



The British International
School of Brussels

BISB Home School Letter: May 6th, 2022

EYFS Nursery

Dear Parents,

Hop on board the big red train.... The much-awaited Nursery train station has finally opened, along with our marvellous magical train, that can take us on any adventure we can dream up in our heads!

So far, we have journeyed to the unicorn forest, the dinosaur caves and we even attempted to go through an active volcano, but we were afraid the train might melt in the heat!! So, we built a track to the moon and back instead! With a little help from the teachers and their imaginative train journey stories the children are starting to get the hang of how much fun it is to use pretend play and have thoroughly enjoyed the different roles that they can play in the train. We have also added some large people puppets to journey with us - you will see the different characters in action if you take a look at the photographs on the Edmodo class



page. Puppets are a fabulous way to get children talking and are often used as prompts for a variety of language activities. Puppets can change the entire role play situation by creating more possibilities for creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and curiosity. Ask your little one if they can remember the names of each of our puppets and the adventures they went on together!

The train station has also created some great maths opportunities too, for example, the train needs only one driver, one ticket officer and has room for only four passengers. We asked the children to add all of the above together to find out how many people are allowed in the role play area at any one time. a number of children were able to do the simple addition technique by using their fingers to help! Some children made a calculated guess and others shouted out a random number, which is all good as it gets everyone thinking about quantity and gives real meaning to hands on maths. Although we did decide 100 people on the train might be a tad overcrowded - even by London Underground train standards!



We did go a little bit off track in the HSB this week, but for good reason, as it is Mother's Day on Sunday and your little one has got creative to show you just how much they love you and why they love you. We hope their little surprise makes you smile. They have already agreed that it's mama's special day to rest and relax and let daddy do all of the work!



The children were all feeling super creative this week and have enjoyed drawing, cutting and sticking activities in the mark-making area, this also lends itself to each child practising writing their name. Please remember, if you are doing name writing with your little one at home, always use lowercase letters with only the capital letter at the beginning.

Just a couple of quick reminders, the weather is generally warmer at this time of the year, so if your child has a lighter jacket to wear instead of their big, heavy winter coat, can you please swap them to this now. Thank you to everyone who has already swapped coats in of food in then between

Last but not least, some children are still bringing rather a lot of their snack boxes and rather a lot of cake and biscuits are appearing. If your little one enjoys eating fruit and vegetables please just put one chosen fruit or make a small fruit or vegetable salad if that is your preference. If there is a choice of fruit, veggies and cake in the same box then of course we all know what your child will eat first.... although we help everyone to open snack boxes and encourage each child to eat as much as they can etc. We are trying to create an atmosphere of independent eaters who don't need to be fed by the teacher or have to spend more than 30 minutes being constantly persuaded to eat what is in their box. We appreciate the importance of food for energy but if your child is bringing a lot of food back home, then it is because there is either too much for them or they are not able to

sustain eating independently. Thank you for your understanding.

Enjoy the weekend, especially you mamas, and we hope at least one of the chocolates made it home!

Our **talk topic** is: Think of 3 reasons why is it important to drink water.

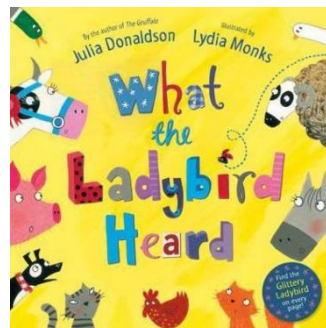
See you next week.

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

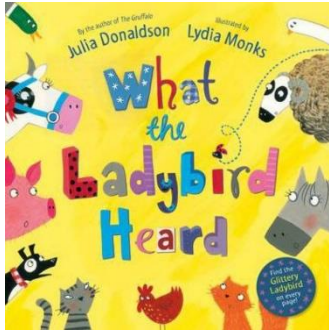
EYFS Reception

Dear Parents,

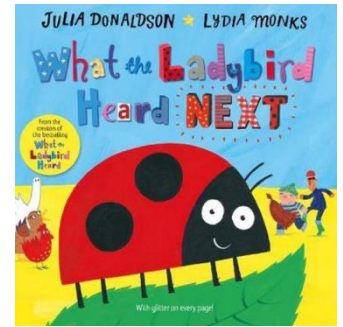
Our star minibeast this week has been the ladybird and I would even dare to say it is one of the top 5 preferred animals by the children in our class. There is something very cute about its shape and colour and the fact that they keep finding them in the playground makes it even more



special as they can observe them in their natural habitat. Some children have even named one ladybird 'Marshmallow' and, from what I gather from their conversations, it is the class pet 😊. To add to this enthusiasm we have been reading a non-fiction book about ladybirds and learned some facts about their life cycle. The book is called 'Are you a ladybird?' and was written by Judy Allen and Humphries.



In Literacy this week we have introduced the sound 'er' like in 'farmer', 'singer' and 'ladder' and we have been reading with the children in class. They are all taking their reading books home today, please make sure you read with them over the weekend and help them practise their blending and reading skills. Our



storybooks of the week have been related to our topic, 'What the ladybird heard' and 'What the ladybird heard next?' both by Julia Donaldson. They tell the story of a ladybird who lives in a farm and who finds out that two bad men have a cunning plan to steal one of the farm animals, and, clever as she is, she comes up with a plan to save the animals. The children loved the stories and we set up a small world play with farm animals for them to have a go at reproducing the story dialogues, repeating the animal noises and inventing new adventures for the two bad men. This is a good activity to help them develop their language and communication skills.



In Maths we have worked with number doubles up to 10 and in some cases up to 20. For that we have used the ladybird's body as reference and asked the children to double the dots they counted on one wing. You will find a piece of work related to this in your child's home school book. They also painted big ladybirds and had to be careful to paint the same number of dots on each side to double them later. These beautiful big ladybirds are showing off

on one of our classroom walls.

We have been very busy this week preparing our Mother's Day present. The children took it home on Friday and I wonder if they'll keep it secret until Sunday ... anyways, whichever day you open the present, I hope you will like it. The children worked hard to make it special for their beloved mums.

For our Art work this week we sliced potatoes in rounded shapes and we used them to print with red paint. The printed shape worked as a ladybird's body and then the children added spots with cotton buds and black paint. A meticulous job that



needed special concentration as the children had to focus on the use of their fine motor skills to hold the cotton bud and make small spots on the insect.

We dedicated our PE session to group games like 'Duck, duck, goose' 'What's the time Mr. Wolf?' and 'The fishing net'. The children always enjoy them a lot, especially when it is lunchtime for Mr. Wolf as they all have to run away before the wolf gobbles them up.

This has been another hard-working and busy week.

Our Talk topic for next week is: *Do you know why snails hide in their shells?*



Have a lovely weekend. Mrs. van Wassenhove and Mrs. Julaton receptionteacher@telenet.be

KS1 Year 1

Waiting for the show to start

Dear Parents,

The week began with such a treat as we visited the theatre to watch a really interesting play in French. We each had to bring a small picture of something we fear and had to post it into a box as we entered to watch the



show. I think we were all intrigued by the puppetry – it was amazing how a tiny movement could bring a character to life.

The children were excited by the whole experience and, as usual, demonstrated excellent manners and behaviour throughout. We were all very proud of them.



LITERACY

We have begun a wonderful new book that I know the children will love but... I can't reveal the title yet! This week, we have been making predictions about the plot and characters just from a few key illustrations. On Tuesday, they were shown an object from the book and they had to guess what the object was and what it was used for. We had some wonderfully creative ideas!



Is it a pirate leg?



Maybe it's a trumpet?

MATHS

This week we continued to find 1 more or 1 less, 10 more or 10 less than any number to 100. For some children, they now have really fast recall and can do this without any apparatus to assist them. For some, it is still useful to use things like number tracks, 100 squares and bead strings to help.



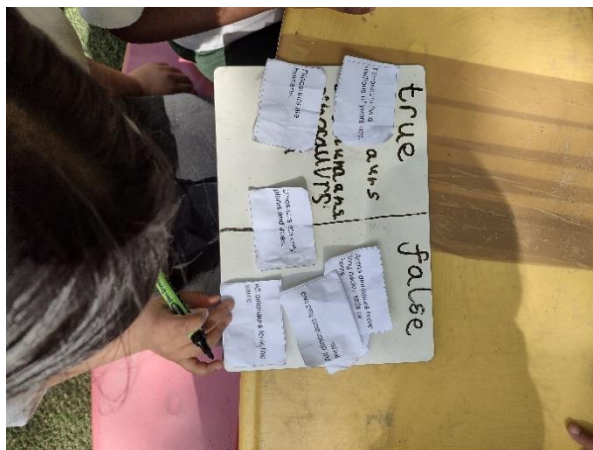
ART / DT

We have begun our preparations for the Summer Production and made bees that will decorate the theatre on June 14th. We also designed and made cards for someone VERY special to us, but we can't say too much about this until Sunday!

TOPIC

The children discovered that our new topic is... Dinosaurs! The children were presented with a tray of sand and had to dig around for some dino

information. Just like a paleontologist. They then had to decide whether the information was true or false. It was a very useful activity to establish the children's existing knowledge and interest levels at the very start of the topic.



Have a wonderful weekend!

TALK TOPIC: What are the five best things about your mum?

Miss Corrigan and Mrs. Bandaru
year1teacher@telenet.be



KS1 Year 2

Dear Parents,

We have enjoyed the first week of May in Year 2, planting a few more plants in the garden and taking the opportunity to eat outside.

Monday's trip to the Montagne Magique theatre was a wonderful experience. We saw some enchanting puppet shows, exploring things that make us afraid.

In our Maths lessons this week, we worked on subtraction in terms of finding the difference between two numbers. We learned how to see subtraction as missing number addition, and to count up from the lower number, so that $64 - 58$ can be solved as $58 + ? = 64$. We also practised using weighing scales to weigh objects in grammes and kilograms. It would be helpful if you could talk to your child about this, and perhaps involve your child in weighing out ingredients for cooking or looking for weights written on packets of food.

In our English sessions this week, we revised the concepts of nouns, verbs and adjectives. We also read a little more of our book, Zeraffa Giraffa, and, based on our reading, we composed lullabies, some of which have been brought home in the home school books for you to see. The children continued their guided reading sessions, and we are pleased with the progress of all the groups. We are working on fluency and expression in reading aloud, and on picking out unfamiliar words. We continue to practise handwriting, developing cursive handwriting.

In our Science lesson this week, we learned about the life cycle of a plant. We saw that for a plant to make a seed, it needs pollen. We examined some flowers and extracted the pollen.

In relation to our topic on Journeys, we worked on a timeline of transport, with the aim of developing a sense of chronology and of how things change over time. We discussed how certain discoveries enabled new inventions, including new forms of transport (for example, after the discovery of electrical power, electric trams could be invented).

We are looking forward to the Year 1 and 2 summer show, which will take place on June 14th. We have given scripts to the children. Each child's part is noted on her/his script, and their lines are highlighted. It would be very helpful if you could help your child to practise over the next couple of weeks.

Our Talk topic is: Does every living thing have a life cycle?

We wish you a very happy weekend.

Ms Read and Mrs Tolentino

Year2teacher@telenet.be



Music with Miss Di Fine - Acorn Building



Reception: this week we continued to rehearsal the summer show songs. We learned a new song called "Fun at the Seaside". All the songs are specifically written to cover themes such as going to the beach, playing with the sand, swimming in the deep blue sea etc..We also played the "I am a conductor" game where everybody had to play different rhythms and dynamics depending on the conductor's gesture!!



Years 1 & 2: We had so much fun learning the show's songs and joining the singing parts together with some nice dancing choreographies. The song we learned this week is called "Bee-Bop". It is written in a jazz style called Bebop or bop, developed in the early-to-mid-1940s in the United States. You can listen to it here: <https://youtu.be/qhhIDFRA8HM>.



We also played the game "Which instrument am I playing?"



French with Ms Kowalska - Acorn Building



This week, accompanied by sunny weather, we have been working on a spring theme. After reading a story about a little pink tulip and her friends the sun and the rain, we revised and enriched vocabulary related to clothing, played at making an umbrella and rain boots disappear, then at recognising sunglasses, a cap and shorts blindfolded, at pronouncing the word "imperméable" correctly - a real French tongue twister :)

The children then learned some names of spring flowers: a daffodil, a daisy, a dandelion, a poppy. We also took the opportunity to revise the colours.

On Wednesday and Thursday, we learned a song "Marguerite" and made a little present for all you Mums (Mother's Day in Belgium falls this year on Sunday 8 May). The children really liked the idea of making a present. With enthusiasm, they actively integrated the vocabulary related to crafts (folding, gluing, cutting with scissors, drawing, decorating, protecting the table, a sheet of paper, glue, coloured pencils). Some children were even able to use the new vocabulary to ask practical questions related to the making of their gift, in French. Have a go at singing these Henri Des songs, perfect for helping children to become fluent when speaking French.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWZHjrrn5Z8>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITnok3yxQG8>



KS2 Year 3

Dear Parents,

May is a very busy month, as the end of the school year approaches, and this year promises to be no exception! This week in Literacy, we wrote two more sets of sentences in our version of 'The Wolves in the Walls', practising some quite challenging features such as 'pathetic fallacy' (attributing human terms, qualities or emotions to non-human creatures or things) and relative clauses (a 'which' clause, preceded and followed by a comma). In grammar, we looked at the use of paragraphs in fiction and sub-headings in non-fiction, as well as revising some of the word classes (noun, verb, adjective etc). In our reading groups we read a non-fiction text about different types of bridge, and practised some fact retrieval and vocabulary exercises.

In Maths, we spent the week working on data handling, using data we gathered ourselves by some practical weighing. As well as using balance scales (for comparison as well as weight calculation) and common kitchen scales (where we have to read the scales accurately), we practised converting weights in kg and g into just grams and vice versa (e.g., 3kg 500g = 3500g). We used our data to create a bar chart, learning how to adjust the scale according to the range of data we had to display. We also practised drawing and interpreting pictograms, and learnt the importance of the explanatory 'key', where 1 symbol can represent 2 or more items or votes.

Our Science session was split between writing up our friction experiment from last week and starting our work on magnets. Having established that magnetism is a force (an invisible one), we investigated magnetic and non-magnetic metals by walking around the classroom and outside, seeing whether our magnets were attracted to all or only some of the metal objects in school. We were then able to make the connection between magnetic metals and the two main constituents of our planet's core – iron and nickel.



In our topic session, we focused on two inventors/discoverers who, while not perhaps as well-known as others, nevertheless made very important discoveries: George Washington Carver, who invented over 100 uses for the peanut, in order to convince people about his cotton crop rotation scheme, and Inge Lehmann, who revised everyone's understanding of the Earth's core, proving that it is solid, not liquid as previously thought.

We completed the first of our coding units, finishing off with a traffic light sequence, which the children had to program in the correct order and with the correct timing – and which they managed very successfully! And we ended the week with our archery competition, making our contribution to the Oak Department inter-house competition.

Online Maths homework will be 'Starfish Strike 3.25' and 'Reel It In 3.28'. **Talk Topic is 'Sir George Cayley or The Wright Brothers – who was first?'**

Technopolis next Friday - enjoy the weekend!

Patrick Tranter and Naomi Irakoze

year3teacher@telenet.be

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/157096587@N03/albums/72177720298608648>





Year 4

Dear Parents,

This week we continued with our 'Write stuff' unit on Valerie Bloom's 'The River'. We began the week with another experience day where we looked at each of the verses in detail, discussing her vocabulary choices and the meaning of new words. We saw an example of a river eroding its banks to see how it hoards and collects material, discussed and drew sea serpents in response to her metaphor that 'The River is a monster' and listened to some river inspired classic songs to understand her metaphor that 'The River is a singer.' We then wrote the first two verses of our own river inspired poems, remembering to try and keep the A-B-C-B rhyming pattern of Valerie Bloom's original work.

In our spelling sessions this week we worked on adding prefixes and suffixes to



make new words and we did an investigation to find out if 'augh' is the most common spelling of the /or/ sound. In our topic lessons we concentrated on e-safety this week with reference to three key themes – cyberbullying, sharing information and plagiarism. We discussed how the words we use online can still be as hurtful as when spoken face to face and we discussed reasons why we should be careful about sharing personal information online. We had a go at some block coding too, using variables and start and end events to make our own app game.



In Maths we learned about Roman numerals this week. We discovered that there are 7 key symbols needed to make numbers – I, V, X, L, C, D and M and we practised putting them together to make Roman numerals e.g VIII for 8 and XXV for 25. It was fun trying to crack the Roman numeral code! Also, this week we learned all about coordinates. We learned that you need to go 'along the corridor (x) then up the stairs (y)' in order to write them the right way round. We practised plotting coordinates on a grid to draw polygons and then we found out what happens to the coordinates when shapes are transformed (moved) around the grid.

In Science we continued with our topic, 'The Big Build'. This week we investigated the link between shape and strength in more depth and had a go at a challenge to make the tallest, strongest tower possible out of only one sheet of A4 paper. No glue, tape or scissors were allowed but folding and tearing the paper was acceptable. It wasn't easy at all but some of the results were impressive with some of these one-sheet paper towers holding more than half a kilo of weight!

In PE we continued with our unit on athletics and we had a go at the 'beep test'. The children had to run to reach a line before the next 'beep' with the interval between the 'beeps' getting gradually shorter and shorter each time. The children were impressive with their ability to keep the pace with most children trying really hard and managing to complete several levels.



Talk topic – Why do you think one of the metaphors chosen by Valerie Bloom to represent the river was a monster? What monstrous things can they do?

Kind Regards, Camilla Rutayisire Year4teacher@telenet.be

Year 5

Dear Parents,

We started the week with (almost) a bang. In Science, we mixed all sorts of potions (acids and bases) and the classroom became a veritable wizard's workshop. Hydrogen peroxide, yeast, washing up liquid, a bit of warm water and a touch of food dye for effect. Bicarbonate of soda, vinegar, kept a lid on with a balloon. All we had to do was add and do a bit of mixing or agitation, stand back and wait. (The Y5s were very excited to be wearing Mrs Tranter's safety goggles.)

Experiment 2 had clear and immediate results, but Demonstration 1 was a bit of a damp squib. But have no fear, we will try again next lesson knowing exactly what variables we can change to induce a bigger reaction.

(In the photo, the girls hang back in a mixture of apprehension and distance for filming!)



(Meanwhile that is not the Statue of Liberty in Topic but rather a triumphant Kuval and team; whilst Nevaan counts the number of times he felt his life was in danger!)

Literacy was a little sad this week as firstly 'One Small Step' moved us and then we said goodbye to Mrs C until Y6 as we completed our final unit of work. The children are currently using their impressive creative skillset to compose 'Another Small Step': Luna is now a mother herself and is trying to help her daughter reach her own dream.

In Numeracy, we learnt a broadly new method for division (which everyone liked) and then used it to find fractions of big amounts (which maybe not everybody did). I've noticed in Monster Maths that the children haven't all mastered finding fractions of 2-digit numbers so progressing to 3- and 4-digit numbers was a big step up for some. In the end, with a bit of visual example and knowing 'short form' division, the task became a lot easier than expected.

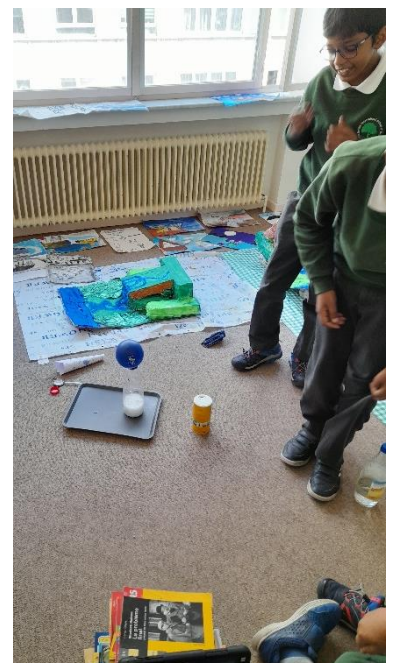
Elsewhere, the children mapped Route 66 with precision, continued to love doing iMovie trailers and several of the children made me very humbly-accepted and gratefully-received birthday presents. Happy birthday to Diya and me this weekend!

Talk Topic: Which is the most touching part of 'One Small Step'? Explain why?

And that was our week.

Best wishes

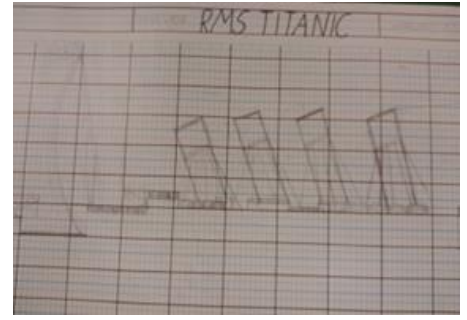
Tim Stedman year5teacher@telenet.be



Year 6

Dear Parents,

Another week, in glorious sunshine has flown by – the summer term is in full swing. The Oak cricket season began with Year 6 versus Year 4 – well played Year 6, and the 'Big Clobber' cricket competition starts on Monday 9th May, afterschool. Please note that LAMDA examinations will be taking place on Friday, 13th.

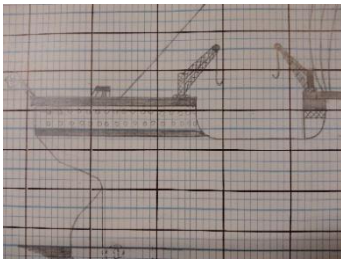


This week in maths, it was targeted revision for algebra and 2 and 3D shapes. Topics included:

- to identify, describe and classify 2D and 3D shapes based on their properties
- to revise properties of various types of triangles and use correct mathematical vocabulary to describe the features and properties of each.

Children also completed the 2019 Practice Arithmetic test.

Macbeth is tormented with regret and fear of what his future holds. At the same time, Lady Macbeth has descended into deep depression - walking and talking in her sleep – where she reveals details of her dreadful deed.



Armed with their knowledge of ship building, the Year 6 Harland and Wolff naval architects are busy creating their blueprint designs of RMS Titanic.

In Literacy, we corrected SPaG Grammar book 2: functions of sentences, sentences and clauses, noun phrases, co—ordination conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions and subordinate clauses. The children also completed the 2019 SPaG test and encouragingly, there were only a few errors.

In PSHE , students learnt about drugs, whether medicinal or illegal. We discussed: cannabis, cocaine and caffeine and watched a video explaining the side-effects of illegal drug use.

Talk Topic: What is the difference between a suppressant and a stimulant?

Happy weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter



Music KS2- Oak Building: Miss di Fine

Years 3 & 4:



This week we continued to practise recorders. We are also learning how to play the song "You are my sunshine" with the glockenspiels. This song includes an accidental note, the B \flat (B flat) or also called A \sharp (A sharp). In music, an accidental is a note of a pitch (or pitch class) that is not a member of the scale or mode indicated by the most recently applied key signature.





Furthermore, we talked about the Pop style and listened to the song Symphony from the author Clean Bandit and we played the body percussion game "Who is the impostor?". You can listen to the song here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tS7rVlmzesw>

Years 5 & 6:

This week we have been practising some duets with the recorders. We also talked about the Rock style and one of the most important bands of the genre: Queen. We are learning to sing one of their greatest

songs called "Don't stop me now".

We continued to rehearse and practise John Lennon's song, Imagine. Next Wednesday, together with year 5, we will sing this song for the Acorn children and teachers.

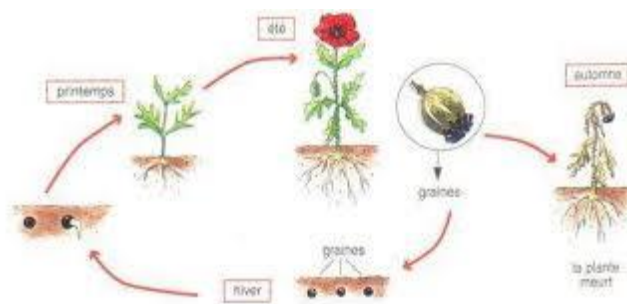


French - Oak Building:

Year 3: Ms. Kowalska

The children put the finishing touches to their Mother's Day cards and improved their pronunciation by learning and reciting a special poem for Mum.

The week continued with a botanical approach to the arrival of spring: the names of spring flowers (games and riddles using flash cards of flowers), the parts of a plant (making a picture book), the cycle of a plant (exercises using botanical vocabulary, reading and pronunciation exercises).



History, Geography and Culture of Belgium

This week we took a very close look at the painting "Children's Games" by the Flemish Renaissance artist Pieter Bruegel the Elder. This painting, painted in 1560, shows about 250 children playing more than 80 different games - an opportunity for us to use action verbs,

prepositions and colours. We also watched "Jeux d'enfants" a video by Francis Alys, a Belgian contemporary artist who films children from all over the world playing outside.

We saw part #18: knucklebones, and then learned the rules of this game so that we could play in small groups. Take another look at home and get practising!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9o5fyLGqDE0&t=128s>



Year 6

We placed Peter Bruegel's painting in its historical context, talked about King Charles V and worked with a map to better understand the saying of the time "the Sun never sets on the lands of Charles V" and to understand the reasons for the prosperity of the Netherlands and the port of Antwerp (international trade due to the exploitation of the natural

resources of Charles V's colonies in South America). This allowed for the development of fine arts and the Flemish Renaissance.

Year 4: with Mme Halvorsen

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we started the week by correcting our assignments about **mon corps** and we looked closely at the parts that are **masculine, feminine and plural** such as **le menton, le cou, le coude, la gorge, la dent, la main, les orteils, les yeux etc..** and we combined them with '**Avoir mal**' with the **preposition 'À, Au, Aux**. We also had a test and corrected it. After that we revised '**les vêtements, les adjectifs (couleurs etc..)** with **le verbe porter** (to wear) while paying attention to feminine and masculine nouns and how to modify the adjective to agree in gender and number with the noun such as '**je porte des chaussures vertes**'. Then, we made drawings of ourselves and our favourite clothes and colours, and we set up one on one interviews asking each other **Qu'est-ce que tu portes aujourd'hui?** After that, we went on imagining beautiful phrases for '**la fête des mères**' and drawing some lovely images for her.



Year 5:

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we had a clever and very funny play/scene '**aux urgences**' (the emergency room) between panicky patients and crazy doctors running around with their fake syringes. It was great to see how well they were able to use vocabulary related to **real-life situations** in their dialogues between '**le docteur et le patient**', such as : **Qu'est-ce qu'il t'arrive?** **Où as-tu mal? J'ai mal partout! As-tu de la fièvre? Ouvre ta bouche, voici le médicament! Combien c'est?** while still keeping in mind the use

of '**avoir mal**' such as **j'ai mal à la dent** , **tu as mal à l'oreille?** After that, we went on imagining and putting together beautiful and poetic phrases for '**la fête des mères**' and drawing some lovely images and decorations.



Year 6:

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we had an action-packed week with presentations and language exploration focusing on the different functions of '**Les pronoms**'. We looked at **the 'Pronom d'objet direct' (p.o.d)** , '**les Pronoms de Complément**' (such as '**en, y** ') and how they substitute the '**C.O.D**' or **le groupe nominal**. We also got to discuss where to place the **p.o.d** depending on the type of sentence (phrases with verbs and infinitives, or phrases using the imperative mode). We then, followed up with interactive class activities where they had to discuss among themselves the different phrases, find the right answer and explain their choice. After which we went on reciting brilliant poetic phrases for '**la fête des mères**' and making **some stunning and unique drawings !**

