



The British International
School of Brussels

BISB Home School Letter: October 22nd, 2021

Singing with
the leaves

EYFS Nursery

Dear Parents,



It was great to see some of the children returning this week and there was a real buzz in the nursery classroom, especially when they all finally got to make and decorate the much waited for little mouse cupcakes! The cupcakes weren't quite as lavish and large as the one in the story but the excitement of adding the multicoloured sprinkles made up for that! Many of the sprinkles and spoonfuls of chocolate icing never actually made it onto the cake but there was a lot of evidence smudged around everyone's mouths to say they definitely made it into some little tummies! Photographs will be put onto Edmodo and the school website very soon. If you didn't get a chance to look and listen to the story link of 'Little mouse and the big cupcake', which was in a previous HS letter, then here it is again:



<https://youtu.be/kiRpAn9kL-U>

For our home school book activity this week we continued to investigate the beautiful autumn colours which we can see in the school playground and finally braved the elements to collect some amazing autumn leaves. During circle time, we felt the texture of the leaves and discussed why some were smooth and shiny and why others were dry and crunchy, we looked closely at the colour pigments that had blended together to make each leaf unique and tried to guess why some turned red while others turned yellow, brown or orange and why there were no blue leaves!

We then painted the leaves and made some wonderful leaf prints which you can see in your child's HSB and we learned the song, "Autumn leaves are falling down", you can see the lyrics printed on the leaf cover page. Ask your little one to sing it for you to see if they can remember the words and the tune (it is the same as London Bridge is falling down). If you take a look on our Edmodo class page this weekend you will also see our splendid real life autumn leaf wall in the playground and hopefully hear the children sing the song, while blowing the leaves away.



Everyone should have received a zoom link for their individual parent, teacher meeting next week, if you haven't, please let Mrs Davies know. If you have not been given the day you requested, this is because as posted on Edmodo last week, spaces on some days were more limited than on others and allocation was given to the parents who sent in the request first. However, you will have received an alternative day if what you asked for was already full and everyone was allocated time slots according to availability.

In the music sessions with Miss diFine this week, the children had great fun playing the musical instruments and using brightly coloured scarves to wave around in time to some traditional folk music. They also learned how to try and keep in rhythm to the song 'Under the sea' from the film 'The Little Mermaid', videos will be posted on Edmodo soon!

Just a quick reminder that school, including Nursery, starts **no later** than 9am. We have a few latecomers in the morning and this does cause disruption and means that it takes longer to start our planned activities. When your child comes in late, they still need help to organise themselves, go to the bathroom etc before they can begin settling into the core learning programme. So please try your best to be here on time after the half term holiday, when the Nursery door and the Main building door will close promptly at 9 am each day. Thank you for your understanding.

Until next week have a great weekend, if you're feeling brave put on your wellies and go and find some big puddles to splash around in! Or, even if it doesn't rain, take a lovely walk to admire the fading colours of autumn. When you are back home warm and dry, chat over our **talk topic**, which is, "Why do some leaves change colour and others stay green?"

Have a great weekend.
Thank you,

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

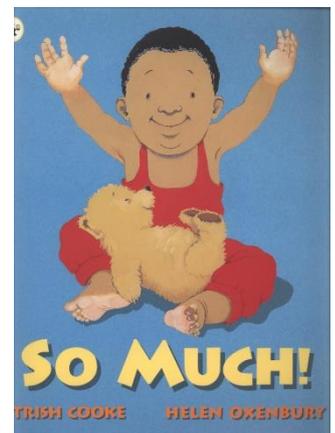
Finding out
about
dinosaurs...



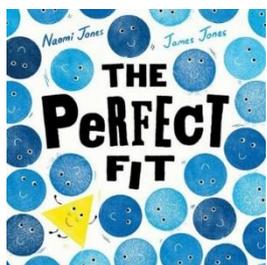
EYFS Reception

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all of you who sent a baby picture of your children. We had fun looking at them and trying to guess who who is. Funnily enough, some of the children didn't recognise themselves as babies, they have grown and changed so much! We talked a lot about being babies, what are the things they can do and cannot do, how they start learning and grow to be toddlers and children. Then we differentiated the things children can do and babies can't. You will find a very nice piece of work in your child's Home School Book in which we worked one to one with each child. They were asked to think about the things they did when they were babies and the things they do now that they are 4 and 5 years old, focusing on the change they have had while growing up. Their work is lovely and some children came up with really funny stories. Have a look at it and talk to them about it. It's a nice chance for you to tell them funny stories from when they were small. Our topic storybook this week is called 'So Much!', written by Trish Cooke, and it talks about members of a family coming to visit the baby, playing with him and celebrating a surprise birthday party for Dad.



In Literacy we have worked with the letter sounds /c/ and /k/ differentiating them in their writing as they have the same sound. We played games with magnetic letters, word cards and we worked on blending CVC words.



In maths we have been working with 2D shapes, naming them, enumerating differences between them and finding squares, circles, rectangles and triangles in the real-life objects we have in our classroom. We read the story 'The Perfect Fit' by Naomi Jones which has shapes as characters. The story is about fitting in, which can be transferred into the children's social life in school and how they relate with each other



In PE we played the 'Rabbit and Fox Tag' in which two children were foxes and the rest rabbits. The foxes had to tag the rabbits and when this happened, they would start hopping on hands and feet until another rabbit touched them and saved them. We built safe zones with cones and hoops around the playground for the rabbits to hide from the foxes.

We also played a game with hoops which were distributed around the playground in colour groups. So, when the children found the red hoops, they had to jump in them with both feet, for the green hoops they had to jump backwards and so on. We increased the difficulty of the game as they were getting better in their jumping, and they had lots of fun jumping around in different ways.



In art we made autumn leaf suncatchers. For this craft we gave each child an outline of an autumn leaf which they had to fill in with red, orange and yellow tissue paper. Each of the leaves was laminated and threaded together to make chains of autumn leaves, which will hang from our classroom window and make a beautiful seasonal decoration.

The talk topic for next week is: *What is your favourite season of the year? Can you tell me why?*

Next week we will have our Parent Teacher meetings. We have sent all the Zoom links by email yesterday so if you didn't get yours please get back to us and we will send it again. We kindly ask you to be punctual with the timings as we have several meetings in the same afternoon, and we cannot give you more time than that allotted already. Thank you for your understanding.



Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs. van Wassenhove and
Mrs. Julaton

receptionteacher@telenet.be

KS1 Year 1

Dear Parents,

As we near the end of the half term, it has been a good time to reflect on the past eight weeks and how the children have developed. They are very familiar with the rules routines and expectations and we have seen how they have progressed in terms of their Personal, Social and Emotional Development. They are becoming increasingly independent, confident and resilient and, for the most part, they treat each other with respect and kindness. We look forward to planning and celebrating the end of our Science unit with a Senses Party on Thursday 28th October. (See the Year 1 page on Edmodo for information about this.) And, as our work on poetry was drawing to a close, we visited Year 3 in Oak to share some of the poems we had written and listen to theirs. Not only was it great fun to walk over to the other building, it gave purpose and relevance to the learning done in class.



LITERACY



We kicked the week off with a working snack time on Monday. The children were asked to eat very slowly and write down their observations. This helped us to write a class poem about the noises that certain foods make and the next day they wrote their own individual responses which they brought home in their Home School Book for you to enjoy. Thank you so much for contributing to this by helping them with their special homework this week.

MATHS



The children were deepening their understanding of numbers this week by picturing them in terms of 10s and some 1s. For this we used a range of concrete apparatus such as place value cards, coins, Numicon and Base 10 apparatus to help the children to visualize what the digits represent. We compared and ordered numbers using language such as less than, bigger, smaller, fewer, biggest, smallest, larger, greater. The children were given lots of opportunities to practise using these words during partner work.



ART

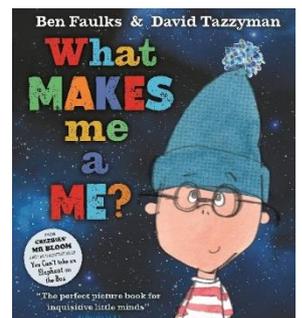


We observed the colours that Picasso used in his portraits, particularly the group of paintings referred to as his Blue Period and thought about how different colours can be used to show different emotions. The children then chose warm colours to convey happiness and cold colours to convey sadness. These will be added to our Portrait Gallery in the Year 1 classroom!



TOPIC

We read a fabulous book called 'What Makes Me a Me?' which explores the concept of individuality and examines how we are the same and how we are different.



Have wonderful weekend!

Miss Corrigan and Mrs. Bandaru year1teacher@telenet.be

TALK TOPIC: As we look forward to our party day, what elements make a good party? What's the most enjoyable party you've been to? Why was it so good?

KS1 Year 2

Our Science experiments on materials



Dear Parents,

This week, in mathematics, we worked on place value, using it to solve “no work” addition and subtraction, e.g. $60 + 7$, $58 - 8$, $74 - 70$. We also used place value to make calculations involving money, specifically 10p and 1p (and 10c and 1c) coins. We practised quick mental addition and subtraction using our knowledge of number bonds (e.g. $6+4=10$, so we know that $76+4=80$ etc).

In our writing sessions, we completed our George and the Dragon story, this week writing sentences using adverbial phrases of place (e.g. *Under the branches, between the grey rocks, on the other side of the valley*), and time (*When he raised his knife, when he saw the dragon*). We also wrote sentences using clauses with *because*, and using contracted forms with apostrophes (eg. *I’m, I’ll, He’s, She’s*). We wrote questions in the present tense and simple past tense (eg. *Where did she go? Why is he different?*). We collected adverbs, and adjectives to describe bad smells. The result is a complete story, written with guidance, sentence by sentence. Next week, the children will write their own story, related to George and the Dragon, using some of the language we have practised.



In phonics, we covered some common tricky words, as well as the graphemes *ou, ow*, (*as in house and cow*) and *oi, oy*.

In our reading sessions, the children again read to a partner, and in turn read in a group with the teacher.

In their continued study of Castles and Dragons, the children learnt a little about life in a medieval castle, including what might be served at a medieval banquet. They also made their own beautiful clay goblets, which they will use at next week’s banquet. We are all very much looking forward to the medieval banquet, which will take place next Thursday (28th October). Miss Bird has sent the details of this on Edmodo, and it should be a great end to this half term.

We look forward to meeting with you at next week’s Parent-Teacher conferences.

Please remember to sign up for Edmodo, and to join the Year 2 Edmodo group, if you have not already done so.

Talk topic: What would you put on your Medieval Banquet menu, and why?

Kate Read, Gabriel Bird and Mrs. Tolentino year2teacher@telenet.be

Music - Acorn Building: Reception, Years 1 & 2

Reception: This week in music we learned a song called “Put your coat on”.

Winter is coming and it’s getting a bit chilly out there! It’s a good song to sing to encourage the children to be more independent and also a good reminder to not forget any accessories they might need to wear before going outside! Brrr...



We also had great fun with the song “make a face”, where we could perform all the different faces. Miss di Fine's favourite one was the funny one!



Year 1: We had a busy week learning the names of the notes (do,re,mi or A,B,C ecc..) and how they sound on the piano. We played the game “Guess which note is”. This game helps children to memorize different pitches and to train their ears (absolute pitch) to recognize and name each note in music. We also learned a song called: “Autumn leaves” and played our instruments.



Year 2: We learned the “Clock song”. This song tells us about the four primary values of the notes existing in music



(whole note, half note, quarter note, and eighth note). All the clocks around the house have different values and different speeds! Our favourite game this week was “Who’s got the bean bag?” We passed the bean bag on the beat around the circle without letting it drop, phew!

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



Reception: We talked about Autumn and the colours we can see around us. We also talked about the weather and learnt new words like “le soleil, le nuage, la pluie, l’arc-en-ciel”. We sang : “il pleut, il pleut, le ciel est gris, j’ai besoin d’un parapluie” and “petit escargot”. We welcomed a new girl by repeating “Comment tu t’appelles ?” and singing our little songs. We also read a book

about colours “POP mange de toutes les couleurs”.

Year 1: We reviewed animal names and went on talking about seasons and the weather. We pretended to be weathermen and weather ladies and announced the weather of the day. We sang : “Il pleut, il pleut, le ciel est gris, j’ai



besoin d'un parapluie", "petit escargot" and "Que dit la météo aujourd'hui?". We made a picture of all four seasons.



Year 2:

In French with Madame Scharf, we counted up to 15 and did some additions to practice numbers. We answered the questions "Quel âge as-tu?" and "As-tu des frères et sœurs?" to continue the presentation

about ourselves. We also included: "As-tu un animal à la maison?" and the answers were amazing. We did some role-playing questioning someone we meet in a playground.

KS2 Year 3

Dear Parents,

This week has been a different week for the Year Threes. As Mr. Tranter was braving another week at Corniment with the Year Fives and Sixes, Mrs. Irakoze and Mrs. Still were able to spend the week in the Year Three classroom. On Monday, we enjoyed hearing all the adventures that the children got up to during their time away and it seems that rock climbing and minigolf were the winners for being the most memorable moments.

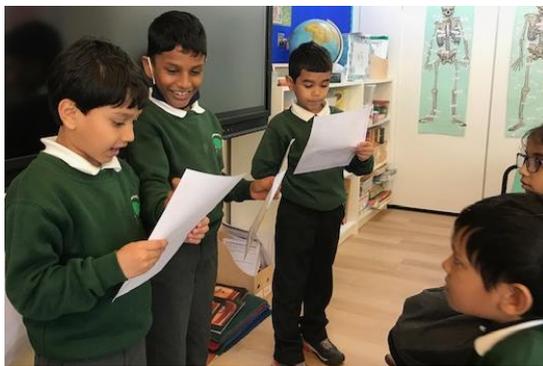
In Mathematics this week we focused on measuring. We started off by measuring the length of different objects, being as accurate as we could and measuring to the closest millimetre. We went on to look at converting measurements between metres, centimetres and millimetres. By the end of the week, we had moved on to measuring capacity. The children got their hands wet while filling litre jugs in one hundred millilitre increments, once again focusing on their accuracy as they filled their jugs to a desired amount. We also worked on converting between litres and millilitres, which proved more difficult than when converting length, but the children gave it a good go and showed increased understanding by Friday.



In Art and Literacy, we took advantage of a quiet week with lots of time to take a really close look at the work of Oliver Jeffers, the author and illustrator of 'The Incredible Book-Eating Boy'. The children worked in pairs, choosing one of his many books to read and to study the illustrations. Each group then presented their book to the rest of the class, commenting on why they had chosen it and what they had noticed about the illustrations and the style of drawing and painting. It soon became clear that there are lots of common features in the illustrations – we noticed that the colour palettes are very similar and that Jeffers obviously likes turquoise and orange backgrounds. His animals and characters also have a very particular, simple style and

are always placed on a shadow to situate them within the landscape. Lots of children noticed how good he is at painting light and reflections, and we had a good look at how he makes objects appear to be 3D.

We had great fun poring over the tiny details in the pictures and then watched a couple of video clips of the artist at work. He explained how he draws the characters and how he uses light and shadows to add depth to the illustrations. We then got out the pens and paints and had a go at drawing and colouring our own versions of an Oliver Jeffer's character – the results were amazing, and the children were delighted. Once we had the main character, we experimented with a watercolour paint wash effect in turquoise and orange to create a background on which to build up a collage of some of his typical characters – the penguin, an octopus, red rockets, people and then the ever-present stars. Parts of the collage were made from our own drawings, and others were cut from pictures taken from the books themselves. The more the children worked, the more they noticed details in the books that they hadn't spotted before and were then able to bring these into their own creations.



We also had a week of performance poetry – learning several poems remarkably quickly and performing them individually and in small groups. This was a fun exercise and brought the poetry alive, particularly as we were then able to have a poetry workshop with the Year 1 class on Friday afternoon, sharing poems that they had written and learnt, and the ones that we had enjoyed. There's nothing quite like an audience to bring a performance alive! Everyone participated and there was some great group work and kind collaboration, with people prompting forgotten words and making excellent suggestions for how to interpret the different poems.

Altogether it was a very enjoyable and productive week. Well done Year 3s for being flexible and hard-working – you did yourselves proud 😊. Mr. Tranter will be glad to see you again next week.

Mrs. Irakoze and Mrs. Still.

Year 4

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to see the children back from their Cornimont adventure this week, it was tiring but exciting and wonderful! This week in class we have resumed our chocolate topic and we are sad that its coming to an end next week, hasn't the time flown by?! The children were extremely excited about finally making some



chocolate of their own to try. We discussed the recipe, talking about the importance of the different sections – ingredients, equipment and method. We discussed the use of headings and subheadings and the choice of punctuation and vocabulary too. We talked about the importance of using a scale to measure ingredients carefully in grams and what the consequences could be if you don't carry out this step carefully!

Also, in our literacy lessons we continued with our 'Write stuff' spelling lessons. We concentrated this week on using a dictionary to look up spellings and



practiced ordering series of words by alphabetical order when the first section of the words contained the same letters to facilitate us finding words in a dictionary more quickly and easily. We also discussed using a thesaurus to find synonyms (words with similar meaning) as this can be a useful tool to make our writing more interesting and exciting. We read on with our story 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and are getting close to the end. We are enjoying reading about what happens to each of the children on the factory tour...some sections of the book are very funny!



In maths we reviewed unit fractions and discussed how they are related to division. The children solved some simple division problems and matched them to their equivalent fraction. We also did some work on doubling three digit numbers using the partitioning method.

In science we revised our entire unit on teeth and eating including labeling the four main types of teeth and locating them in the mouth, describing their functions, the parts and function of the digestive system and food chains including the terms producer, prey, predator, consumer, decomposer. In PE we concluded our unit on hockey with a couple of short games, putting all the skills we have learned together about passing, defending and tackling.

You should all have received your time and day for the parent teacher meetings now along with the zoom link to click on for the meetings via Edmodo message. Please let me know if you are unable to locate it.

Talk topic – Is Willy Wonka a genius or a madman? Explain your viewpoint.

And that was our week! I hope you have a great weekend,

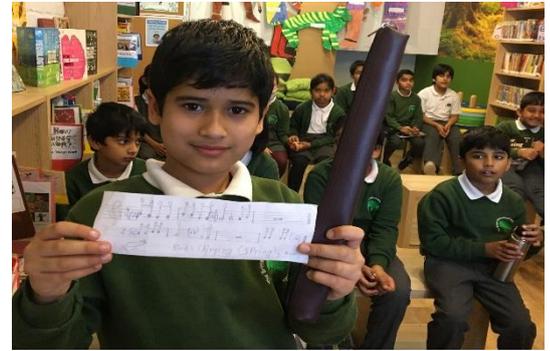
Camilla Rutayisire year4teacher@telenet.be

Music - Oak Building: Years 3 & 4 with Miss di Fine

This week we talked about F. J Hayden, a famous Austrian composer. One of his most important compositions is called the "Surprise Symphony" so named for the "surprise" - a startlingly loud chord - that interrupts the otherwise soft and gentle flow of the second movement. In classical music dynamics (loud or soft) are essential as they can reflect the concept expressed by the composer, as with the different shades of an artist's painting.



We sang the song “J’entends le moulin”(I can hear the windmill), respecting all the different dynamics. We also had our talent show with our recorders! Children had to bring their own little composition and play it for the whole class. For the link of the song: [J'entends le moulin alto - YouTube](#)



French - Oak Building

Year 3:

In French with Madame Scharf, we dedicated the week to “être and avoir” in the present tense and only the singular forms: “Je, tu, il, elle”. We answered questions like “Qu’est-ce que tu as dans ton cartable/ta trousse?”, “Est-ce que tu as des frères et sœurs?” We practised both verbs in a sentence: “Je suis indien et j’ai une petite soeur”. We also reviewed all French salutations and expressions to say goodbye.

Year 4:



In French with Madame Halvorsen, we looked at **les noms communs** (nouns) in the **masculine** and **feminine** forms as in **policier/policière**, **agriculteur/ agricultrice** etc.. then we looked at **le pluriel des noms**, and we explored the special plurals of nouns ending in – **al, eu and ou**’. We noticed that generally nouns ending in **-al** in the singular, such as ‘cheval, the plural is **chevaux**, and those ending in **eu** in the singular, such as **Jeu**, the plural is **jeux**, and those ending in **-ou** in the singular, such as

chou, the plural is **choux**. We also discovered that nouns and adjectives ending in **’S**, are invariable in the singular and plural, they stay the same. We went on looking at the masculine & feminine **adjectives (beau-belle, vieux-vieille, gros, grosse etc..)** and how they mostly go after the nouns and must agree in gender and number with the nouns they describe. We also saw that they are often used with verb **’être**’. While exploring



’les adjectifs’ we noticed that there are invariable adjectives that stay the same with masculine and feminine nouns, such as **’rapide, triste, riche, pauvre**’ etc.

We had several **collective** and **individual activities** to practice, and we had **some fun role-playing** activities using the adjectives **to describe ourselves**.



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

In French geography and history in Year 3 and 4, we studied the three regions of Belgium and the three linguistic communities. We also learnt that Flanders and Wallonia are each divided into 5 provinces with a main town. We placed Cornimont on the map and realised it is located in the province of Namur in Wallonia. In year 4, we placed all 10 provinces and their main town on our own map. In Year 3, we worked on a big puzzle of the map of Belgium and its main towns.