsure about anything. Also, we sent home the words your child will say in the show. We would appreciate it if you could practise at home. Thank-you!

### LITERACY

We continued with our unit of work on the information book, 'Penguins'. This week, after shared reading when we read an enlarged version of the book, we looked at some of the features of non-fiction. We looked carefully at the Contents, Index and Glossary and talked about the purpose for each. We also used the text





to answer some of the questions that the children asked about penguins last week. We were amazed to find out how tall male Emperor penguins are and that some penguins live in very warm places!

### MATHS

This week, we used number facts for 5, 6 and 10 to solve word problems. By the end of the lesson, the children were writing their own words problems involving each other. A great way to apply the number facts that they have worked so hard to learn. We have also used common words to describe position and direction e.g. between, behind, on top of, near. The children enjoyed drawing pictures to show the position of a particular object and moving a mini figure in response to the direction given.



### ART

We continued our efforts to create scenery for our winter production. This week, we returned to Brazil to reproduce some of the creatures of the rainforest. The toucans and poisonous dart frogs were very popular. The children used oil pastels very effectively to reproduce the bold colours seen on these creatures

### TOPIC

This week we took a virtual field trip to the Amazon Rainforest and learnt that half of all the plant and animal species in the world can be found here. The children understood the benefit of trees for humans because of the songs from the show, but they were quick to make the connection of the impact that deforestation has on animals. We are so proud of their drive to want to bring about change

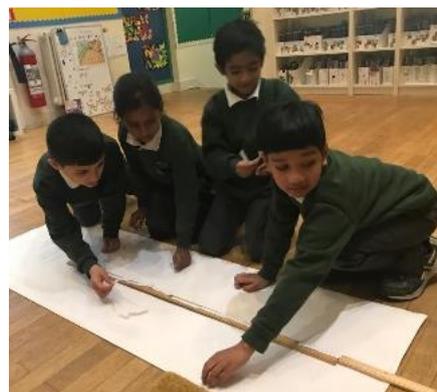
**TALK TOPIC:** What is your favourite song from the show? Why do you like it? Sing it for someone at home. What message does it give?

Have wonderful weekend!

Miss Corrigan and Mrs. Bandaru [year1teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year1teacher@telenet.be)



### KS1 Year 2



Dear Parents,

The Year 2s have worked very hard this week. Our maths focus was on measurement, using centimetres and metres. We measured our own heights, and handspans, as well as large and small things around the classroom and school. We talked about how we can measure distances. We also practiced giving directions, using the vocabulary **left, right, straight ahead, forwards, backwards, ½ turn/ ¼ turn (to the right/left)**. It would be helpful if you could chat with your child about directions and help her/him to tell *left* from *right*.



In our writing lessons, we read the book *10 things I can do to help my world*. We wrote about the ideas in the book that we would like to investigate further, using vocabulary such as *I am interested in...*, *I am curious about...*, *I would like to research...* We then began to learn the skill of taking notes from non-fiction texts, which linked well with our study of our world. We learnt about carbon dioxide and climate change by watching this video: <https://youtu.be/ScX29WBJI3w> . We also made notes on the video. The children listened to the book: *Waangari's Trees of Peace*, a simple biography of Waangari Mathai of Kenya, who

tackled the problem of deforestation, planting many trees after forests were cleared to make way for building, and made notes about her life. In our phonics sessions, we revised last week's sounds, and looked at words beginning with *wh* .

The preparations for the winter show are continuing well. Congratulations to all the children who are learning their lines for the show (and to the parents who are helping them). We had a couple of practices for the show this week, and we are pleased with the progress so far. As part of the Wacky Wednesday afternoon, the children created some scenery for the show.



The swimming lesson for the first swimming group was a big success, as evidenced by the excitement of the children on their return. They all tried extremely hard with all the exercises and discovered talents they didn't know they had!



Please find time over the weekend to talk with your child about this week's **Talk topic** (either in English or in your child's main language): *How does our world give us all we need to live?*

Mrs. Read and Mrs. Tolentino [year2teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year2teacher@telenet.be)

## Music - Acorn Building: Years 1 & 2



**Years 1 and 2:** This week we have been busy practising our Christmas show songs. We finally managed to listen to them all and also sang them during the first acting rehearsals.

Over the next weeks we will be very focused on memorising the words of the songs, adding in the actions and, last but not least, enjoying the singing!

## French - Acorn Building: Reception, Years 1 & 2 with Mme. Scharf



**Reception:** In French, we continued working on our new topic : clothes. We can now sing the song about the wolf getting dressed in the forest and we know the words for winter clothes really well : “le manteau, l’écharpe, le bonnet, les gants, les bottes”. We are still trying to learn other pieces of clothing. Here is a different version of the same song <https://youtu.be/KrLuJchq294>

**Year 1:** In French, we had fun the whole week learning prepositions : “sur, sous, dans, devant, derrière, à côté de, entre, en haut, en bas, à gauche, à droite”. We pretended to take a group photo and gave everybody a specific place, we asked everyone to say where they were sitting, we gave orders to go under the table, on the chair, etc. We listen to these two songs and watched these videos : [https://youtu.be/IIYS2\\_Y9XhM](https://youtu.be/IIYS2_Y9XhM)  
[https://youtu.be/njniUd2M\\_vl](https://youtu.be/njniUd2M_vl)  
<https://youtu.be/mOhf1pUcHII>

The children also received two pages on the same theme to create a memory game at home.



### Year 2:



In French with Madame Scharf, we continued working on using adjectives to describe ourselves and wrote some of them in speech bubbles in our notebooks. The most popular ones were : “je suis beau / belle” and “je suis intelligent / intelligente”.

## KS2 Year 3

Dear Parents,

The highlight of the week was undoubtedly our trip to the 'Montagne Magique' theatre, to see 'Le grand voyage de Georges Poisson'. Having had a few sessions of preparation (in French), the children were able to enjoy this interesting and entertaining story all the more. Many thanks to Mme Scharf for organising and preparing the outing.

This week in Literacy, we have progressed with our writing unit on 'The Magic Paintbrush' – Shen has now received the brush and performed her first magic – the children are really enjoying the story and creating their own version as we go along. In grammar, we looked at the role of conjunctions, starting with the basic ones such as 'and', 'but', 'or' etc. In our reading sessions, two of the groups have just finished 'Jeremiah in the Dark Woods' (the other group lost a session last week, so will finish next week). This was a fun book to read, it prompted much eager discussion, and provided many new words and expressions. Next week we move on to a different text type.

Our focus in Maths this week was on money, using the correct notation, making amounts with different coins and learning to add and subtract amounts. The key point is that you are limited to a specific set of coins to use when making any given amount of money, so the thinking has to be slightly different, for example when making 17p, we have to use 10p, 5p, 2p or 1p coins – we cannot use 3p, 4p 6p or 7p coins! We worked through many examples, and by the end of the week, we had *almost* eliminated these imaginary coins!

In Science, we continued our unit on light – this week working with torches, mirrors and a selection of other materials to investigate reflection. We learned that light travels in a straight line, that it can be reflected by certain surfaces, and that the angle at which it is reflected can be altered by changing the angle of the torch or the mirror.

We studied a timeline of 'Early civilisations' in our Topic session, discussed the meaning of 'civilisation', learned how each civilisation, from Ancient Sumer through to Ancient Rome overlapped with the previous and the subsequent one. We also saw on a map where each civilisation was located. The civilisation for our topic, the Shang Dynasty, sits almost in the middle of this timeline (ca. 1600-1000 BCE), and we will be looking at some of its features and achievements in the next few weeks.

Preparations for the show are now in full swing – acting, singing, dancing and preparing scenery and props. We will be contacting you soon with details about costume requirements.

**Talk Topic for next week is 'Why were many of the ancient civilisations based along great rivers?'**



Enjoy the weekend, and perhaps take a look at this month's action [Year 3 - November 2021 | Flickr](#)

Patrick Tranter and Naomi Irakoze  
[year3teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year3teacher@telenet.be)

## Year 4

Dear Parents,

This week we really started getting into all things Aladdin in year 4. The children have started to help with making props and scenery, learning the words to the songs, learning dances and practising their acting skills. It promises to be a great show when it all comes together!



This week we also continued with our Mrs C unit on writing a persuasive advert for the eco-friendly alternative to plastic straws 'stroodles'. We looked at a few different persuasive adverts written for other products and tried to identify the main features of this type of advert, including – the main heading, hook questions, unique selling points, testimonials and the 'act now' section. The children then took on a challenge to use some of these features to write their own short advert to persuade people to buy everyday classroom objects such as pointy pencils with a 0.1% chance of breaking, the straight plain ruler that lets you say goodbye to wavy lines and the super-duper sticky glue that is amazing quality and ideal for sticking paper and card. In spelling we conjured up a word storm where the children had to change a letter each time to end back at the original word, challenging but fun!

In Maths we revised using a fraction wall to find equivalent fractions. We also looked at days, months, weeks and years and the children had a go at some related word problems such as finding out how many days there are in a year, a decade, half a year, 2 years and working out who is the oldest when their age is presented in years, weeks or months. We also revised 4 common methods of addition and when to use which method – column addition, partitioning, place value and rounding and adjusting.

In Science we briefly discussed what electricity is and found out some information about Thomas Edison, one of the people credited with inventing the lightbulb. We discussed a range of appliances/objects and talked about whether they needed electricity in order to work or not. Then we discussed examples that used mains electricity, electricity from batteries or both.



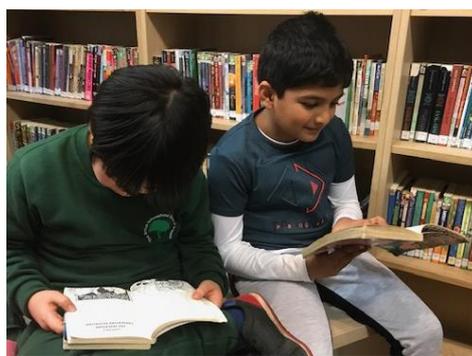
In our PE lesson we worked on passing and stopping a ball and dribbling it using our feet around a course. And that was our week!

**Talk topic** – What does Eco-friendly mean? Do you know of any eco-friendly products or inventions?

Kind Regards,

Camilla Rutayisire [Year4teacher@telenet.be](mailto:Year4teacher@telenet.be)

Sharing books at home  
time...



## Year 5

Dear Parents,

This week was a higgledy-piggledy one: NATO swimming was scuppered by a SATNAV'less coach driver and rehearsals and practices for the Christmas Show altered the timetable somewhat. This and other 'air pockets' along the week, brought us a little turbulence but we were able to adapt and overcome and did some great learning!

The Show is up and running and the children are justifiably very excited and inspired. We have good singers, actors, artists and dancers in Y5; Aladdin will be done proud, and we'll make our contribution.



The highlight of the week was artwork for Paperman as we did the 2<sup>nd</sup> 'Experience day' of the Unit. The class loved carving their own potato printers and, even more, mixing shades of red and grey to produce their stamp paintings. The display of the Y5's work is gorgeous and I'm very proud of it, but the teamwork on show during the activity was even more wonderful!

Elsewhere, the children wrote more creative English; showed mastery with number lines when adding to subtract; loved handling Euro coins to find change; dived into the working world of the Lifeboat Service; and chucked balls off the Oak balcony to investigate principles first proposed by Galileo and Isaac Newton.

**Talk Topic:** How would you find a new friend you have made if you didn't have any contact details for them?

And that was our week.

Have a good weekend,

Best wishes, Tim Stedman & Mrs Tolentino [year5teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year5teacher@telenet.be)



## Year 6



Dear Parents,

Joyfully, it is that time of the year again, when there is only one thing on our mind – the Christmas production. What a delight to be rehearsing, singing, dancing and painting scenery again. We only have a brief time to prepare for Aladdin, so many of our future afternoons will be taken up with activities related to the show.

Concentration skills have been in need this week; drafting, editing, rewriting our Alan Turing double-page spreads. I am hoping to share this work with the educators at Bletchley Park, next Tuesday, when we have our Codes and Ciphers workshop. <https://bletchleypark.org.uk/>

We continue our reading about Noor Inayat Khan; she has seen a poster of three young women posing next to a fighter plane – SERVE IN THE WAAF WITH THE MEN WHO FLY’ – she decided right then to try to join up.

Homework, always invaluable for highlighting misconceptions, revealed some topics that we need to revisit. This week, we focused on calculating area, perimeter, surface area and volume at various levels of complexity. New subjects included continuous and discrete, primary and secondary, qualitative and quantitative data. Our love of geometry continues with the addition of angles on parallel lines: co-interior, alternate, vertically opposite and corresponding.



Weekly comprehension tasks, across wide-ranging genres including adventure and a ‘whodunnit’ in the age of steamships, continue to be well-answered - we have our fair share of minimalist and embellished answers! However, I am exasperated that students STILL do not take the time to look up the meanings of unknown words; guessing is such a dreadful waste of a learning opportunity!

Right, I am off on my magic carpet to rehearse Aladdin.

**Talk Topic:** What does ‘lofty’ mean?

Happy weekend,

Beverley Tranter [year6teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year6teacher@telenet.be)

## Music KS2 - Oak Building with Miss di Fine

This week has flown past and has been very busy in Oak, learning and singing the new songs from our Christmas show “Aladdin Trouble”. The classes have been singing together and we have also been working on the solo parts and the round, or canon sections. The experience and the feeling of being there to sing and perform the songs all together was so special and unique. The children are enthusiastic and the excitement is way up high!

## French - Oak Building

Year 3:

In French with Madame Scharf, the highlight of the week was of course our outing to the Théâtre de la Montagne Magique where we saw “Le grand voyage de Georges Poisson”, a story of travels and



adventure, friendship and lighthouses. Two ladies told their story of the story of Georges Poisson with small objects, made their own décor and created the sound effects ... very beautifully done and not an easy story but the children followed really well, enjoyed it and even asked questions at the end of the show. They all made beautiful pictures of lighthouses and Ishaan even built a model one.



*Ishaan and his lighthouse, inspired by the trip to the theatre and made at home*



#### Year 4:

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we continued working on **les verbes réguliers** and we revisited '**les contraires**' and **les adjectives** to see **where to place them** when describing the noun. We remembered that **they must agree in gender and number** and we retained that most adjectives go after the noun, so we focused on targeting those '**few**' that

**precede** the noun, and we revised their feminine forms as well. Then, we practiced working on the sound '**an, en and em**' and we listened to different **dialogues** followed by multiple choice questions. We also enjoyed interviewing each other and talking about '**Qu'est-ce que tu aimes? Qu'est-ce que tu n'aimes pas?**' using different hobbies, food, animals, sports combined with **l'article défini 'le, la, l'** and **les**.

#### Year 5

We started the week talking about '**Qu'est-ce que tu portes aujourd'hui?**' (what are you wearing today?) which allowed us to revisit and explore all sorts of vocabulary related to '**les vêtements**' (such as **blouson, une cravate, une broche, une cape, une épée etc..**) in order to prepare and imagine our fantastic wardrobe for our French class project '**le spectacle des vedettes**'.



We then continued working on **les verbes réguliers** and we revisited '**les contraires**' and **les adjectives** to see **where to place them** when describing the noun, remembering that most of them go after the nouns and only a handful of adjectives can precede the noun.

#### Year 6

We started the week with formidable results from our last test on the passé composé that we discussed and corrected. Then we went on working with our French book Zig Zag and did many activities with **les verbes réfléchis** and **les verbes transitifs** keeping in mind the difference between those two. We also looked at **l'heure** and **Quelle heure est-il?** and how to tell the time. We concluded the week reading and discussing a fun story on '**La Souris Blanche et le Chat Gourmand**' which allowed us to explore and discover rich expressions and useful vocabulary and verbs such as '**bondir, filer, poursuivre ...les griffes, le trou, pire, ennemi etc.**'



## The History, Geography and Culture of Belgium with Mme. Scharf

In French geography and history in Year 3, 4 and 5 we talked about the river Escaut which flows through Antwerp, the legend of the name Antwerp and what Antwerp is famous for. We also talked about another important river in Flanders: The Yser; famous for its battle during World War I. We talked about the 11th of November on which we celebrate the end of both wars (May 8 no longer being a public holiday in Belgium) and the 15th of November which is "la fête de la dynastie belge" no longer a public holiday either. We talked a little bit about the royal family.

In Year 6, we talked about Charles Quint (V) Holy Roman Emperor and Archduke of Austria, King of Spain and Lord of the Netherlands as titular Duke of Burgundy, born in Ghent. We also looked at the various wars between Catholics and Protestants and the importance of Bruges and Ghent in the artistic and cultural fields.

*A glimpse at some of the Autumn term after-school clubs...*



LAMDA drama session with Years 5 & 6



*Experimenting with fine line drawing and watercolour wash for the Genie's magic lamp in Art club*



*Chess club for years 2-4*

