



The British International
School of Brussels

Newsletter for the week of January 28th, 2022

Oak Department TV studio, featuring the first ONNC broadcast with reporters from each class (and the 'techies' at hand!)



Dear All,

As ever, it has been a busy week with a focus on finishing the assessments and concentrating on the new set of core academic work for the term as well as the exciting new topics.

The class summaries in the Home School letter show how important and enriching these topics are. They extend across the curriculum, adding an extra dimension to each subject area and reinforcing the underlying knowledge content with practical, interactive work. This can clearly be seen around the school with children working both independently and in groups on their own investigations and projects, as well as working and playing together on practical activities that require independent reflection, collaboration, and personal interpretation through language work or artistic media. One of the main advantages of collaborative work is the scope that it gives our children for embedding and extending their language skills. Spoken language and communication skills are essential, and we place great importance on developing the children's ability to express themselves clearly and eloquently, and above all, with confidence. At this stage of the year, and with children finally all back in the classroom for extended periods of time, we are really beginning to see huge progress in this area, particularly amongst the younger children as they begin to understand just how well they can express themselves! (It's noisy!)



The Joseph coat before the testimonials were attached.

Our older children obviously already have good communication skills, along with the ability to reflect and explore language to find the best way of expressing their own ideas, as well as being used to working in groups on collaborative pieces of work. We had shining examples of this in Year 6 this week with their final presentation of their work on the Holocaust. Each student had worked diligently on personal 'memoirs' of difficult and challenging events, related to the pandemic or personal issues, or to historical experiences of older family members. It takes courage to explore personal issues and considerable maturity to look back over even a short space of time and to express deep feelings in writing. To then stand up and tell these stories on screen, finding the words and expression to relate the often raw emotion, requires even greater courage, and the Year 6s certainly did themselves, and BISB, proud. Pulling all of this individual work together to create the 'BISB Joseph Coat' was a truly collaborative piece of teamwork – well done to Mrs. Tranter and all of Year 6. This is an experience that will stay with them for a lifetime. And who knows? In years to come, their testimonies on the pandemic as shown on their Joseph Coat may become a case study in the everyday life of children in Brussels for people looking back on the events of the early 21st century.

Another great initiative is also beginning to take shape with the inauguration of the ONNC (Oak National News Channel) TV broadcasts to the whole Oak department on Friday afternoons. The techies got to work setting up a television studio, and the reporters were ready in the wings, nervously awaiting their news slots—great excitement, new challenges, and huge relief, pride and a sense of achievement for each reporter as they completed their presentation. This project has huge scope and will allow each child to develop new talents, work collaboratively, solve new problems and gain real-life experiences.

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 recipe book curiosity and questions!

Ridaan for his very enthusiastic role playing, making and baking all kinds of goodies!

Reception:

Maanav, for your brilliant blending of sounds and the start of your word-reading adventure.

Masoomi, For your excellent understanding of 'more than' and 'fewer than' in Math's this week.



Year 1:

Loshinimai, for being so happy at playtimes with her friends!

Sri Lyka, for super wow words when writing a letter to Goldilocks.

Year 2:

Ektha, for inspiring us all with her imaginative and careful decorative lettering in her science book.
Ibaad, for his positivity, friendliness and hard work.

And a special swimming star: Jahnvi, for having a go at everything, being determined, and setting such a good example for everyone!

Year 3:

Stairya, for a super piece of independent non-fiction writing.

Jinisha, for great sentences about 'Mother Earth' and earthquakes.

Year 4:

Daksha, for good work in maths with using a number line to solve addition and subtraction problems.

Pranavi, for writing some good, expanded noun phrases in our grammar lesson.

Year 5:

Navnoor for a great Space Race timeline.

Umaiza for lovely creativity; painting and poetry.

Playing the glockenspiels
in Year 3

Year 6:

Archana and Anjika for all their hard work and enthusiasm for the Oak News project. We all appreciate your efforts.



Information for the week

- Alongside the growing pile of 'lost' or rather 'unidentifiable' clothes at school, it is also difficult to make sure that children return from the swimming pool with their own clothes, rather than that of their neighbour, due to school uniforms not being clearly named. Please check your child's clothing and add the name again if it has washed off.



- The Year 6 children will be visiting the [Montagne Magique theatre](#) in the heart of Brussels to watch a performance of '**Le Moment Cle**' on **Thursday, 10th February**. The play is in French and forms an important part of the French curriculum. Details to follow.



- The Year 6s will be visiting the Jewish Museum of Belgium on Tuesday, 8th February to take part in a 'Meet a Jew' workshop in connection to their work on the Holocaust. Details will be posted on Edmodo.



- Please let School Office know if you are delayed due to transport problems, if you have a visit to the commune or a medical appointment, or if your child is unwell. We can then inform the class teacher and open the door if you are late arriving.



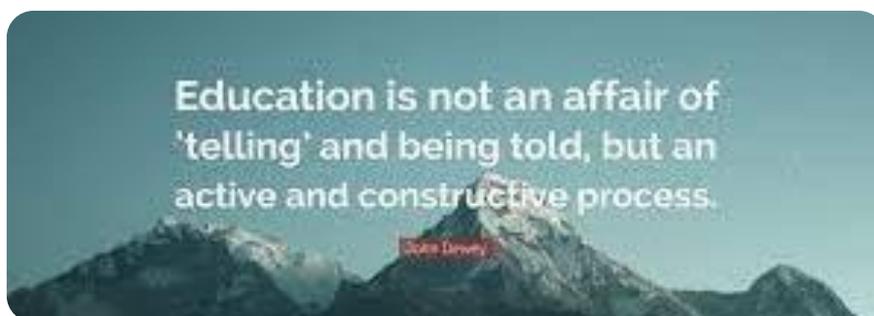
- Please remember that there is **no** school for children on **Friday, 25th February** as the Parent-Teacher meetings are scheduled throughout the week and during the whole of Friday. Children therefore finish school on Thursday, 24th February for the Spring half-term break. The new term starts on Monday, 7th March.



- Please remember to let us know if you think that you may be leaving at the end of the first half of the summer term (Wednesday, 25th May 2022). The **90-day notification deadline** for written notice of departure is **Thursday, 24th February 2022**. Please notify us before this date if your child will be leaving BISB; this will ensure that your deposit can be refunded.



And a fitting thought to end an imaginative, constructive week ...



John Dewey *The Middle Works, 1899-1924*



Great discussion about designer chefs' hats in Nursery!

Reporters waiting in the wings to enter the new ONNC TV studio!



Reception learning how to look after themselves in French... with the help of a baby doll!



Watercolour paintings based on 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' Yr 6.



Booking flights for Reception's next Space mission!



Year 4s waiting excitedly for the play to begin at the theatre



Energetic French lessons in Yr 5.

Butterflies in the tummy as the Year 6 Holocaust memorial workshop is about to begin...



Musical fun in Year 1.



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