



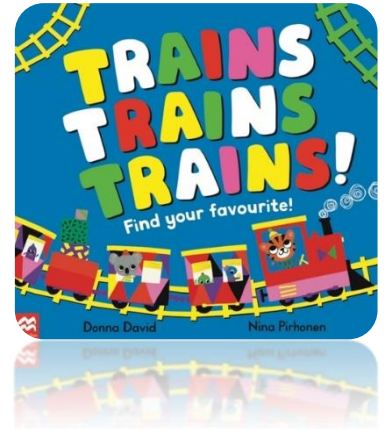
The British International
School of Brussels

BISB Home School Letter: April 29th, 2022

EYFS Nursery

Dear Parents,

Our new topic has started and along with it a whole host of wonderful adventures, so we hope you will join your children and 'jump onboard the big red train' with them! We are not only looking at the fun facts about trains and train-related activities, but we are using our imagination to create fantastic journeys to an abundance of destinations!



One of our stories of the week got us off to a good start, the book is called "Trains, Trains, Trains" written by Donna David and Nina Pirhonen. The book takes a look at red trains, white trains and rainbow -shining - bright trains, magnet trains and magic trains along with tea trains and underneath the sea trains! The children were very excited to either choose their favourite train from the book or make up their own train name and of course that's when someone decided a "chapatti train" would be a very good idea and we all agreed!



Other children also liked the idea of a buzzy-bee train, a superhero train and without a doubt a unicorn train! We are using the basic story in the book to create our Train station role play area.

Role play is a huge part of child development. It builds confidence, creativity, communication and problem solving. Along with being a fun activity, it also allows children to get into character and act out real life roles or fictional performances.

We are great advocates of role play in nursery!

Using role play at home is also a great way of interacting and getting involved in play with your little one. Dressing up is great fun and playing different roles will expand your child's imagination but if you don't want to do the whole role play experience at home just play a game involving the different characters you might meet on the train. This will allow you to introduce lots of new related language and stretch your child's imagination and creative play skills. Most types of interaction through play will have a positive effect on speech and language acquisition. Your child's social skills will also benefit because they will be using eye contact, turn-taking and listening skills. So go on, have some fun and have a go!

During our group maths activity this week we looked at the different shapes of trains and tried to find them hiding around the classroom, if you take a look in your child's HSB you will find a track and an envelope full of some of the shapes we looked at, let your child arrange them on the track in the way they think they should go to make a train. Please don't do the activity for your little one as this then doesn't give a true picture of what your child has internalised from the group activity. Remember, the activities we send home for your child are not official homework. If they are really not interested in doing it then that is fine, it is an extension of what we are looking at within the group and is meant to be an added bit of learning and fun!





Apart from jumping onboard the musical instrument train this week with Miss diFine, the children have started practising the songs for our end of year Summer show. The most exciting thing is that all the mummies and daddies will be invited in to watch our magnificent performance! We still have a little way to go before the big day, so the date and time will be given later, but we are all very happy that you will be a real live audience this year!

We need small boxes, to make our junk model trains with, so please recycle them here with us and not in the paper bin at home! Thank you 😊.

Our Talk topic is: What colour would you paint your model train and why?

Until next week, have a fun time out and about and if you spot any flying saucer trains do let us know!!

Thank you.

Alison Davies, Anna Nagy & Vanessa di Fine nurseryteacher@telenet.be



EYFS Reception

Dear Parents,

This week we learned about worms, what they look like, what do they do, how they move ... and to top it up we made our own wormery! We made layers of sand and soil in a special plastic container and we put some apple and banana peelings in it for the worms to eat. We also sprayed it with a little bit of water, as the sand and soil need to be damp, and we put in it a worm that one of the teachers had found in her garden. Unfortunately, two other worms didn't make it from the garden to school, but we also talked about that and we analysed what was the cause of their death. The children learned how to look after the wormery and remembered that we have to keep it in a dark place, that's why we covered the container with black card, and in a place where it is not too hot or too cold. We

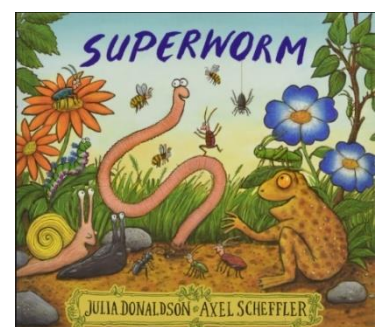


observed it every day and we saw how the worm had built some tunnels moving up and down the layers of soil and sand. The children left home on Friday in the hope that the teachers will come back on Monday with new worms ... and we will try our best to find them!

Our storybooks of the week were related to the topic and to the season. One of them was 'Superworm' by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. The children really enjoyed it, you can watch the video and listen to the story if you click on this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLrRntSqiUc>. The other book was 'Busy spring. Nature wakes up' by Sean Taylor and Alex Morss and it tells the story of how a dad and his daughters start working in their garden once

spring starts and how they notice and describe the seasonal changes that show the end of winter and the beginning of spring.

In maths we have been working with counting and sequencing numbers up to 20. We have used number cards and counters to recognise numbers, say the



number before and after a given number, and put them in order. After that, the children worked in their workbooks using one to one correspondence to count how many objects in each given set and writing different numbers from 1 to 20.

This week we have introduced two new sounds in literacy. 'Ow' as in throw and snow, and 'ear' as in hear and fear. The children have been singing our Song of Sounds which helps them remember previously seen letter sounds. They have been working in their phonics workbooks, practising their reading skills and developing their pencil control and fine motor skills by tracing letters and paying attention to the direction in which they trace each one of them. In your child's Home School Book you will find a piece of work in which they had to name the pictures, build the word by saying the correct sounds and write the word in the given boxes.



Our Art session has been very special this week because we have done our spaghetti worm painting. The children were very surprised when we said we would paint with worms and very excited when we said they were not real worms but pretend worms made with spaghetti! So, they used tongs to grab a bunch of coloured spaghetti and they moved it round the paper to make marks that looked as if worms had been wriggling in paint. Fantastic art masterpieces that will be placed on our classroom wall once the paint is dry. Speaking about spaghetti worms, the children also had the chance to have some sensory play mixing them with sand.

We had a busy PE session on Tuesday where we practised aim and eye-foot coordination by kicking footballs and eye-hand coordination by hitting balls with the tennis racquets. Thursday afternoon was very busy with all the spaghetti worm painting and we didn't have time for our regular PE session, but we promised the children they would have extra time next Tuesday, so fingers crossed for nice weather on that day.

We have been singing a song about worms throughout the week and it starts like this: 'I have a little friend who's not a bit like me, he's long and thin and squidgy and he's wrinkly ... ' Ask your child to sing the rest or the parts s/he remembers.

Our Talk topic for next week is: *What do you like best about Spring and why?*

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs. van Wassenhove and Mrs. Julaton receptionteacher@telenet.be

KS1 Year 1

Dear Parents,

Using dictionaries to write definitions of tricky words for the Glossary in our non-fiction books.

This week it was really nice to see the children excited about the return of after-school clubs to BISB. They enjoy the opportunity to develop new skills, strengthen existing ones and perhaps spend some time with children from other year groups.

LITERACY

We have really enjoyed finishing our Australian Animal non-fiction books this week. I have been very impressed with how the children



have remembered the features of this genre. They have shown good understanding in their ability to include things like a Glossary and Contents as well as the more general front cover, back cover and blurb.



MATHS

This was a really important week in terms of key mathematical objectives. The children were asked to locate 2-digit numbers on a 100-square; recognise 2-digit numbers as 10s and 1s; make 2-digit numbers using 10p and smaller coins and find 1 more or 1 less than any number to 100. All crucial concepts on which to build strong foundations for future mathematical understanding.

How much is there? Playing 'What is the value of these coins?' dominoes.

SCIENCE

This was the final week of our unit of 'Plants and Animals Where we Live' and as a result, the children were assessed in order to establish their knowledge and understanding. Much of this theme involves quite technical vocabulary such as herbivore, mammal, deciduous and so on. I was really impressed with how much of this the children remembered.

ART / DT

This was the last lesson on our Topic of Australia so the children enjoyed a food technology lesson. We made an Australian trifle in the colours of the flag using raspberries, cream and blueberries – red, white and blue! We also made the Aussie staple, 'Fairy Bread' which is usually eaten at a birthday party. And we couldn't do Australian food without trying Vegemite on bread. You either love it or hate it and most of Year 1 hated it! The trifle and Fairy Bread were much more popular.

Yum or yuk?



TOPIC

We learned about one of Australia's most famous sons, Steve Irwin, otherwise known as The Crocodile Hunter. The children loved watching him in action, wrestling crocodiles, but were also very interested to hear about the conservation work that he undertook and still continues today.

PE

Currently, we are working on bat and ball skills. We have learnt how to hold a racket correctly and how to use it to send a beanbag in a forward direction. Great activities for building strength and hand-eye coordination.

TALK TOPIC: What do you fear?

Have wonderful weekend!

Miss Corrigan and Mrs. Bandaru year1teacher@telenet.be

KS1 Year 2

Dear Parents,

We have had a very exciting week in Year 2. The highlight was Wednesday's trip to the Folon Museum, where had a guided tour with interesting explanations of Folon's style and ideas. We saw sculptures as well as paintings, and we heard that Folon believed in encouraging people to see things differently, to follow their dreams, and not to be afraid to ask for help. The children's own watercolour paintings, showing a boat and its reflection, were completed in the afternoon's workshop at the museum.



In our Maths sessions this week, we worked with numbers up to 200, and counted in 100s up to 1000. We revised how to add and subtract 2-digit numbers by adding tens and ones or subtracting tens then ones. This is a key skill and enables the children to complete mental calculations fluently and with understanding. In Year 2, these key skills are prioritized, and column addition and subtraction are not introduced until the above key skill and the mental concepts are mastered. We also revised doubles and bonds to 10 and 20 ($4+?=10$ etc), and applied these facts to real life situations and to addition involving 3 single digit numbers. We learned about which units of measurement are used to measure weight and capacity/amounts of liquid.

In our Spelling sessions this week, we had another look at prefixes that change the meaning of a word to its opposite, notably *un-* and *dis-*. We also reviewed the suffix *-ed* used to make the simple past tense of a verb. In a writing session this week, the children revised the concepts of nouns, adjectives and verbs, as part of their reporting of the museum visit. The children are building up their stamina for writing several paragraphs of text, using more sophisticated sentences, and more unusual vocabulary.

In other Literacy sessions, we continued our reading of Zeraffa Giraffa, and, in a related session, the children undertook research, using books and the Natgeo website, into Africa, Egypt and the River Nile.

The class will attend a French language theatre performance on Monday, on the theme of what makes us afraid. **This week's Talk topic is *What makes us feel afraid? Is it O.K. to feel afraid?***



I wish you a very happy weekend.

Ms Read and Mrs Tolentino Year2teacher@telenet.be

Music with Miss Di Fine - Acorn Building

Reception: We are getting ready for the Summer Show, hence we are singing all about the summer season. The song we learned this week is called: "Summertime". We are very excited about the show and we can't wait to perform our beautiful songs together with the Nursery children!





Years 1 & 2:

This week we learned the first songs from our summer musical “Save the Bees”. The song is called “Buzzing”. We enjoyed doing all of the buzzing sounds and learning the actions which accompany the singing part. We also sang the song “Little Johnny Brown” playing with the scarves and folding their corners, waving or hiding them on the beat. If you have a scarf at home you

can play the song and enjoy the activity just as we did in class.

Take a look at this video and have fun!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBdVc8iaJ2Y>



KS2 Year 3

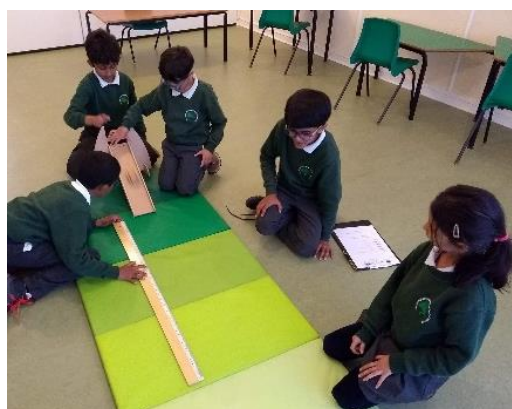
Dear Parents,

It's been a slightly unusual week this week, with a few adjustments for the summer term. In Literacy, we wrote two more sets of sentences in our version of 'The Wolves in the Walls', practising some of the writing features which we are now really quite familiar with, such as rhyme, alliteration and Mrs C's 'power of three'. In grammar, we continued our work on clauses, this week looking at the features and construction of main and subordinate clauses. In our reading groups we read a short fiction text about a lost aeroplane, discussed some of the vocabulary, and answered a set of mixed comprehension questions.



In Maths, we worked intensively on multiplication and division. We revised the use of function machines, and practised using them backwards and when any one of the elements (input, function or output) was missing. We also revised grid multiplication, and stretched ourselves to perform some quite large sums, such as 67×8 , all based on our knowledge of the normal times tables. For division, we also moved on to larger sums, and learnt a new method known as 'chunking'. When a sum goes beyond the range of the times tables, we can use our knowledge of multiples of 10 to make things easier, so, for $104 \div 8$, we know that $10 \times 8 = 80$, $104 - 80 = 24$, $24 \div 8 = 3$, so $13 \times 8 = 104$. We went on to apply this same method for division sums involving remainders too.

We started our 'Forces and Magnets' Science unit with an examination of friction, learning that it is a force which prevents or slows movement. Our outdoor experiment was cancelled by the heavy rain, so we conducted it indoors instead, comparing the friction of different floor surfaces by measuring how far a car travelled over it, when each time the car was subject to the same initial force.



In our Topic session, we looked in some detail at the life and work of Marie Curie, and learnt how her invention of mobile x-ray machines had such a huge impact on people's lives over 100 years ago, and how important it is even for current medical practice. The

children completed a fact file activity about her life, and, in art, the children made 'x-ray pictures' of their hands.

We had a little spare time this week, so we used it to practise our cricket skills, particularly bowling, catching and fielding, in preparation for our forthcoming match against Year 5 on 10th May. We also managed to squeeze in the next of our coding lessons – an alien space race, involving sequences and countdowns.

Online Maths homework will be 'Bingo! 3.23' and 'Toucan Team 3.24'. **Talk Topic** is 'Think of a single inventor or invention that you would like to do your own project on. Why would you choose this person or invention?'

Enjoy the weekend.

Patrick Tranter and Naomi Irakoze year3teacher@telenet.be
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/157096587@N03/albums/72177720298276400>



Year 4

Dear Parents,

Another busy week has flown by, and we have been really getting into our new topic on Rivers. This week we started our new 'Write Stuff' unit on Valerie Bloom's poem 'The River'. We began by identifying and discussing the shapes used to build up the poem and noticed the ABCB rhyming pattern. We then did a poem 'jigsaw' where all of the lines of the poem were mixed up and we had to put them into the correct order. We then had an experience day where we worked in groups to make our own 3D models to show the course of a river from its source in the mountains, meandering through valleys and eventually to the mouth of the river by the ocean. We learned a cool river song to help us remember its course! The children did a great job with their models, and they all look fantastic.



In our Topic lesson we learned about major rivers of the world and used atlases and ipads to locate 10 major world rivers on a map. Some children even found additional rivers too!

In Literacy we looked at a new set of words in our 'go grapheme grafters' session which contained in- and -im prefix words as well as some words commonly misspelt such as 'height' and 'grammar'. We also discussed a set of irregular/exception words which are frequently misspelt and discovered that they all had the /s/ sound spelt as 'c' in them.

In Maths, we continued to work on our understanding of decimals. We looked at 2-place decimals this week, these are decimals that contain both a tenth and a hundredth, for example 12.25. We practised reading, writing and ordering them, and finding out what had to be added to them to reach the next whole number. We also rounded both 1 and 2 place decimals to the nearest whole number.

In Science we continued with our topic, 'The Big Build'. This week we investigated the link between shapes and strength, and made 2D and then 3D shapes using spaghetti and marshmallows. The children were then challenged to make a bridge out of these materials and we were amazed to find that one group's design was able to hold 200 grams!



In PE we continued with our unit on athletics and focused on sprinting. We discussed good sprinting technique and learned how the longer the distance, the harder it is to maintain it! We did some relay races and practised handing over the baton and working in a team.

Kind Regards,

Camilla Rutayisire Year4teacher@telenet.be

Year 5

Dear Parents,

The Summer Term wheels are really rolling now and the summer vibe is becoming palpable. The weather seems to be pleasant, and our spirits are equally as warm.

The week started with rust! What makes iron discolour red? Kuval was full of strong background knowledge and eager teams went about putting 4 different questions to the test. Chethan, in particular, tackled and executed his experiment very impressively!

The class then began to express what they had learnt about the slave trade and its abolition doing art with charcoal. Vinesh and Rhithul came up with some good and creative ideas to convey the power and injustice of the cruel system. Charcoal is fragile, at times messy and needs to be looked after and this week Y5 have been learning that it is important to keep a 'tidy ship'.

Later in the afternoon in group reading, Umaiza's spotting of turning points in the text really shone. This weekend, like many others around the world, she'll be celebrating the end of Ramadan to the max after a month of reflection.

Aside from the 'Ban Slavery!' posters, the class have also been painting and finishing their Boston Tea Party pictures and Navnoor's and Arka's and have been sensational!

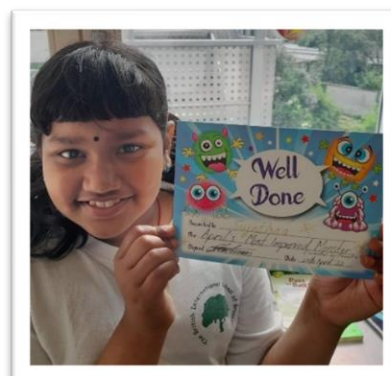
On Tuesday, One Small Step and Luna's life took a very different turn from the joyous beginning at the start of the Taiko animated film. Luna is struggling at school and then, suddenly, her father dies. Perhaps touched by the themes, Aadharshini, Diya and Geethika have composed some wonderfully skilful and emotive Mrs C sentence stacks this week.

Luna's healing process begins by sorting through old possessions, and some bring back very happy memories. The children brought in their own possessions with sentimental importance to Show and Tell too. Kuval made us listen very carefully as he spoke so eloquently and retold the story behind his item so nicely.

In Numeracy, meanwhile, Hasini added and subtracted decimals with skill and Abhi was masterly with the grid method of multiplication.

Meanwhile, Sujathaa proved that practice (and hard focused work) makes perfect, as she justly became Most Improved Monster of the Month for April in mental maths!

And that was our week.



Talk Topic: After the death of her father, what would have been Luna's immediate problems in the weeks that followed?

Best wishes,

Tim Stedman year5teacher@telenet.be

Year 6

Dear Parents,

The countdown continues – 2 weeks to go until the SATs, and I hope that students are taking advantage of these last few weeks to revise any subject areas that they still find challenging.

In Maths, targeted revision included:

To understand what a percentage is and its connection to fractions

Recall and use equivalences between fractions, decimals and percentages

Solve problems involving the calculation of percentages of amounts

Solve problems involving the use of percentages for comparison.

We corrected and reworked SPaG revision booklet 1: nouns, verbs, adjectives, conjunctions, pronouns, adverbs, prepositions, determiners, subject and object.



In Science, children learnt about alcohol and how units are calculated, as well as the effects of alcohol on the body and behaviour, including the health of the developing foetus. We also continued our study of DNA including inheritance and variation. Children learnt to:

Describe the main features of meiosis

Compare mitosis with meiosis

Explain the importance of meiosis in sexual reproduction

Describe sexual and asexual reproduction in animals and plants

Explain why asexual reproduction leads to identical offspring

Explain why sexual reproduction leads to variation

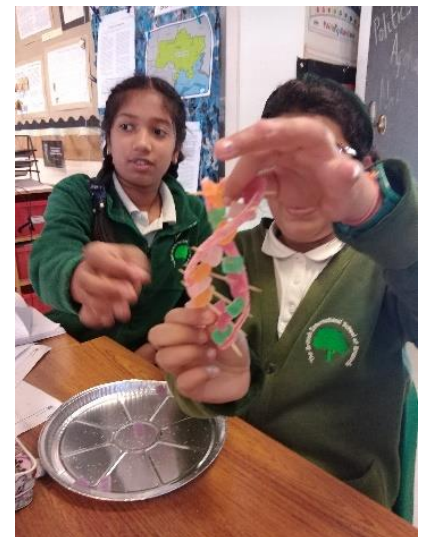
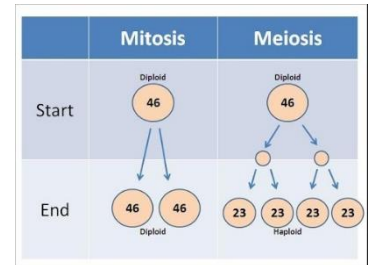
As you can imagine, the highlight of this module was creating a double-helix DNA model with sweets!

We continued our study of Macbeth by interpreting the witches' prophesies and analysing Macbeth's inner thoughts. We are also watching scenes from Justin Kurzel's superb 2015 film.

Thursday afternoon was spent in Nottingham Forest (the playground) with the year 6 archers aiming to achieve as many points as possible for the Oak 'Robin Hood' competition.

We studied the construction of the Titanic and Olympia at the Harland and Wolff shipyard, which also provided a window into the socio-economic and religious tensions in Ireland at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Talk Topic: The main theme of Macbeth — the destruction wrought when ambition goes unchecked by moral constraints – discuss.



Happy weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter year6teacher@telenet.be

Music KS2- Oak Building: Miss di Fine



Years 3 & 4:

This week we continued to practice recorders and to learn about new notes and positions. We also learned how to make slurred notes and how to respect the breathing signs (✓) when we play. We have completed the piece "When the Saints go marching in" and we are now able to play

and sing the song with the glockenspiel. We are also learning a song about peace and universality called "Imagine", by John Lennon.



Years 5 & 6



This week we continued to find out about the topic of women in Music History. Although many societies either forbade or looked down on women who wanted to be composers, many persevered. We heard some stories and some compositions of famous women who made a very important contribution to the history of music.

We continued to play some music theory games on the smartboard, to practise some duets on the recorder and to learn John Lennon's song "Imagine".



French - Oak Building:

Year 4:

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we went

over the assignments related to '**les pays, les villes, les continents** etc... and '**la préposition adéquate**' such as **À, En, Au, Aux** when using verbs of movement **travailler, aller, jouer, marcher** etc). We had a test, we



corrected it and then, we went over new words and vocabulary related to **mon corps** (my body) such as **le menton, le cou, le coude, la gorge, le front, le ventre, les orteils** and we revised the other words related to **mon corps**. After which, we reviewed the use of the definite articles '**le, la, l', les**' with these words when they are masculine, feminine, singular and plural, as in for example: '**la main, le nez, les orteils**'. Then we played the game 'Jacques a dit' with '**Avoir mal**' combined with the different forms of **la préposition 'À, Au, Aux** and the different words from '**mon corps**'. They were very alert and hard to beat!



images and phrases while still including everything we relate to this '**saison magique**' such as '**le soleil chante avec les fleurs**', '**il y a une poule qui pond des oeufs au chocolat**', '**les abeilles dansent sur les jonquilles**', '**les coccinelles dessinent un nuage**, **Il pleut du chocolat**, **le soleil brille et danse**, **le poussin dit bonjour au papillon**', Their wit and sense of humour were boundless!

Year 5:

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we went over our assignments related to '**mon corps**', then had a test using '**Avoir mal**' combined with the different forms of **la préposition 'À, Au, Aux** and corrected it. Then, we started our individual presentations of '**le Printemps**' project, where everyone got to shine and show their endless oral and writing skills and creative talent, coming up with some fantastic ideas and hilarious



Year 6:

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we continued presenting and sharing some unforgettable moments with '**souvenirs d'enfance**' making good use of the **imparfait et le passé composé**. We also talked about '**les compétences essentielles de l'écriture**' (the Importance of writing skills) and the **use of connectives** to come up with well organized and coherent texts. We saw different ways of starting a story with expressions like '**tout d'abord**' or **pour commencer**, how to connect or link phrases with expressions like '**ensuite, puis, après, cependant** etc..and we talked



about how to close a paragraph with expressions like **finalement, désormais, pour finir, pour conclure, en conclusion** etc.. Then we had a go and we all got to present our own paragraph using all these elements. They were quite **impressive!**