



The British International
School of Brussels

Newsletter for the week of November 19th, 2021

The Year 3s arriving
at the magical
Montagne Magique
Theatre



Dear All,

The end of another busy week, which seems to have flown by faster than ever! The latest topics are now well under way in the classrooms with new work and exciting new challenges as the subjects begin to be explored. The Year 6s are really looking forward to their online workshop next week, which ties in with their theme on espionage, part of a greater study on world politics and migration and a follow-on from the historical background of the Belgian resistance movement explored during the residential trip to Cornimont. In the Acorn building there is a focus on recycling and saving the planet – topics that are reinforced by the KS1 show, in which Eddie the penguin sets off on her journey around the world and is shocked to discover the damage being done in every country she and her friends visit.

The wonderfully festive feel is growing in both buildings as music of every sort rings down the stairwells and out of each classroom door. The show songs and dances are increasingly confident, and children can be heard singing in the playground and on the stairs – always a positive sign that the songs are being memorised (along with the little bits that you can't get out of your head and end up singing all day...) There also seems to be an explosion of large cardboard boxes in every nook and cranny – definitely being transformed into all sorts of scenery, and highly likely to be covered in wet paint! It is always a joy to see how the quietest children come out of their shells during rehearsals and find themselves singing at the tops of their voices, alongside their more confident classmates, and there is a definite magic to musical shows that brings a whole new dimension to school life, creating happy memories and bringing children together across the age ranges, with a common purpose.

The year 3s discovered the other side of the magic of theatre when they visited the Montagne Magique this week to watch a performance in French about Georges le poisson. They had worked hard to prepare the visit so that they had a good understanding of the characters and the plot, and they certainly came away full of enthusiasm and having thoroughly enjoyed the new experience. Half of the Year 2 class had their first school swimming lesson at the Castle club in Wezembeek and did themselves proud – those who could already swim enjoyed demonstrating their skills to the others, and those for whom it was a first lesson were all really brave and determined to have a go. Everyone succeeded in swimming around the pool both on their front and their back and we managed to get changed in double quick time to make the most of the time in the water – I'm not sure how many people came home in the wrong socks, but it was a great first effort!

Unfortunately, there has also been a return this week of an underlying feeling of uncertainty and worry due to the rise in Covid cases in the population in general, and the isolated cases that we have had at school. We do understand how worrying this increase may feel, but we are continuing to follow the government guidelines; reinforcing hygiene measures, ensuring that the buildings are well-ventilated and that everyone benefits from time outside every day, and paying very close attention to the well-being of the children. We also very much appreciate your increased vigilance in monitoring the health of your children on a daily basis and in keeping them at home if you feel that they are really not well. As we have seen over the last 20 months, we need to focus on the balance between keeping everyone as safe as possible, without excessive worry, and ensure that the children continue to lead as normal a life as possible, benefitting from the wealth

of experiences and enriching activities that life at school can provide, without themselves being burdened by the anxieties of society at large. We have managed the intense ups and downs since the pandemic began, and I am sure we will continue to do so by working together as a community – thank you for your ongoing support and understanding, please don't hesitate to contact us if you have concerns or questions.

Musical yoga in Nursery as part of their new 'Sound of Music' theme



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



Stars of the
Week



Nursery:

Mishika, for being super helpful showing other children how to fasten their coats properly.

Abdul Khaaliq, for his excellent drumming skills!

Reception:

Deetya, for her good concentration and work when working on length and height

Shamruth, for being such a good sport and participating very enthusiastically in our PE session

Year 1:

Aqsa, for trying hard to use positional language in sentences.

Kria, for using the information in a non-fiction text to answer questions about penguins.

Year 2:

Aaradhana, for her dedication to her work, and her constant helpfulness in class.

Aradhya, for listening well in all her lessons this week, and for some excellent note-taking.



And a special star of the week for Tanay, for having learnt his lines so well, and for speaking them clearly and confidently during the first main rehearsal.

Year 3:

Aditya, for his creative sentences in our writing about the Magic Paintbrush.

Reyansh, for consistently accurate work using combinations of coins, and adding and subtracting amounts of money.

Year 4:

Krishav, for great work in maths with applying different methods of addition accurately and with attention to detail.

Lavishka, for finding lots of features of persuasive adverts in our collection of example adverts.

Year 5:

Arka & Geethika, for super collaboration to produce beautiful printing.

Ovee, for immaculate Topic work.

Year 6:

Aladdin (Thomas) for learning his 70+ lines so conscientiously - what a brilliant start to the production!

Information for the week

Bletchley Park was the home of British World War Two codebreaking; a place where technological innovation and human endeavour came together to make groundbreaking achievements that have helped shape the world we live in today.

During World War Two, the Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS) was based at Bletchley Park. It grew from a small team of specialists to a vast intelligence factory of thousands of dedicated women and men. This extraordinary combination of brilliant and determined people and cutting-edge technology contributed significantly to Allied victory. In tough conditions, they provided vital intelligence and developed pioneering technological innovation that had a direct and profound influence on the outcome of the war.

Next Tuesday, 23rd November, the Year 6s will be following an online learning session direct from **Bletchley Park**, to tie in with their current topic on Espionage.

They have been working hard to prepare for the workshop and are rapidly becoming experts in all sorts of codes and ciphers, as well as beginning to understand the very different lifestyle and challenges facing codebreakers during the Second World War.

The Oak library will be transformed into our own Bletchley Park Codebreakers' Hut, and we'll make the most of the benefits of the high-tech screen to find out how all of this technology started!



An Enigma machine



- Many thanks for the recent efforts to ensure that children arrive on time every morning. Apart from the occasional difficulties with traffic, everyone has been in school by 9h and the lessons have been able to start on time! Fantastic 😊!



- Swimming lessons started for the **first group** of the Year 2 class on **Thursday, 18th November** and all of the children did really well. Please remember that ALL clothes must be labelled with your child's name, otherwise they may well come home with the wrong clothes!



- Please note that the 90-day deadline for written notice of departure for the end of the February half-term (Thursday, 24th February) falls on **Friday, 26th November**. Please notify us before this date if your child will be leaving BISB; this will ensure that your deposit can be refunded.

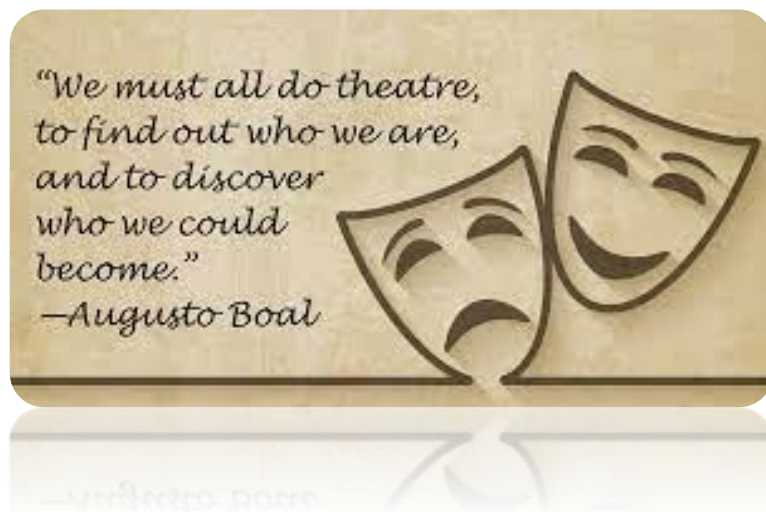


- **Late pick-ups:** We do understand that this may be unavoidable due to traffic or unexpected events, but please note that any children remaining in school after the pick-up time will be in garderie in the Acorn building and should be collected from there. A garderie fee will be charged. Please inform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



- **GSM number for the Oak Building (Years 3, 4, 5 &6) : 0468 45 87 76**
- Please remember to notify School Office if you have a new gsm contact number (and please ensure that you have now returned your personal contact form. It is **essential** that we have your contact details in case of an emergency, when we need to contact you quickly).

And a fitting thought to end an inspiring week...



Creating the Empire State Building for the KS1 show



The Year Sixes in full rehearsal mode!



Eddie and her penguins set off on their round-the-world voyage to save the planet

Jane Still
Headteacher