



The British International
School of Brussels

BISB Home School Letter: June 3rd, 2022

EYFS Nursery

Dear Parents,

Life in Nursery continues to be busy, busy, busy but of course, full of fun and enthusiasm! We have started our new and final topic for this academic year, aptly named 'My suitcase is packed' as it is almost time for the long Summer holiday!



This week the children took a peek into the world of the Travel agent and watched a super interesting clip on the smart board, showing a little girl and her mum who wanted to book a holiday to Disneyland Paris. This caused great excitement amongst some of the children, who have holidayed there already and led onto some fabulous discussion about their adventures in Disneyland. For the children who haven't visited yet, I think the mummies and daddies will be getting a few requests to go to that travel agents now! Our role play area is under construction to change from a railway station to a travel agent as we speak, so watch this space for some exciting Nursery holiday package offers!

In your little ones HSB you will see that their suitcase is already packed. The children were asked to choose 5 items that they would like to take on their summer vacation. We used it primarily as a language activity and modelled or extended the vocabulary needed to describe each of the items they took with them and why they needed them. Prior to the individual activity, Mrs Nagy did a group discussion and drew a large suitcase on the smart board, the children were then asked what essentials they would like to take for a great vacation. The answers varied from a towel to headphones, but the shout out definitely goes to Michelle, who reminded us not to forget to pack our beautiful shoes!!



We are still practising our summer show songs not only in the music sessions with Ms diFine but also during any spare moments throughout the Nursery day! Everyone is getting uber excited for the big performance on the 24 June but please remember, if you haven't yet sent your child's plain white t-shirt to Nursery, can you do so A.S.A.P as we are about to get creative with them!

During Literacy, those children who are ready have revised their single letter sounds and have had a good try with sounding out some simple CVC words. If your little one hasn't reached this stage yet, it is because they are not quite ready and need more practise with their listening skills, an important building block in the learning process.

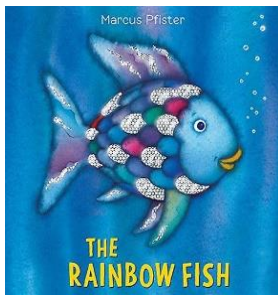
Try these helpful listening to the sounds games : <https://youtu.be/pbxFOxz9c1g>.

Remember, it is the long weekend so there is no school on Monday. Have a great weekend and enjoy getting out and about, whatever the weather.

Have a chat about our **Talk topic**: If you could visit any place in the world, where would you go and why?

See you all on Tuesday.

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



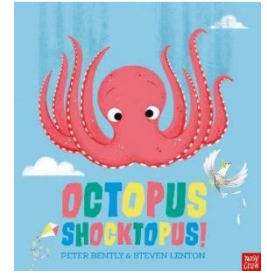
EYFS Reception

Dear Parents,

This week marks the start of the last term of school, and we can't believe how fast this school year has passed! Along with the beginning of the new half term we are also welcoming our last topic of the year, 'Under the deep blue sea' which inevitably makes us think about sea creatures, the importance of taking care of our oceans, the seaside and, along with it, the summer holidays.

We have rearranged our topic corner and introduced small sea animals and a lighthouse as a small world setup for the children to play with them and make up the most fabulous stories and adventures.

Our storybooks this week have been related to the sea of course. 'Octopus Shocktopus' by Peter Bently tells the story of an octopus that landed on a village house roof, which made the children of the village very happy, as they all enjoyed playing with it. The



other story was 'The Rainbow Fish' by Marcus Pfister, an all-time classic which the children adored and which opened the door to discussing friendships. The pictures in this book inspired our Art session of the week as every child used watercolours to paint an under-the-sea background. Each one of them made a very fine job at printing fingertips to make the scales of their fish. The most special part of it was sprinkling glitter on the fresh paint to make the fish's scales glimmer and shine.

In your child's Home School Book you will find a piece of written work. This is their first formal attempt at writing so please celebrate and praise your child's effort on writing independently. This was a hard and challenging task for them, which they tackled confidently by using their phonemic knowledge acquired throughout this school year. In the acquisition of writing skills, the children in Reception are going through the stage in which they use single letters to represent sounds or whole words (an example of this taken from their own work is writing the word 'anchor' like 'nc') and they are transitioning towards the stage in which words are represented by first and last letter sounds (another example of their own work could be: 'sbm' for submarine).



Do not worry if you find your child has written incomplete words or the letters are in the wrong order, as this is all part of their learning process. They are listening to the sounds of each word, associating these to the graphemes they have learned and transcribing them on to paper in the way words sound. We were very happy with the end result of this piece of work and all the children were praised for it.

In Maths we have introduced subtraction by taking away one, two or three objects in a set. We have played games with small toys and counters and we have represented the subtraction sentences on the board.

In PE we have practised aim by playing different games in a four-activity circuit. We set up four different activities, place the children in four different groups and they rotate around all four. This way they have the chance to try every activity. They played kicking a football to score a



goal (with a big cone acting as goalkeeper!), throwing beanbags into hoops and throwing small hoops into cones. We have also taken advantage of the nice weather, especially after lunchtime, to play outside.

Our **Talk topic** for next week is: If an octopus landed on your roof as happened in the story 'Octopus Shocktopus', what would you call it and what would you do with it?

We have started to prepare for our Summer show at the end of this term. Could you please send to school a **white, plain short sleeved T-shirt** that we can decorate and use for the show? You can find cheap ones in Zeeman. We need it for next week, Friday at the latest. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend and we'll see you all back on Tuesday.

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

KS1 Year 1

Dear Parents,

As the summer production ebbs ever nearer, the excitement in year 1 grows! It really is amazing to see these very young children deliver their lines with such expression and confidence. Thanks so much for sending in the costumes in a timely manner, we really appreciate your cooperation. Apart from rehearsals, we've had an action-packed week continuing with all of the usual aspects of life in year 1.

Please remember that if there are any changes to who picks your child up at the end of school, please inform the class teacher AND the school office via email as early in the day as you can. Thank you.

LITERACY

One of the characters in 'I Want My Hat Back' asked the question, 'what is a hat?' Year 1 came up with their own definition and spent some time researching different types and styles of hats and their different purposes. The children, working in pairs, were asked to choose a form of publication to best present their research.



Hard at work: taking turns, negotiating, cooperating and discussing.



Trying some of the hats.



We had to choose our materials and decide how we were to present the information. Poster? Leaflet? Brochure?

MATHS

This week we had to add and subtract 10 to and from 2-digit numbers. We enjoyed playing a throwing game with a beanbag where we had to add or subtract 10 from a given number. As the week progressed, the responses became quicker and quicker! We began a new unit on measures and compared the weights of everyday objects using direct comparison. We then moved on to measure weight using uniform non-standard units. We were astounded to discover that a mobile phone weighed 118 cubes!



We had a great time making estimates and comparing weight using the bucket balances.

SCIENCE

This week we continued to find out more about bees and focused on the life cycle. The children found out about the four stages and drew pictures to represent them. This bee theme has really captured the interest of the children. Not only are they closely looking for the insects in the garden, but they are also playing imaginatively when outside and allocating roles to each other such as Queen Bee, Guard Bee and Worker Bee. It really is fascinating to watch.

TOPIC

We had a T-Rex focus and watched a brilliant video about an explorer who goes back in time to when dinosaurs roamed the earth. We watched and screamed and laughed as he came face-to-face with a T-Rex and her two babies. It was a super way for the children to see how this dinosaur looked and moved as well as learning some dino facts. We also learned a T-Rex Rap which was useful for teaching some interesting vocabulary. It was very well received by the children and there were shouts of, "Again!" each time we finished.

TALK TOPIC: With a grown-up, have a look in some of the kitchen cupboards for items that have the weight printed on them. Why is this? What else do we weigh? Have you got some scales at home?

Have wonderful weekend!

Miss Corrigan and Mrs. Bandaru year1teacher@telenet.be



KS1 Year 2

Dear Parents,

Our preparations for the upcoming show are continuing well, and we spent a few sessions this week rehearsing the script, the action and the music. It is great to see most of the children remembering their lines.

In some of our Literacy lessons this week, we learned some key facts about William Shakespeare, since one of the bee characters in our own show loves Shakespeare and quotes many Shakespeare lines. We read a text about him, wrote a fact file, and played a reading game relating to two of his plays.

In our spelling sessions this week, we investigated the suffixes -er and -est, and noted the rules for adding them to adjectives ending in a -y (eg. easy, easier, easiest). We also revised the spelling patterns -ture and -tch.

In Maths, we focused on multiplication, practising recalling the facts of the 3-times table, solving word problems involving multiplication, and noting that division is the opposite of multiplication. We also used kilograms and grammes to weigh objects on a balance scale, and then practised using litres and millilitres to record the capacity of different containers.



Fun and games
and magical
stories under the
parachute...



In our Science lesson we learned about food, recalling that all living things need nutrition. We looked especially at carbohydrates, which give us energy, and found which parts of our own lunches were full of carbohydrate.

On Thursday 23rd June, we will be visiting the Natural Science Museum, along with Year 1. We will travel there and back by coach. We need a contribution of 5 euros, please, for each child, for this trip. More

details, and the permission slip, will be sent out shortly.

Talk topic: What might we see in nature in the summer months?

We wish you a happy long weekend.

Ms. Read and Mrs Tolentino Year2teacher@telenet.be



Music with Miss Di Fine - Acorn Building



Reception: this week we continued to practice all the Summer show songs. We have now memorized the words and the actions. We also have been practising the low and the high pitches by singing the "bell song" and playing the resonator bells on the low pitch D and high pitch A. You can listen to the song and to the story of the song here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jWDEgelbYM>



Years 1 & 2: The rehearsals for the summer show "Save the Bees" have started as we have now learned all the songs and all the choreography. This week we practised the first part of the show combining the acting part together with the singing part.

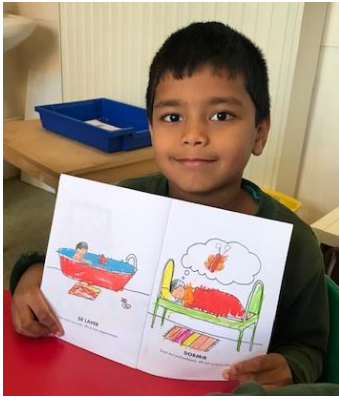


French with Ms Kowalska - Acorn Building

This week we have been learning some action verbs: to walk, to eat, to drink, to read, to listen, to sleep, to draw, to dance. We have been miming actions and playing "Jacques a dit". From Tuesday onwards, we focused on verbs related to daily routine (to get up, to brush one's teeth, to get dressed, to write, to play, to wash, to dream). Then Year 1 and 2 children completed and personalised a small colouring book entitled "From morning until evening", which shows the successive activities of the day. The children were very

involved in this work and by the end of the week, everyone was able to take their own vocabulary book home. Bravo to all! Thanks to these little books, memorizing all of the action verbs will be very easy 😊.





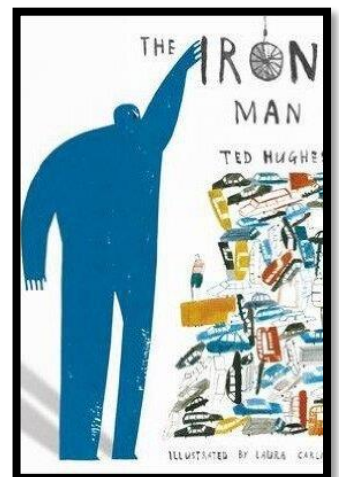
The Reception children, also used mime to learn some action verbs. They enjoyed listening to and learning the nursery rhyme "Meunier, tu dors" (Miller, you are asleep), and then practised pronouncing the sounds "eu" (meunier) and "in" (moulin) and made little windmills. Well done, Reception!



KS2 Year 3

Dear Parents,

With the majority of the end-of-year assessment having been completed, we have had the chance this week to do some of the things we had previously delayed. In Literacy, we had another go at acting out a playscript, with the emphasis on 'acting' – pretending to be someone else, and trying to be convincing through appropriate actions and tone of voice. Each child had the chance to play one of the characters in the short playscript 'Bertie Wiggins' Amazing Ears'. We also started our final book of the year 'The Iron Man' – we have been reading it in our small groups so far, but if we don't have time to finish it this way, we will finish it as a 'class reader' – there is no way the children will want to leave this fantastic story unfinished!



In Maths, we re-visited column addition, taking the final step to the 'compact' method, which children will use from Year 4 onwards. We concentrated on layout and method, as it is so important that we arrange our sums correctly, to avoid confusion and careless mistakes. Having established the ground rules, we

then moved on to adding three or four mixed 2-digit and 3-digit numbers, to test both method and mental addition skills.



We completed our Science unit on forces and magnets with two sessions this week: the first was a revision session, including a quiz and an 'escape the room' activity, and the second was the end-of-unit assessment, which produced very encouraging results.

Our Topic work this week was split over a few shorter sessions, with the first of our individual presentations. So far, we have been treated to explanations about the invention of Morse code, the number zero and the Internet. There will be more next week, and there is still plenty of time for children to work on one, if they haven't yet done so. As well as providing a platform for individuals to speak with confidence in front of an audience, they are also very useful for discussion, and inevitably lead to further research to extend our background knowledge. We also made a start on our junk modelling inventions – collecting suitable materials and deciding how to make them fit together.

A couple of other highlights: the next stage in our coding unit – conditional events – which the children mastered in double-quick time, and the qualifying round for this year's archery knock-out tournament. I have posted the results on Edmodo.

Talk Topic for next week is 'So far, the Iron Man has fallen off a cliff, been put back together and walked off into the sea, and now he's back on land again – what do you think he will do next?'

Enjoy the weekend,

Patrick Tranter and Naomi Irakoze year3teacher@telenet.be
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/157096587@N03/albums/72177720299465732>



Year 4





Dear Parents,

Since the last home school letter, we have had a go at performance poetry with everyone learning how to perform one out of a choice of three river poems. We finally each had a chance to stand on the stage in our beautiful new library! The children did a great job of changing their voices to suit the words being spoken, using actions to accompany their words, moving around the stage and changing the pitch and volume of their voices. The weather has been glorious, and we enjoyed playing badminton outside and taking part in the year 3 and 4 archery qualifying competition.

In Maths this week we spent some time learning how to draw, read and interpret line graphs. We learned how to plot specific points and to understand that the line between the points tells us information too. We also learned how to calculate the area of rectilinear shapes and then for L-shapes where it is necessary to divide the shape into two parts in order to calculate the area. We revised calculating the perimeter and how it differs from the area.

In our Topic lesson we spent some time talking about flooding. We discussed what causes floods, and what the impact of them can be on people and the environment. Some of the problems caused for people included loss of homes, possessions, businesses, schools and shops and contaminated drinking water. Problems for the environment included river and land pollution, erosion, landslides and loss of habitats. We then discussed strategies to help stay safe in floods and the children made posters informing people of the steps they can take to limit damage and keep themselves safe.

In Science we continued our work on Living things and their Habitats. We learned more about classification and sorted animals according to whether they were amphibian, reptile, fish, bird or mammal. We then explored classification keys and learned how to use them to differentiate between animals and categories. We were shocked to discover that scientists think there are millions of species in the world that have yet to be named or classified, there is still so much more to learn!

Kind Regards

Camilla Rutayisire Year4teacher@telenet.be

Year 5

Dear Parents,

We finally put a line under our assessments for the year. Amazing Changes in science was good last week, the overall Numeracy scores will be good and I was super pleased with the writing compositions. To just say 'write a biography' was a big gamble but the children have been listening and engaging with our recent topics and homeworks and, above all, have really come on because of the inspiration of Mrs C. It's absolutely clear in what they are producing and the ease with which they do so!





The children have also been inspired both by the USA and William Shakespeare, the Route 66 work was finished off and a dive into 'the Bard's' world was headfirst. The children have been eagerly researching his life and plays but also mapping where it and they happened. Shakespeare's settings have been quite particular and the school atlases weren't much of a help, so reluctantly we attacked with the iPads and Google maps.

In Numeracy, we spent the whole week becoming masters at percentage; finding fractions equivalent to % and simplifying them. This was no great problem and I think the children have added on to their confidence this year even more: they love maths and do not fear it.

In many ways, though, the highlight of the week was the first lesson of the new Science topic: Growing Up and Getting Old. We traced the key phases in a person's life from womb to grave, touching on pregnancy, gestation in mammals and adulthood. The children enjoyed looking at pictures of me and Kuval as toddlers (Why did you have blonde hair, Mr Stedman?) and next week we'll have a look at Umaiza in miniature. The children had to timeline what they think they will look like and what they'll be doing from 11 to 80+. This brought up a lot of questions and interesting discussion and showed some cultural differences e.g marriage, arranged marriage; going into care-homes, looking after our elderly parents in our own homes etc.

Talk Topic: What do you think is the most challenging period of a person's life? Give reasons.



And that was our week. (Note: photos are from last week's Burning experiment)

Best wishes

Tim Stedman year5teacher@telenet.be

Year 6



Dear Parents,

A far more relaxed week without the pressure of examinations, thank goodness! We can now enjoy all the varied activities that have been planned for the last month at primary school. Please do not forget that next Thursday we are going to the theatre, and the children have assured me that late-night travel arrangements have been organised – thank you.

We have three Year 6 mini-theatre companies producing different interpretations of Macbeth, these will be performed to Oak classes during

the next few weeks.

<https://microbit.org/>



The BBC micro: bit is a pocket-sized computer that introduces you to how software and hardware work together. It has an LED light display, buttons, sensors and many input/output features that, when programmed, let it interact with you and your world.

All the students began their micro-bit journey using the colour-coded blocks programme, but quickly progressed to Python text-based programming. The teamwork was tremendous during our sessions, with more confident children debugging code and helping to download .hex files to laptops.

What a treat to return to the NATO pool with Year 6. Most of the Year 6 pupils are confident swimmers and all children are well on the way to being able to swim. It was a sparkling afternoon which we all enjoyed.

We loved our first lesson in Chinese; we learnt some 'greetings' and pupils were introduced to Chineasy: the easiest way to learn Chinese characters. <https://www.chineasy.com/>

No Year 6 would be complete without Alex Rider... So, it will be a race to the end to read Stormbreaker, which we started on Wednesday. Will our teenage James Bond make it – will we?

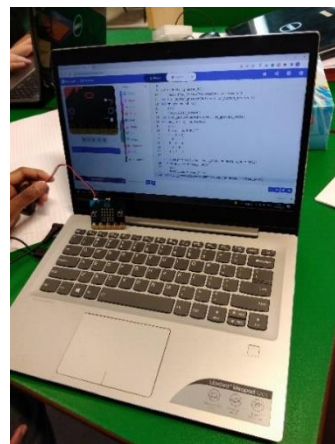
Off on another orienteering adventure today and the weather looks fantastic!

Talk Topic: Remember this from September - <https://youtu.be/NudLfyl2cXc>
Have you made your bed?

Happy weekend.

Best wishes,

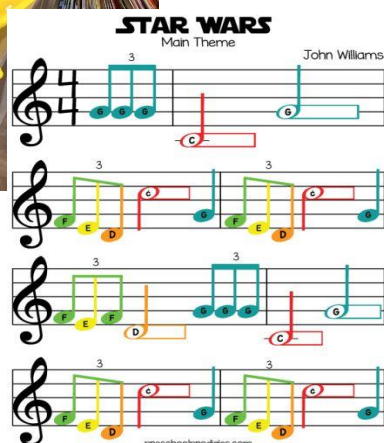
Beverley Tranter year6teacher@telenet.be



Music KS2- Oak Building: Miss di Fine



Years 3 & 4: This week we talked about the modern composer "John Williams", and we listened to some of his best movie compositions such as Harry Potter, Jurassic Park, E.T, and Indiana Jones. We focused on one of the compositions we listened to at the Trio Becel's concert, from the movie 'Star Wars' called "A New Hope". We have learned how to play the melody of Star Wars on the glockenspiels. You can





listen to the composition here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54hoKbTWon4>

We also enjoyed singing and practising the songs “When I see you again” and “Best day of my life”.

Years 5 & 6: This week we talked about the modern composer “John Williams” and listened to some of his best movie compositions such as Harry Potter, Jurassic Park, E.T, and Indiana Jones. We focused on one of the

compositions we listened to at the Trio Becel’s concert, from the movie Harry Potter. We have learned how to play it on the recorders.

You can listen to the composition here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8YuQ4wBVpl>

We also enjoyed singing and practising the songs “Don’t stop me now” and “When I see you again”.



Harry Potter



French - Oak Building:

Year 3: Ms. Kowalska

We had an intense week of work this week, studying the first group of verbs (ending with "-er"). We practised conjugating and pronouncing them in the present tense by using the verbs in affirmative sentences and in negations! Well done, Year 3 – the concentration levels were high!

History, Geography and Culture of Belgium

After our initial look at the Industrial Revolution and the iron and coal mines of the Walloon region, we headed to Bernissart to meet the iguanodonts. These herbivorous dinosaurs were discovered by chance in a coal mine in the province of Hainaut in 1878. We followed the excavation, the conditioning of the bones and the reconstitution of about thirty skeletons that can be admired today in the Museum of Natural Sciences in Brussels.



We are also continuing our work on the administrative map of Belgium and the revision of the names of the provinces with their capitals.

Year 4: with Mme Halvorsen

In French, we had a busy week working with our book **Vitamine** and had an interactive game using '**les mots interrogatifs**' (interrogative words) with questions and answers with '**Pourquoi** (why) et '**Parce que**' (because). We also worked with verb **Aller** (to go) and the different ways of using it starting with greetings as in '**Comment ça va?**' or with le verbe '**Voir**' (to see) **Aller voir** (to take a look).

Then we had an exciting acting activity going to different places in town '**En ville & Où vas-tu?**' with the preposition '**à**' and its different forms, we had a team quiz and had to come up with our own phrases using different places as **le parc, la gare, le musée, la boulangerie, la poste, le stade, l'école, le marché, la librairie** etc. **It was fun and intense!**



Year 5:

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we had an exciting week working on our fun project '**mon meilleur ami/ ma meilleure amie**' (my best friend). It was so wonderful to see them making great use of **French vocabulary** and everything they've learned and acquired this year, such as the use of the **auxiliaires 'être and avoir'**, **les saisons, les couleurs, les vêtements, la nourriture, les verbes réguliers et irréguliers'**, **les adjectifs possessifs** and the use of adjectives with nouns. We also learned additional vocabulary to write a short and creative '**poème**' (poetry) about family, friends, nature, animals and music. Finally, we enjoyed acting and reciting a short poem, and we had a vocabulary test. They were simply great!



Year 6:

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we had a very busy week with our individual presentations which allowed us to discuss the use of **formal and informal language**, correct, and revise, the use of '**le pronom d'objet direct and indirect**', '**l'adjectif possessif**', **le passé composé** and **l'imparfait** particularly when using idiomatic expressions with '**Avoir**' in the past. Then, we started reading a short novel 'Alberta Tonnerre' written by two Belgian authors Chloé Périlleux and Chloé Schuiten.

It's a beautiful story, of childhood memories, transmission of love, friendship and nature. The whole class is transported and enchanted by Alberta's '**cabane enchantée**'.

