



The British International
School of Brussels

EYFS Nursery

Dear Parents,



We hope you enjoyed your half term break - Welcome back to what is going to be a busy but interesting and fun latter half of the Autumn term! It has also been a short week with the public holiday on Thursday, so instead of launching straight into our new topic "The Sound of Music," we have had a week of books and have encouraged the children to recall and retell in their own words one or both of the stories from the books they took home over the holiday.

Encouraging your child to share a story with you and then encouraging them to retell what they have heard afterwards is a great way to enrich language development and give meaning to what they are listening to. Snuggling up together with a good book gives your child positive feelings, enthusiasm, and a lifelong love of real books. Listening to an audio story or watching it on screen is purposeful in its own right but will never replace the thrill of feeling the pages of a book, flicking back and forth between the story to see what has gone before and connecting it to what might happen next. Describing the illustrations and looking at the detail in each drawing lends itself to improving concentration and imagination and is more than passive listening, so it is absolutely worth making time to take a look and share a book, every day! If you look in your little one's home school book, you will see a photograph of them holding the books they took home over the holiday and a short, scribed text of what they remembered about them.

We also talked about the amazing Diwali celebrations that have taken place this week either at home, or elsewhere, and the children discussed their favourite aspects of the beautiful festival of light. Watching the fireworks and lighting the candles were the most popular! We also chatted about the wonderful Mehndi patterns that some of the children came to school with on their hands and then coloured in some of our own hand patterns and made it into a "Happy Diwali" card, which you can find in your child's folder.

During our music sessions with Ms di Fine, the children have started to practise the songs we have chosen for our Christmas show. These will kick start our new theme next week when all things musical will begin to be explored, from making our own musical instruments to using parts of our bodies to produce musical rhythms, to exploring sound waves, and making wind chimes - we certainly have an exciting few weeks ahead!

Thank you to everyone who zoomed in with Mrs Davies for their parent teacher meetings and for the lovely feedback on how you are seeing changes in a positive way, in how your child is blossoming in many aspects of their development since joining nursery. Our aim is to give your little one the best possible start to school life and foster a learning experience that will fill them with awe and wonder and, of course, provide them with the building blocks they need to reach their full potential in all areas of the EYFS curriculum and beyond!

Until next week wrap up warm to ward off the chilly air and don't forget to ponder our **Talk topic:** 'Why do stories have a beginning, a middle and an end? Do we always read them or tell them in that order?'

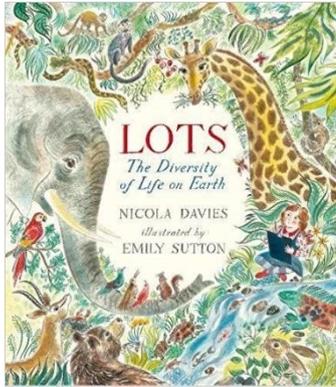
Thank you. Have a great weekend,

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

EYFS Reception

Dear Parents,

This week we have started our new topic 'Our Precious Planet Earth'. We will learn about why we need to take care of our planet and what things we can do take good care of it. This week we focused on the diversity of life in Earth: which living things we can find on our planet, in which environment they live and what happens to them when their environment is destroyed.



We had two storybooks related to this, 'Here we are' by Oliver Jeffers and 'Lots. The diversity of life in Earth' by Nicola Davies which has some beautiful and inspiring illustrations. Next week we will start talking about recycling.

In Maths we have been working on counting and number recognition. We played bingo with numbers 0-10 and 11-20 in different groups. Some children took turns to flip the number cards and call out the numbers, while others were busy looking for the numbers on their boards.

In Literacy we introduced the letter sounds 'r' and 'h'. We played different games in which we had to find missing letters in CVC words and build words by listening to the letter sounds. You will find a piece of work related to this in your child's Home School Book.

You will also find in your child's folder a small booklet about colours in French, to revise the language and colours at home. The booklet is to be kept at home.

In our Art session the children painted a beautiful Autumn scene with watercolours while listening to Vivaldi's Autumn concerto No. 3 from his 'Four Seasons' masterpiece.

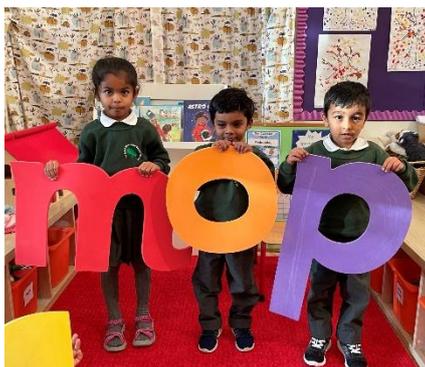


The children are all very excited about the ladybirds they are finding in the playground. There are lots of them and they come in every colour - red, orange and even a golden one! So, they have named one 'Marshmallow' and it has almost become the class pet. They put leaves together to make a little house for it and they encourage it to move from plant to plant to make it feel happy. Ask your child about our pet and see what they tell you.



The **Talk topic** for next week is: **What does it mean to recycle? Why do you think it is important for our planet Earth?**

Have a very nice weekend.



Mrs. van Wassenhove and Mrs. Julaton

receptionteacher@telenet.be

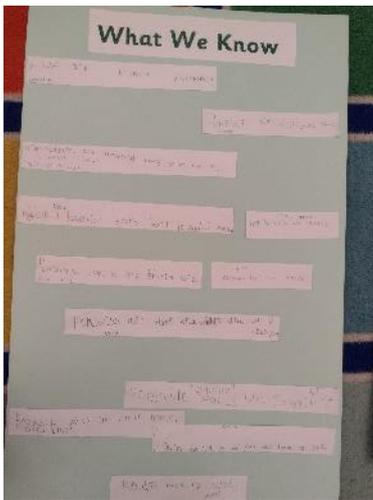


KS1 Year 1

Dear Parents,

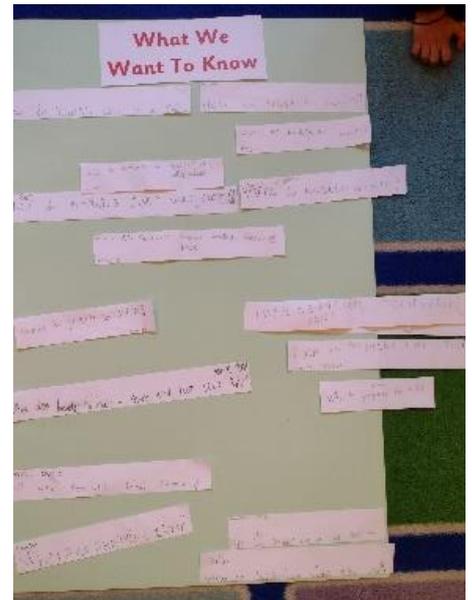
It was a pleasure to welcome the children on their return to school after the half term holiday. They were very excited to be back in school with all of their friends and couldn't wait to share their holiday news with us all. We launched straight into preparations for our winter production, 'Eddie the Penguin Saves the World'. The children have made a super start on learning the songs and have begun creating aspects of the scenery. I'm sure that within the next few weeks, everyone at home will be singing these songs too!

LITERACY



There was lots to write about in News on Monday – trips away, days out, Halloween and Diwali. The children were encouraged to use time openers such as 'Yesterday' or, 'At the weekend'. They were given reminders to orally rehearse their sentence before writing and then re-read their work to check it made sense.

We also began a unit of work on non-fiction animal texts, the first of which was 'Penguins'.



Before reading, the children were asked to write down what they knew, and, in the following lesson, they had to write what they wanted to find out. It was a great opportunity to use question words and question marks.



MATHS

We have spent some time this week revising bonds to 5, 6 and 10 and finding pairs of numbers which make 7. We have enjoyed joining in with the Number Bonds song to help us remember these number facts. We have also begun to use addition facts for 5, 6 and 10 to solve subtractions. So, for example, if we know that $3 + 2 = 5$, we also know that $5 - 2 = 3$. It is important for the children to understand that with subtraction calculations, the largest number must go first but when we add, the numbers can be in any order.

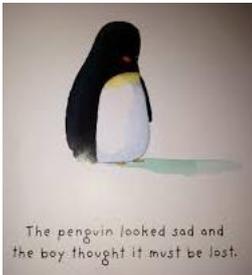
Dancing to the
Number Bonds song

ART

We have made a great start on creating some of the scenery for our winter production. This week, it was a whistle stop trip to the Brazil where children drew leaves to add to our rainforest. The children used crayons and oil pastels.

TOPIC

We began finding out about climate change as a way of deepening our understanding of the issues raised in the production. We looked at what causes it and some of the things that we can do to help look after our planet. The children cut out a selection of pictures and decided whether they could be classed as caring or uncaring. They were encouraged to give their reasons why.



TALK TOPIC: What do you know about the countries we visit with Eddie the Penguin? (Belgium, USA, Brazil and Australia)

Have wonderful weekend!

Miss Corrigan and Mrs. Bandaru year1teacher@telenet.be

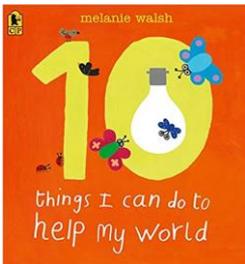
KS1 Year 2

Dear Parents,

This week, we began our new area of study for this half term: our world and how to protect it. We talked about the things that we love about our world, especially natural features of the landscape, including forest, *hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, valley, cliff, coast, beach, field, grass, trees, plants, flowers, animals*. This geographical vocabulary is part of this week's homework: the children have a chance to draw a landscape picture, including (some of) these features, and to label them.



In their writing sessions, the children used adjectives and ambitious vocabulary to create expanded noun phrases, such as: *I love the oceans, which are brimming with beautiful coral and teeming with shiny fish*. In our phonics lesson, we focused on *all (ball, call, fall etc.)*, and or sound, spelt *aw, au, our, or*.



In our Environmental Science lesson, we talked about some of the problems that our world faces, and about what we can do to help, referring to the book **10 things I can do to help my world**

In Science, we talked about the things that humans need to live, with special focus on happiness and coping with difficulties. We also noted that we need food and oxygen, and that for us to stay healthy, we need our planet to stay healthy.

Our study of our world and how to protect it is part of our preparation for the Year 1 and 2 show, which is to take place on Monday 6th December. Being involved in the preparation and production of the show is a wonderful opportunity for the children. They develop their language skills and gain considerable confidence through memorising lines, learning to speak in front of an audience and remembering when and where to move on the stage.



In Mathematics this week, we continued to work on mental strategies for adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers, with a special focus on adding the tens first, and then adding the units, or subtracting the tens, then subtracting the units. This requires a solid grasp of place value, so, to ensure the children have that solid understanding, we have been using *Dienes* cubes and 10p/1p coins in our work in class. The children also have a homework sheet on place value.

Next week's work is on measurement, hence the **Talk topic** this week: **Why do we sometimes need to measure the length or height of something?**

Mrs. Read and Mrs. Tolentino year2teacher@telenet.be

Music - Acorn Building: Reception, Years 1 & 2



Reception:

And off we go! All the joy and magic of the Christmas songs have started to ring around the building again. The Reception children are working hard at listening and learning all the songs that they will perform at the Christmas show. At the moment we are focusing on just a few of them.

Years 1 and 2: In Years 1 and 2 this week we have practised the first five songs of our play 'Eddie the Penguin', which we will perform at the Christmas Show. We also enjoyed trying out all the actions, together with the music, as they really help us to memorise the words of the songs.

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

Reception: In French we have started our new topic : clothes. We described how we dress for cold weather and then we added other items of clothing. We listened to a special song about a wolf getting dressed in the forest which will help us learn the clothing vocabulary
<https://youtube.com/watch?v=AjYuK9cB8X8&feature=share>

Year 1: This week we practised counting up to 20 with the help of this song <https://youtu.be/dhj9SqrIZqI>. We also resumed our story of Tourloulou, who is now in the country of colours and is playing with the animals. We will be learning prepositions.

Year 2:

We read a story about a chameleon who tried to be a different animal but in the end he decided to be himself : small, slow and patient. This story gave us the opportunity to discover many adjectives to describe ourselves and we had a great and fun time describing ourselves as "bavard/bavarde", "beau/belle", "intelligent/intelligente", "foufou/fofolle", "fort/forte", "curieux/curieuse" etc etc.

KS2 Year 3

Dear Parents,

Although this has been a short week, we have made a good start on our new projects for this term. We set the scene for both our new writing unit and our new topic by spending a session looking at and listening to a variety of things associated with China, such as landscapes, trees, flowers, building styles, boats, paintings, patterns, writing, music and the story of the Chinese Zodiac. This put us in the mood for our first 'sentence stacking' session on our new book 'The Magic Paintbrush', a traditional tale about a girl in ancient China. Inspired by the Zodiac story, we also made a start on our first art project – a dragon puppet.



Our new Science unit is all about light, shadow and mirrors – we began with a selection of activities designed to draw out the key learning points: that 'sources of light' make or provide light (and do not include the moon or mirrors), that light is reflected off objects to enable us to see them, and that 'dark' is defined as 'the absence of light'.

In Maths, we revisited fractions of shapes, seeing how, as the denominator in a unit fraction becomes bigger, so the actual size of the fraction becomes smaller, e.g. $\frac{1}{2} > \frac{1}{3} > \frac{1}{4}$. Then we moved on to fractions of numbers, which proved more challenging. This is an example of an area of Maths which requires fast recall and use of times tables and their associated multiplication and division facts. We practised finding fractions of 'easy' numbers (e.g. $\frac{1}{3}$ of 15), then fractions of larger numbers (e.g. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 48) and progressed to finding more complex fractions (e.g. $\frac{2}{3}$ of 30).



The children have begun to practise the songs for our Christmas show, and they have been introduced to the play – work on learning lines, making stage props and costumes begins in earnest next week!

Online Maths homework for next week will be 'Marching Madness 3.7' – matching coins to amounts shown in £/p.

Talk Topic for next week is: 'Of the many aspects of Chinese culture we looked at last week, which did you find most interesting or attractive, and why?'

Also, next week (on Wednesday morning), we will be going to the Theatre de la Montagne Magique in Brussels, to see 'Le Grand Voyage de Georges Poisson', kindly organised for us by Mme Scharf. Should be fun!

Enjoy the weekend,

Patrick Tranter and Naomi
Irakoze

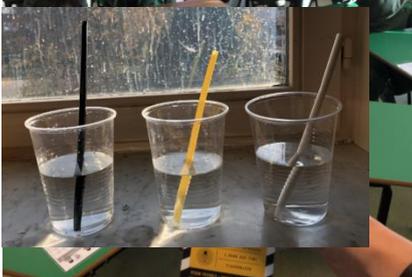
year3teacher@telenet.be



Year 4

Dear Parents

Welcome back to another fun and exciting term at BISB! We have started straight away with our new topic on 'Inventions' by discussing the 'stroodle' in our Mrs C Write stuff unit. This is a biodegradable alternative to plastic straws made out of pasta. Over the coming weeks, we will be learning how to write a persuasive advert to sell this product and then the children will write a persuasive advert of their own for another Eco-friendly invention.



This week we started off by identifying the features of a persuasive advert – heading, subheadings, hooks questions, call to action, unique selling points and testimonials in a



text about another invention, the ball that makes a smoothie or 'smoobu'. We then discussed the problem of plastic pollution, particularly in relation to the ocean, and the specific problem of plastic straws and the harm they can cause to wildlife and coastal communities around the world. So, now that we know why it is important to use alternatives to single-use plastic where possible, we are ready to start writing our persuasive advert for the 'stroodle' next week, one section at a time.

In Maths we started to learn about decimals. The children learned about the relationship of tenths to decimals and learned how to convert fractions to decimals and vice versa for tenths. We then revisited the place value grid with the addition this time of the 'tenths' column for writing decimals/numbers less than one. We practiced multiplying numbers by ten and moving digits to the left and dividing numbers by ten and moving the digits to the right. We then revisited the compact method for column addition, this time with 4-digit numbers.

In our spelling lessons, the children learned about the word 'etymology' or words that have a component that means the same thing. They now know that this is a useful concept for spelling as words can be arranged in families that share a similar root meaning. We also revised contracted forms and using apostrophes to show possession in both regular and irregular plural forms. In PE we started a new unit on invasion games where we will be learning some of the skills that underpin a lot of popular games, including dodging, dribbling and sidestepping.



Talk topic – What can each of us do to use less plastic?

Kind Regards,

Camilla Rutayisire Year4teacher@telenet.be

Year 5

In Y5 this week, we started the new Write Stuff Unit proper. It's called 'Paperman', based on the Disney short and there are some fantastic activities and work coming up. This week, the children all excelled, creating marvellous sentences inspired by the first minute of the cartoon.

In Topic, we also started a new unit about careers. The children learnt about the main employment sectors and the training, skills and qualities necessary to enter them. The class really enjoyed matching jobs with these skills and personal attributes.

In Science, we finished Materials by setting up an evaporation experiment. The children are taking daily photos to make a stop motion film as the intended salt crystals grow!

And that was our short(ish) week!

Talk Topic: Who do you remember every 11th November?

Have a good weekend,

Best wishes, Tim Stedman & Mrs Tolentino year5teacher@telenet.be



Year 6

Dear Parents,

Fast, furious, focused and no time for photographs this week in Year 6! In preparation for our Alan Turing double-page spreads, we spent much of our time analysing stylistic features and grammatical structures of biographies; alliteration, colon to separate two clauses, extra information inserted using brackets, complex sentence, metaphor and conjunctions. We also began our new class reader 'Noor-Un-Nissa Inayat Khan'; a descendant of an Indian prince, Tipu Sultan (the Tiger of Mysore), who became a British secret agent for SOE during WWII.



In Science, we started the Key Stage 3 programme, and looked at the arrangement and movement of particles that make up solids, liquids and gases, as well as the properties of each of these states of matter. We were grateful to Rhithul, Year 5, for his now famous 'air-freshener' episode at Cornimont, which demonstrated perfectly how gas particles move in different directions and at different speeds!



We just love geometry in Year 6. Unstoppable, the pupils learnt to construct: angle bisectors, 45, 90, 60 and 30 degree angles, an equilateral triangle within a circle and also had an introduction to Loci.

Aladdin was very much in our thoughts this week, and the children were given their roles on Friday. We shall, as always, be asking for your support with costumes. I shall ask the School Council team to post requirements on Edmodo as soon as possible.

Busy, busy, busy, that's life in the fast lane in Year 6!

Talk Topic: Am I pleased with my role in Aladdin?

Happy weekend,

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter year6teacher@telenet.be

Music KS2 - Oak Building with Miss di Fine

Great excitement this week as we started practising some of the songs from our Christmas play, Aladdin.

We are working on how to use our four voices: speaking, singing, whispering and shouting. One of the most important aspects of singing in a choir is how we have to articulate the words carefully when we sing, especially if the tempo of the song is fast and there are a lot



of words to fit in. This will create that effect of singing with "one voice". Some of the techniques that we use in class are tongue clicks and lip pops, lip buzzes and tongue rolls.

In year 6 we also had the chance of listening to some very creative storytelling written by the children over the last half-term holiday. In addition to the written part of the story, they had to compose

(using the music staff) a piece of music with the main theme/ melody of their story and play it on the recorder. It was a success!

French - Oak Building

Year 3:

In French with Madame Scharf, we practiced writing the colours in our notebooks and realised that they change for the feminine. We must add an “e” unless there is one already. We also prepared our outing to the Théâtre de la Montagne Magique next week where we are going to see “Le grand voyage de Georges Poisson”, a story of travels and adventure, friendship and lighthouses. <https://youtu.be/AGd5rKZLEQw>

Year 4:

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we had a short week but continued working on **les ‘verbes réguliers’**.

We’ve managed **to dissect** and establish the conjugation of more than a dozen verbs. We created sentences using a range of vocabulary and subjects (ranging from le **‘pronom personnel’**, subject nouns to proper names), after which, we played ‘Jacques a dit’ using different subjects and action verbs, and had a test on **les verbes réguliers**.



Year 5



This week we got to explore **‘les numéros’**, beyond 100 and 1000. We learned how to express dates when talking about **‘ma date de naissance’** (date of birth) **Je suis né/ née le (I was born)** or **mon domicile** (street address) **j’habite le 45 rue ...** Then we worked on **les ‘verbes réguliers’** and we established the conjugation of more than a dozen verbs. We created sentences using a range of vocabulary and subjects (ranging from le **‘pronom personnel’**, subject nouns to proper names). After which, we played ‘Jacques a dit’

using different subjects and action verbs, and we had a test on les verbes réguliers.

Year 6

It was a short week, but we kept on working, conjugating and using **‘le passé composé’** in context and real life situations by asking and answering different questions with different interrogative words, and **‘Qui?’** (who?) in particular. We had to keep in mind that we must always **use an auxiliary** when working with le passé composé and **at this point**, it’s **‘avoir’**. We took the opportunity to read and discuss a text about **‘je raconte mon voyage’** using **le passé composé** which will be an inspiration for our class project next week. We then wrapped up the week with challenging tests and quizzes on the **passé compose**.



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

In French geography and history in Year 3 and Year 4, we revised everything we have learnt so far so that we could welcome Anish who just joined us in Year 3. The children told him everything they have learnt about Belgium and I was really impressed. We had an oral test in Year 4, and also talked about the two most important Belgian rivers : l'Escaut and la Meuse. We then talked about the port of Antwerp and its worldwide importance.

In Year 5, we also had an oral test and talked about the Royal Family and the children were really curious and asked many questions.

In Year 6, we talked in more detail about feudalism (féodalité) and the organisation of society in the Middle Ages and added two important events to our timeline : the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus and the invention of printing by Gutenberg.