



The British International  
School of Brussels

Dear All,

This week's Newsletter includes the highlights of the week from each class after a week of celebrations to mark the end of a half term of hard work, discovery and enjoyment of learning across the school. It's hard to believe that we have already had nine weeks back, but we can definitely see that the children have fully settled into their classes and are generally well on track to meet the challenges of the rest of the year. The routines are well established and the energy, enthusiasm and contagious smiles in the classrooms are a testimony both to the hard work of the teachers in making every day productive and special, and to the children's genuine desire to make the most of every moment. We are very proud of them!

Thank you all for the overwhelming support expressed during the Parent-Teacher meetings this week. Your participation in the learning journey is invaluable and makes a real difference to the way in which your child rises to the challenges of every school day, and to the essential communication between home and school. We hope that you found the meetings helpful and informative. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or worries at any stage of the term – the parent-teacher meetings present an overview of a term's work with a forward look at points for consideration and improvement, but we are always available for day-to-day concerns or questions. Please remember however, that teachers are busy throughout the school day and do not necessarily see emails or Edmodo messages until very much later in the day or the following morning!

The next half term promises, as ever with the Christmas term, to be busy and exciting. New topics will be starting in many classes, everyone will be preparing for the Christmas productions and the buildings will start to ring again to the sounds of singing and music as the rehearsals begin. Visits and workshops are planned, LAMDA sessions start and clubs continue, and the Year 2s return to the swimming pool after nearly two years absence – details have already been sent out and there are reminders in the newsletter and on Edmodo.

In the meantime, we wish you a peaceful, and above all safe, autumn break - make the most of the time to relax and enjoy family time together. Safe journeys to all those who are travelling, we hope that your families and friends are well and excited to see you all after long periods away from home. Don't forget to catch up with the photos on the website; the highlights of the week in the class reports below are just snapshots of the fun we have had this week 😊.

Do take care of yourselves, we look forward to seeing everyone back on **Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> November**.

The new entrance hall display  
in Acorn celebrating the  
magic of stories!

## Newsletter for the week of October 29th, 2021

Miss di Fine plays her violin to the Year 1 children and the Lords, Ladies, Knights, Kings & Queens of Year 2 in the autumn sunshine on party day!



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



## Stars of the Week



### Nursery:

Jathin, for exploring the pumpkin seeds with curiosity!

Mishika, for playing well with her friends and trying hard to share and take turns.

### Reception:

Advik, for being kind and taking care of his friends when one of them was feeling upset.

Rachit, for his interesting work with 2D shapes and finding them in real life objects.

### Year 1:

Loshinimai, for thoughtful contributions to our discussion about Picasso's cubist portraits.

Abeer, for working so hard on his reading comprehension activities.

### Year 2:

Sudeeksha, for having the confidence to read her lovely story aloud to the class

Rishmitha, for her dedication in all subjects, and her fantastic progress in reading.

### Year 3:

Ishaan, for an excellent result in our Science quiz.

Stairya, for her lovely thank-you letter.

### Year 4:

Inaaya for coming up with some great observations about the differences between the book and the film of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Niteesh for finding lots of great words in our Halloween-themed word-builder challenge.

### Year 5:

Kashinath for making a very quick and accurate deduction to solve a maths problem

### Year 6:

Saumya for her positive and determined attitude throughout our SOE week at Cornimont.  
Impressive!



Celebratory  
Passing out  
parade for the  
Years 5 & 6



## EYFS Nursery

This last week in Nursery was full of fun experiences as usual, but the biggest difference was that we were all allowed to dress up on the last day! The children were overjoyed to come to school in all of their autumn colours or party finery 😊. The teachers had a bit of dressing up fun too, especially Mrs Davies in her bright orange pumpkin outfit!



We also learned some fun facts about pumpkins, (real ones that is), and we took a peek inside one to see what was there and, like magic, we found pumpkin seeds, which we smelt, felt and tasted if we were brave enough. We also found out that if we plant the seeds in a big pot with soil or in the garden, we get more pumpkins next year. The Nursery sessions ended on Thursday with each child adorning their wonderful pumpkin hat, which was, of course, designer made.

Have a fabulous half term and we will see you very soon!

Alison Davies, Anna Nagy and Vanessa diFine. [nurseryteacher@telenet.be](mailto:nurseryteacher@telenet.be)



## EYFS Reception

Dear Parents,

This week has finished in the most exciting way, having a dressing-up party in our class! The children were over the moon with all the nice costumes, hats and wigs that we provided for them to wear. We had music and dancing and after that some nice crisps, fruit and juice which they really enjoyed. Check out our Edmodo page for photos of the event.



We have been working a lot on 2D shapes this week, recognising them in drawings, in storybooks and creating wonderful pieces of art with them. Gardens, windmills, animals and special machines are a quick example of the things your children have done with shapes. In the home school book you will find an activity to do during the holidays. They each have two sheets with shapes of different sizes and colours that they have to cut out and use to create a monster and/or whatever they'd like. Please stick their creation in the home school book so we can see it when they bring it back to school. For all of this amazing work we were inspired by two very different stories, 'Mouse shapes' by Ellen Stoll Walsh and 'Round is a tortilla' by Roseanne Greenfield.

In Literacy we have been reading with the children and we have introduced the letter sounds 'e' and 'u'. For this we have played with three letter words that have 'e' and 'u' in the middle and then we had fun inventing new words that had no sense but that helped us to practice the sounds.



Thank you to all parents for taking the time to have our meeting, as always, your support is very much appreciated and it is nice to have an instance during which we can talk about the children for a little longer than at the school door.

Have a wonderful holiday!

Mrs. van Wassenhove and Mrs. Julaton [receptionteacher@telenet.be](mailto:receptionteacher@telenet.be)



## Year 1

Dear Parents,



Not only do the children in Year 1 work hard, they party hard too! This week we celebrated the end of the half term and all of the learning that has happened. We LOVED watching Michael Rosen perform his poem 'Chocolate Cake'! The children were enthralled and begged to watch it again. It seemed only right that we had our own chocolate cake to eat as we watched for a third time! We put a chocolate topping onto a sponge cake and decorated it with sprinkles. Delicious!

I enclose the link to the video of the poem here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BxQLITdOOc>

Thursday was a day-long party to celebrate the end of our science work on the five senses. There were fun activities, party games, cooking and food galore! As the children were able to wear their own clothes for the occasion, we had our very own Senses Fashion Show where the children strutted down our makeshift catwalk and threw a pose at the end. It was great fun. We also enjoyed listening to a beautiful violin performance from Miss di Fine in the garden whilst the autumn leaves were swirling to the ground. We can't wait for next half term!



Have wonderful break!

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



## Year 2

Dear Parents,

A day of medieval festivities and a marvellous medieval banquet were a very apt and enjoyable way to end this half term's hard work by all the Year 2 children. It was a pleasure to welcome all the smartly dressed princesses, princes, kings, queens, knights, soldiers and one spy. I hope they have found the time to show you their swords, shields and goblets. Many thanks for the delicious food that you sent in, and for the effort spent on costumes. In addition to the banquet, we enjoyed a parade of all the guests, games of quoits and skittles, a hobby horse rescue, and some story telling. We were treated to a violin recital by Ms. Di Fine. A very big highlight was a Zoom call with Ms. Bird, which gave the children the chance to thank her for arranging and preparing the sumptuous banquet. She was delighted to see the children and hear their ideas.



In their writing lessons this week, the children planned and wrote their stories, based on our work on George and the Dragon. It is impressive to see the children building up their ability to focus on writing for longer bouts of time, and also their skills in rereading and editing their stories.

In our phonics lesson, we looked at the sounds or, ar, ear and air. The children are now bringing home a list of common words each day, with their reading books. They should take some time to read through the words, spot them in their reading books, and practise writing them.

In our mathematics lessons this week, we practised adding and subtracting multiples of ten to and from 2-digit numbers. We revised simple number facts, and we saw the relationship between addition and subtraction.

Please encourage your child to take some time during the holiday to write a couple of sentences about each day's activities in the holiday diary that they have brought home for homework. **Talk topic: how would you entertain guests at a party?**

We wish you a very happy week's holiday.

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

## Year 3

Dear Parents,

We have been on a mission this week in Year 3 – a mission to finish off all our outstanding projects before the half-term holidays! Starting with our Science topic, we had a couple of revision sessions (it's been a while since we started our work on food and nutrition!) and did our end-of-unit assessment in the form of a multiple-choice quiz. In Art, we put the finishing touches to our Mondrian-style animal paintings, and realised how much better they look with the all-important black lines. We also finished off the Oliver Jeffers artwork from last week, and both sets of pictures will be going on display very soon. As well as all that we managed to fit in a writing exercise on letter-writing (a thank-you letter to Mrs Still and Mrs Irakoze for their fun lessons last week) and some Maths work on doubles and halves (including odd, 2-digit numbers), plus an introduction to fractions of shapes.





In November, we will start work on our new topic, about Chinese history and geography, and a new Science unit on light and mirrors. We also have the Christmas show to prepare, so it's going to be busy! **Talk topic** for the first week back at school will be: 'What do you know about China?'

Enjoy the break, see you on Monday 8<sup>th</sup>.

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

## Year 4

Dear Parents,

Wow, this term has gone by in the blink of an eye, and what a busy and productive term it has been with the Cornimont residential trip and all of our exciting learning in school. It was lovely to meet with you at the parent-teacher meetings this week to discuss how your child has settled into year 4, I hope you found the meetings useful. I would also like to take the opportunity to say 'Happy Diwali!' to those who celebrate it, I hope that you have a great day.



This week we finally finished our text for this term 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and we felt both excited to reach the end and finally find out what happened, but also a bit sad that it has come to an end because we've enjoyed it so much! We discussed how the book differed from the 2005 film and the children answered some comprehension questions about the final few chapters. In our spelling lesson we practised using our focus five words in sentences and guessing words from their definition and spelling them accurately. In Maths we revisited unit fractions and compared them in pairs to see which was greater/smaller. We also practiced simplifying fractions and spotting equivalent fractions. In Science we started a new topic on electricity by discussing electrical safety.

Kind Regards,

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

## Year 5

In Y5 this week, we sieved and filtered to separate materials; calculated perimeter and converted cm into m; subtracted using 'long form'; and started a new Mrs C Unit for creative writing.

It's been a long time since the children did the 'Write Stuff' and the refresher course was a very enjoyable Experience Day, making toy train sets and visiting the nearby underground tram station to listen to its sounds and experience its sights and smells. The writing that it produced was super.

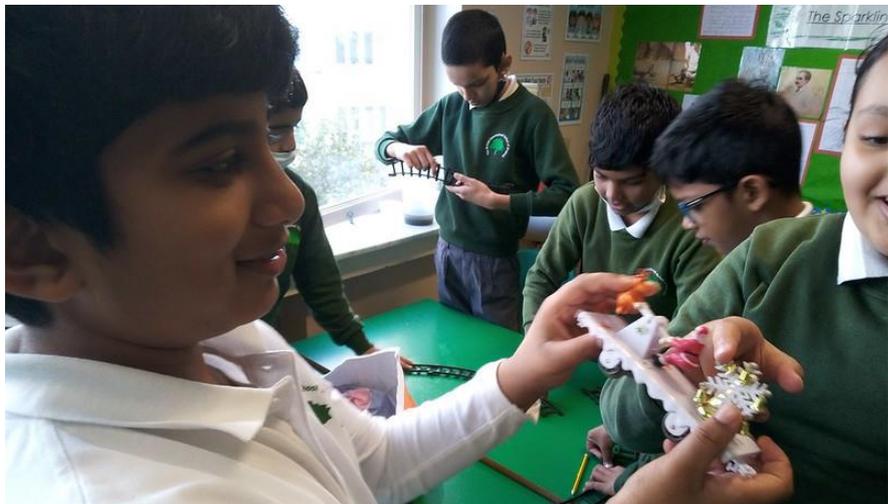
Apart from modelling the Christ the Redeemer statue of Rio, the class had to pass out of SOE school with their certificates and the majority passed with merits. And with a small, well-earned prize too! 👍😊

**Talk Topic:** What will you miss most about Cornimont?

And that was our week!

Tim Stedman

[year5teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year5teacher@telenet.be)



## Year 6

Dear Parents,

We have been going around in circles this week, recovering from: an amazing week in the Ardennes, a serious lack of sleep and learning about circles in maths. The pupils studied: chord, diameter, radius, minor and major segments, sector and arc. They learnt how to construct a circle and perpendicular bisector. Using string, they conducted an investigation about the relationship with the diameter. Finally, using Pi (our exciting new friend) the pupils used formulae to calculate circumference, diameter and area.

Our topic this week has been the incredible life of Alan Turing, which also included watching the film, The Imitation Game. This is a thought-provoking film, and there is much discussion to be had on our return. We created a timeline of Alan Turing's life, for our new Bletchley Park display. This project does include age-appropriate, child - friendly explanations about LGBT terms gender identity and sexual orientation.

It was a pleasure discussing how your child has settled into life in Year 6 – we are on track – all systems go!

TT: Joan Clarke – does she deserve more recognition for her work on cracking the Enigma code?

Enjoy the half-term holiday.

Best wishes,

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



## French

In Reception, we continued talking about Autumn and the beautiful colours we can see around us. We could not visualise umbrellas (parapluie) and boots (bottes) because the weather has been so fabulous this week but with the help of visuals and songs we could imagine the rain (la pluie) and the clouds (les nuages). We sang "pomme de reinette et pomme d'api" <https://youtu.be/pwGR7vpQVCo> and a counting-out rhyme "une pomme verte, une pomme rouge, une pomme d'or - c'est toi qui es dehors".

In Year 1, we continued talking about the four seasons and the weather. We talked more specifically about Autumn : the colours, the fruit .... We also answered the questions : "Qu'elle est ta saison préférée ?" and

sang the song “C’est l’automne” based on the Frère Jacques tune. We also read a nice Halloween story and learnt to say “des friandises ou des bêtises” the equivalent of “trick or treat”.

In Year 2, we continued our four seasons topic and wrote all weather characteristics in our book. We presented the weather and we all said which is our favourite season : “Ma saison préférée est l’été parce qu’il fait chaud” or “J’aime toutes les saisons excepté ...”. On Thursday, we dressed up and described who we were : “Je suis un roi, une reine, un prince indien, une princesse, un chevalier, un soldat”.

In Year 3, we carried on using “être and avoir” in the present tense and only the singular forms. We practised telling our age again and again so that we learn to say “J’ai 8 ans” and NOT “Je suis 8 ans” !!! We also worked on a few sentences we use a lot during lunch time : “J’ai oublié ma boîte à pique-nique. Est-ce que je peux aller LA chercher ?” “la” being a pronoun replacing “boîte à pique-nique” being féminin. We also used the pronoun “en” for “j’ai oublié une fourchette. Je peux aller EN chercher une ?” We also revised the colours to be able to write them in the feminine form and worked in our exercises books learning the sound “ou” for Bonjour.

In French geography and history in Year 3 and 4, we revised the three regions of Belgium and the three linguistic communities. In year 3 we discovered the five provinces in Flanders and Wallonia. In Year 4, we located on a map of Belgium many cities we knew about or have visited. We also learnt that the Belgian coast is 67 km long.

In Year 5, we revised everything we had learnt about Belgium before going to Cornimont and this time the children could even tell me why Brussels was called the capital of Europe. We talked briefly about the European Union.

In Year 6, we read a summary of everything we have been learning so far about Belgium on the timeline with la Gaulle Belgique, les Francs (King Clovis), les Mérovingiens (Charlemagne) and feudalism (la féodalité) a set of legal and military customs in medieval Europe that flourished between the 9th and 15th centuries with a system of land ownership and duties. Many cathedrals and fortresses (châteaux forts) were built then.

#### Year 4

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we revised ‘avoir’ and ‘être’, we practiced working on exercises using nouns with ‘les adjectifs’ with feminine and masculine nouns to see how they agree in gender and number with the noun. After which, we had a test that covered these topics. We also looked at ‘Action verbs’ (jouer, chanter, danser, dessiner, donner etc..) and how to



conjugate the regular verbs ending in ‘ER’, we sang and role-played questions and answers, and we used this opportunity to discuss how to express ‘la négation with ne-- pas’. Then, we wrapped up the week talking about ‘Halloween’ and acted the images we associate with this Celtic festival such as ‘ la citrouille, la sorcière, le balai, le chat noir, le fantôme, la maison hantée, le vampire, les bonbons’ etc.. we had so much fun flying with bats and chasing ‘la chauve-souris’ and ‘les vampires’!

#### Year 5

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we started talking about **les sports et les loisirs**. We explored vocabulary related to fun activities such as ‘la voile, le patinage, l’équitation, l’escalade, la danse etc..and we talked about musical instruments and other sports such as



'l'accordéon, la guitare , le piano, le volley, le golf, le basket etc. . We looked at **faire** (de la, de l', du) to express something we practice and do, while we use **jouer** ( à la, à l', au, aux) to express 'the playful' side of things. We explored the regular verbs ending in **Er**, the conjugation of regular -Er verbs and the Irregular verb **Faire**, and we learned expressions that are used with **faire** such as '**Faire les courses, faire la vaisselle, faire la lessive** etc.. After which, we got ready to sing songs, solve Halloween riddles, act, and talk about ideas and words related to this spooky festival such as '**la citrouille, l'araignée, la momie, la sorcière, le chaudron, le balai, le chat noir, le zombie, le squelette, la chauve-souris, la maison hantée, les friandises**' etc..We had a terrific time chasing **la sorcière** and her friends '**les momies**' from **la maison hantée!**

Year 6



In French with Madame Halvorsen, we started talking about '**le passé composé**' and the use of this past tense. We learned that this particular tense is used with two different auxiliaries,

'avoir and être', but we started looking at the passé composé with '**avoir**' and the

**participe passé** (past participle) known as **p.p.** We learned that some past participles can be easy to determine, especially those pertaining to the first and the second verb group while the verbs of the third group tend to have irregular past participles that we just need to learn. We had some interactive activities, and exercises to get used to speaking and thinking in the **passé composé**. It was a fun and an exciting challenge to all of us. And since, we talked about '**avoir**', we got to revise all the different expressions we use with it, such as '**Avoir raison, avoir tort, avoir de la chance, avoir hâte de, avoir besoin de, avoir peur de** etc..

After which, we got to talk about Halloween, solve riddles, act and role-play words and ideas related to this Celtic festival such as **la chauve-souris, la sorcière, le chaudron, la toile d'araignée, le balai, le chat noir, le cercueil, la maison hantée** etc. We had so much fun chasing **les vampires et les momies!**

## Music

**Reception:** This week we enjoyed singing all the songs learnt during the autumn term which are based on our current class topic: "All about me". On top of it we also learned a new song called "family tree". We will soon start rehearsing all the songs which we will then perform at our winter show for Christmas. We are so excited!

**Year 1 and Year 2:** We have officially started our mission! After the holidays we will be very busy learning and singing our Christmas show songs. The play is called *Eddie the Penguin Saves the World!* and it is all about environmental issues, from recycling to saving water and energy.

We talked about the story and all the characters that are taking part in it and we listened to all the songs that we will sing. We already love it and we definitely can't wait to work on it!



**Year 3 and year 4:** This week we discussed and listened to Camille Saint-Saens' mystical piece called "*Dance Macabre*" ("*The Dance of Death*"). This musical piece is based on the famous poem by Henri Cazalis. Notable in this composition is the use of the xylophone to represent the skeleton's bones' sound while they are dancing. The composer was able to describe the dark context of the poem in a majestic and melodic waltz.

Here you will find the link of the composition: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71fZhMXIGT4>

We also played our recorders and started to listen to the songs from “Aladdin”, which will be our winter show musical piece!



**Year 5 and Year 6:** This week we have stepped into Igor Stravinsky's world (a Russian modern composer) learning about his famous composition “The Firebird”. This masterpiece is a ballet and orchestral concert work based on a fairy tale. We focused on one of his movements called the “Infernal Dance, an elaborate and energetic dance”. Please follow the link to listen to the dance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmRU6cJeVDs>

On top of this, we have been playing our recorders and started rehearsing for our winter show play, *Aladdin*.

## Information for the week



- Many thanks for the recent efforts to ensure that children arrive on time every morning.

Please note that the entrance doors in both the Acorn and Oak buildings will be **closed at 9h** each morning after half term so that the lessons in each building can start promptly at 9h.



- Thank you to everyone who responded to the request to return permission and contact forms – there are, however, still a few outstanding. Please make sure that these are returned for the beginning of next term.



- The first **LAMDA** club sessions start after the holiday in the Oak building. Children from years 3 & 4 who have registered for the club meet on Tuesday afternoons from 15.40 – 16.30, and those from Years 5 & 6 meet on Thursdays. (No club on Nov 11<sup>th</sup>)
- **Parent-Teacher meetings:** We hope you found this week's meetings useful and informative. Any remaining meetings with class teachers will be scheduled for the first week back after the holiday, please check your class Edmodo page or contact your class teacher via email if you are unsure of your time. If you would like to meet with either Mme Scharf or Mme Halvorsen to discuss French, or with Miss di Fine to discuss Music, please contact the School Office and we will arrange a suitable time.



- Swimming lessons start for the **first group** of the Year 2 class on **Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> November**. Details have been sent electronically and on paper for the children concerned. | Please remember that children need a swimming hat and that boys must have a Speedo-style costume and not shorts – and that ALL clothes should be labelled with your child's name, otherwise you may well find that your child comes home in someone else's socks 😞 (at the very least!).



REMEMBRANCE DAY  
Let us not forget

- Please note that there is **no** school for children on **Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> November** as this is a public holiday to commemorate the Armistice.

- **Garderie:** Please inform the office at the **beginning** of the week if you would like your child to attend garderie.



- Please note that the 90-day deadline for written notice of departure for the end of the February half-term (Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> February) falls on **Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> 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**

*And a fitting thought at the start of a holiday week...*

