



BISB Home School Letter: November 26th, 2021

The British International
School of Brussels



EYFS Nursery

Dear Parents



We have been very creative with our music theme this week and the children have turned into great composers! We have listened to a variety of familiar classical tunes to give us some inspiration and then each child used a music score sheet to finger paint their own original piece! The colours of the fingerprint notes, correspond to the colours of the Boomwhackers which everyone was introduced to last week by Ms di Fine. Afterwards we all sat down together and tried to play the tunes we had composed, which was trickier than we thought but fabulous fun! Take a look in your little ones HSB and you will see their creation and then take a look on Edmodo to listen to a selection of tunes played using the Boomwhackers. You will also find photographs and videos of our musical bonanza so far, on Edmodo and on the school website.

During our P.E. session we tried to remember some of our body percussion skills we learned last week and played the hand-to-hand clapping game with a partner. Indoor and outdoor play is often reflective and many of the skills children are taught in EYFS are cross curricular, so can be used in all of the seven areas of the nursery curriculum, because children remember and retain information when it is reinforced in a variety of ways.

One of our literacy songs that we play on a regular basis in Nursery can be listened to here: <https://youtu.be/74klrFdOaPw>. If you wish to practise letter sounds with your child at home, this is a great way of doing it to get your little one's mouth making the correct shape for saying the individual letter sounds. Until your child can hear each sound and form it themselves they are not ready to move on to the next phase, so it is important to practise the sounds thoroughly so that everyone has a good ear for each sound. When individual children are ready to be stretched and challenged with sound blends it will become apparent, so please don't hurry through the sounds at home. Remember, EYFS starts in Nursery and goes right the way to the end of Reception, so there is plenty of time to move through the different levels and each child will do that at their own pace and age and stage of development.



We have discovered some wonderful interactive music activities online and installed them on our big smart screen. Everyday, the children have had the opportunity to play the keys on a piano and then add some rhythm and tempo to the tune, which can then be replayed for everyone to enjoy. It is interesting to see which children like to play the classical calming pieces of music and who likes to have a jolly good rock out! We also managed some fun disco music too!

Our music theme will continue next week and we will be looking at some unusual but wonderful traditional instruments that are played in different parts of the world, then we will decide which ones are our favourites.

Just a quick reminder, if your child is unwell with or without a temperature, please do **not** bring them to school. Coughs and colds are still doing the rounds and if children continue to come to Nursery with these symptoms, they will never clear, because as much as they resist sharing toys, children will happily share their coughs and sneezes with everyone! If in doubt, please stay home!

Until next week keep snug, warm and dry and don't forget to discuss our **Talk topic** which is: "What is the job of the conductor in an orchestra?"

Have a great weekend.

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

EYFS Reception



Dear Parents,

The children are working enthusiastically on our ongoing topic and have been excellent and responsible recyclers this week. Thank you to all of you who have sent empty boxes, bottles, etc. to school, they have been an important resource for the activities done throughout the week.



We created a recycling centre in the classroom and asked the children to sort out all the rubbish we collected. For this, we had three boxes in which the children had to sort out the paper and card, metal and plastic objects and compost with fruit and vegetable peelings (for which we used toy fruit and vegetables). It was great fun and the children were up for the challenge, identifying each waste material and sorting it into the yellow, blue and orange boxes.

We also talked about the importance of our behaviour when it comes to being responsible with the environment and we discussed which things we can do on a daily basis to look after our planet Earth. So, pay attention to your children when they tell you to switch off the electrical appliances that are not being used, turn off the lights each time you leave a room of your house, or to switch off the tap when you are washing the dishes



or brushing your teeth. Every action helps, no matter how small or how insignificant it might seem.

You will find a piece of work related to this in your child's home school book, showing caring and uncaring actions towards our environment.



In Art we decided to make a collaborative piece of art out of the waste material that you sent to school. We all sat together on the carpet with a very big piece of card on which each child placed cereal or egg boxes, toilet paper rolls, lolly sticks and bottle caps to create a beautiful composition out of recycled objects. We used super glue so it would stick firmly and then every child had a go at painting these objects. The result is magnificent and a photo of it will be published next week in our Edmodo page. The paint will be hopefully dry by Monday.



In Literacy we have worked with double consonant sounds: ff, ss and ll. For this, the children have worked on phonics activity mats in which they had to trace the letter representing the sound, find the specific letters amongst others and colour them and find the worked sound in three different words. As you must have read in Edmodo, we have increased the frequency at which the children take the reading books home. Little by little, according to the individual progress of each child, we will start reading books with short words and phrases with them.



In Maths we have continued working with measures. We had one session working on height and length, extending the work done the previous week, and we then introduced capacity. An exciting day for them as they were allowed to play with water and had different size containers and jugs, as well as funnels and measuring cylinders, to explore how much water each of these could hold. We introduced words like full, empty, nearly full/empty and half full/empty for them to use while they were playing, and asked them to compare the capacity of each container to see which one held more or less water, and to see what happened if water was poured from a short and fat container to a tall and thin measuring cylinder, etc.

In our PE session we continued playing circle games, passing footballs round the circle and changing directions when the whistle was blown and using the parachute to play and follow instructions altogether as a group.

We will continue working on our recycling and looking after our world topic next week and we will slowly introduce Christmas to work on during the last weeks of this term.

Our **Talk topic** for next week is: What can we do or say to make a friend feel better when we haven't been good to him or her?

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs van Wassenhove and Mrs. Julaton

receptionteacher@telenet.be



KS1 Year 1

Dear Parents,

Year 1 have had another busy week preparing for our Winter Production, 'Eddie and the Penguins'. The children's enthusiasm for the songs knows no bounds and they delight in singing them with great gusto! If you haven't done so already, please remember to send in your child's costume in a bag, labelled with their name by Wednesday 1st December at the very latest.



We're wrapped up warm and enjoying some fresh air on a beautiful, crisp winter day. And, yes, I think we're still singing the songs from the show!

LITERACY

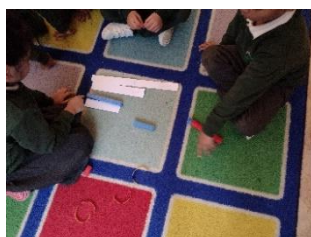


We continued with our work on non-fiction and this week the children have read information texts about penguins and answered questions to show their understanding. The children have also made their own penguin poster which will showcase the knowledge they have acquired over the past few weeks, as well as developing independent writing skills. The children have enjoyed looking at the non-fiction books in the class library and take great delight in pointing out familiar features to their friends. Our handwriting lessons continue as we work our way through the formation families. We quickly revisited c, o, a, d, g, q and then worked on r, n, m, h, b, p.



MATHS

This week, we estimated, compared and measured lengths using non-standard units. The children were given lots of opportunities to develop these skills in a range of contexts. Outside, they used large construction equipment to create long and short roads and were given chalks to draw and label long and short lines. Inside the classroom they were ordering lengths of ribbon and then measuring using cubes and estimating the length of everyday objects such as scissors and pencils. The ability to use key vocabulary such as long, longer, longest, short, shorter, shortest is crucial for this topic.



Ordering objects according to length.



Measuring length using cubes.

ART

Again, we have continued our efforts to create scenery and props for the big show. We can't tell you too much because we don't want to spoil the surprise but our work this week has involved cardboard axes, headbands and twinkling stars!

Lots of smiles as we enjoy relay races in the garden.



TALK TOPIC: As well as Belgium, Eddie visits, the USA, Brazil, Australia and the North Pole. Do you know anyone who has visited any of these places? Ask them about what they did there. Of all of those places, which one would you most like to visit? Why??

Have a wonderful weekend!

Miss Corrigan and Mrs. Bandaru year1teacher@telenet.be

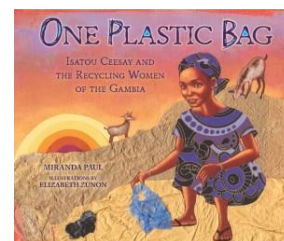
KS1 Year 2

Dear Parents,

This week, we have spent several sessions continuing our preparations for the winter show. We have been singing the songs, practising the lines and actions. The children are increasingly using expression, speaking clearly, listening to each other to know when to speak, and remembering where to move on the stage. Art lessons this week have been spent preparing scenery and props for the show. This has included an Australian desert landscape, with cactuses and kangaroos.

Please don't forget to send your child's costume for the show in to school by Wednesday 1st December (next week), in a named bag.

In Literacy, we worked on non-fiction texts, relating to our theme of *Healthy planet, Healthy me*. Last week, we read the story of Wangari Maathai, who bravely tackled deforestation in Kenya. This week we read the story of Isatou Ceesay, who tackled the problem of plastic rubbish in Gambia. We then studied the format of a biography, looking at the key sections of a biographical text, before writing our own biographies of Wangari, following the same structure.



In our Science lesson, we learned about the body's need for oxygen, and about how we get the oxygen we need, from the air around us, into our blood and all around our bodies. We found out about our lungs and heart, and the respiratory and circulatory systems. We did a small experiment to prove that our bodies use oxygen to make energy: we used a lot of energy by jogging on the spot for a minute, and noticed that our lungs took in more oxygen by breathing faster, and our heart pumped more oxygen by pumping faster.

The swimming lesson on Thursday was a great success again, with everyone taking the plunge confidently and discovering that they really can 'swim' around the pool on their own, both on their back and their front, supported by the noodle. There was a lot of energetic kicking and splashing, and the children who can already swim without help demonstrated great skill in picking up different objects from the bottom of the pool. The children who are not swimming this term enjoyed a PE lesson, practising using a bat and ball.



The first swimming group will have swimming each Thursday until the first week of January. The second swimming group will have swimming in January and February.

I do hope you enjoy a happy weekend.



Please find time to talk about this week's **Talk topic, which is What is energy?**

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



Music - Acorn Building: Years 1 & 2

Years 1 and 2: We've had another week full of singing and did a general rehearsal of our Christmas Show, finally all together! We combined the acting and the singing parts and the children were very excited as it felt, for the very first time, as if we were on a real stage. Well done!

We also talked about the instruments in the orchestra focusing on the string sections. Miss di Fine brought her violin, we had a close look after she played a piece by Mozart. After that we had a chance to play the school violin. Wow!



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

Reception:

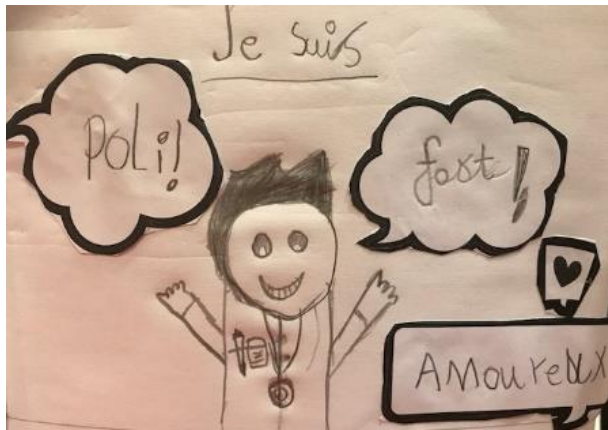
In French, we started talking about a very special person, full of mystery : Saint-Nicolas who comes to all good children in the Netherlands, Belgium and some parts of France and Germany. We looked at his clothes and described him. We even drew a picture of him and discussed all the good things he brings: "bonbons, biscuits, chocolat et cadeaux". We also started learning a song for him.

Years 1 & 2:

In French, we started talking about Saint- Nicolas and we learnt many facts about him : we now know that he was a bishop in Turkey and that he came to Belgium via Spain on a boat and then a donkey or a horse. He brings presents (des cadeaux) and "bonbons, et biscuits au chocolat". We learnt also that there are three types of chocolate : "le chocolat noir, le chocolat blanc et le chocolat au lait". We learnt to ask for something in a very polite manner by saying: "Je voudrais du chocolat au lait s'il vous pas plaît". We made a hand puppet of Saint-Nicolas and sang a very famous song for him : <https://youtu.be/R17hFq-VpZc>



Year 2 self-portraits!



KS2 Year 3



Dear Parents,

This week in Literacy, we have covered a further 3 'plot points' in 'The Magic Paintbrush' – the wicked Emperor has now arrived and we had some fun recreating the scene where he orders Shen to paint him a tree of gold! Within the bounds of each writing feature we are learning or practising, the children are encouraged to be creative and imaginative, and each session produces some great work, which is now rapidly covering the classroom window. In grammar, we looked at more

conjunctions, this week conjunctions showing time, such as 'before', 'after', 'while', 'when' etc. In our reading sessions, we tackled a non-fiction text about the Stone Age, and practised answering a variety of comprehension questions.

Our Maths focus this week was addition and subtraction of 2-digit numbers – firstly as pairs to make 100, then any pairs, using the 'partitioning' method to add the 10s and 1s separately. This method enables the children successfully to add even larger 2-digit numbers, by breaking them down, so that $87+76$ becomes $150+13=163$. We used the same method for some simple subtractions, too – but we discovered that it works only for sums where the 1s digit of the first number is greater than the 1s digit of the second (e.g. $47-24=23$). We finished the week by using the same partitioning system to add three 2-digit numbers.

We had a full practical session in our Science work on light – four separate activities which the children performed in small groups: experimenting with mirror writing, discovering the images made by concave and convex mirrors (spoons), observing multiple images made by moving a hinged pair of mirrors, and shining torches directly through prisms to view the path taken by the light. There are some photos in this month's gallery on the website, although the quality is a little low, due to the classroom being so deliberately dark!





In our Topic session we learnt how the early civilisations developed systems of writing, and how these helped us to understand aspects of life so long ago. We tried creating our own set of symbols to represent common words, then tried our hand at producing some simple Chinese characters (mainly numbers) using paint, taking care to use a single brush stroke for each part of the character, for maximum authenticity – there are some very convincing pieces, which will be on display soon.

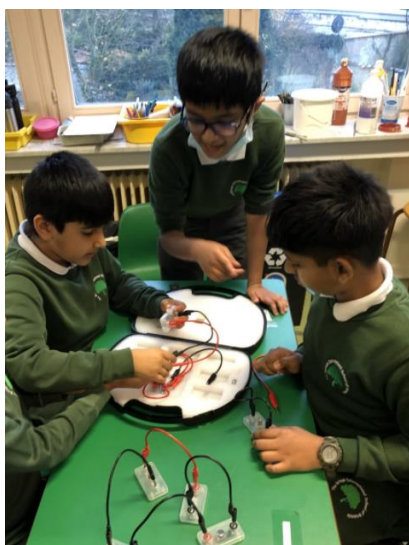
That was our very busy week. **Talk Topic for next week is 'What were the main developments, with animals, plants and houses, which allowed the early civilisations to emerge from the Stone Age?'**

Enjoy the weekend,

Patrick Tranter and Naomi Irakoze
year3teacher@telenet.be

Year 4

Dear Parents,



Wow what a busy week we've had in year 4! In our Science lessons we've been carrying on with our electricity topic and had a go at making a simple circuit. It is so satisfying when the circuit is complete and the light comes on! We then experimented with making more complex circuits, which included buzzers, switches and motors. It was definitely lots of fun to explore what did and didn't work and to reflect on the reasons why.

In Literacy we continued with our Mrs C unit on writing a persuasive advert for the eco-friendly alternative to plastic straws 'stroodles'. This week Mrs C had us writing lots of puns and combining words in new and interesting ways to make our writing exciting and interesting to read, as we have to write persuasively for this task. So far, we have written the main heading, the hook questions, call to action and unique selling points for our advert. In

our reading session we continued with our topic this term of exploring non-fiction texts, and we worked on summarizing the main message or purpose of the book and exploring the impact of the layout of the different texts. In our spelling lesson we had another 'Go grapheme grafters!' session and now have a new focus five to work on.



In Maths we concentrated on data handling and measures. We started with collecting data using a frequency chart on the number of times the 5 vowels came up in a text of 100 words. We then used this information to draw our own bar charts. We learned that it is important to decide on a scale, write a title so that people know what our bar chart is about, and label the axis so we know what information is being shown. We then explored measuring weight using scales and conducted a little experiment to see what happened to the weight of 400g of pasta and 400g of rice after being soaked in water overnight - the results were very interesting! Finally, we explored capacity, estimating and measuring the amount of liquid different containers hold and reading scales in litres and millilitres.

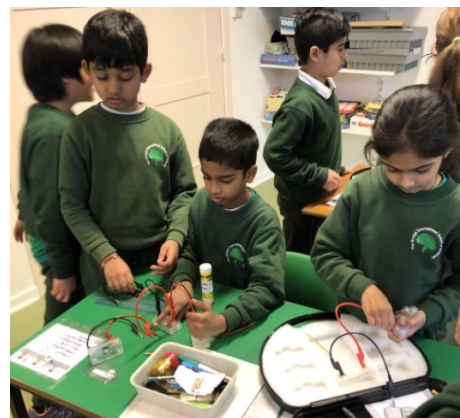
We have also been busy with making props and scenery, rehearsing dances and learning lines/acting ready for our Aladdin show. It's starting to come together and should be fabulous. In PE we continued to work on our games unit and played an invasion game called 'Attack the castle' which involves lots of dodging and teamwork. And that was our week!

Kind Regards,

Camilla Rutayisire Year4teacher@telenet.be

Talk topic –What is a testimonial? Have you seen any before and if so, where?

Making electrical
circuits in Science



Year 5

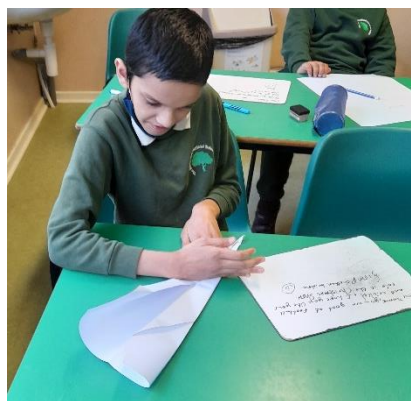
Dear Parents,

We kicked off the week with more Gravity, and falling remained a recurring theme throughout it.

In Science, the children thought hard about what effect gravity has on us, objects and our moon, wherever we might be on the planet. The class enjoyed watching the Apollo team skipping and having fun on the moon in 1969.

In Literacy and Paperman meanwhile, our hero has spotted the intriguing lady from the platform but he can't quite seem to get her attention. A resort to a Paper aeroplane to throw at her doesn't work either. However, in class, it did for our Y5 Iced Gems.

After writing eagerly about these events in the cartoon, the children even more eagerly folded enormous paper planes and wrote a hidden message of admiration inside them. Then, they addressed the wings to the supposed recipient, gave the other wing their personal paint stamp (using their stamper from last week) and, at playtime, launched their respectful notes into the backyard stratosphere.



The Y5 can get over-enthusiastic, however, and forgot to consider and take aim like Paperman and several planes ended up in the hands of the Y3 (Have you seen Toy Story 3? – the day-care centre scene?). 2 others landed in No.61. Most messages, though, found their intended audience and most were well received. (I hope Mrs Still and Mrs Tranter got theirs and liked them.) (...Editor's note: Not yet received, is it still flying around the Schaerbeek stratosphere, I wonder? 🤔🤔, although I have no doubt that it will be a fun message!)

Maths involved a lot of multiplication as we used divisibility rules and found factors and my group thoroughly enjoyed playing and solving a multiples Carroll Diagram problem.

And finally, in Topic, the children researched what the job of a forest officer entails. For the rest of the term, they will choose a profession of their own to present positively and persuasively in a careers fair.



Talk Topic: Think of 6 creative ways you can grab someone's attention.

And that was our week.



Have a good weekend!

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

Diya having fun in French

Year 6

Dear Parents,

No doubt about it, the highlight of our week was spending 90 minutes at Bletchley Park with our guide, Andrew. The workshop began with a tour of the park, looking inside different 'huts' including the one where Alan Turing worked. After this, the year 6 cryptologists set to work cracking codes, before they could cipher and decipher a message using an Enigma machine. Actually, our classroom is beginning to look like the inside of a Bletchley hut; for our new display we have used His Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) colour scheme, undulating cardboard, hessian, brown paper and stencilled letters. On proud display are the hut workers' 'double-page spreads'.

This week in maths, we revisited and extended our learning about mode, median, mean and working out the median from frequency tables. Pupils were given some 'top-tips' on how to master remembering the differences in meanings of these terms.

Swimming was fantastic on Wednesday; children are making pleasing progress with their strokes, as well as confidence in the water. We had a fun time doing handstands, playing ball and recovering items from the bottom of the pool.



We managed to find time to begin our Microsoft Excel computing module. Our first challenge was to create a workbook showing sales of sweeties in the Year 6 Sweetie Shop. Having mastered this, and left to their own devices, the Jeff Bezos entrepreneurial types were in their element, creating all types of businesses - mention of 'Air Jordan' and 'Fork-Knife' made me think that I needed to update my lesson - Mars, Wispa and Curly-Wurly bars are confectionary antiques!

Thank you to Mr Carp for keeping us up to date with life outside of Year 6 and Aladdin. 🤖 We found 30 minutes to watch and learn about the NASA DART asteroid mission to destroy a spacecraft to (potentially) save planet Earth – utterly amazing science, and such a joy to see so many women involved in this project.

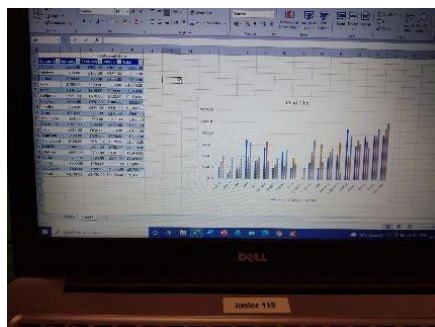
We are rehearsing and singing at every opportunity – even in the park!

Talk-Topic: Destroying asteroids – what next?

Happy weekend,

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter year6teacher@telenet.be



Music KS2 - Oak Building with Miss di Fine

This week we have been focused and deeply immersed in Aladdin's show. We continued to work on the round parts with all classes together and on the soloist parts. We finally managed to listen and sing all the songs so that next week we can work meticulously on the details that need to be revised and the little gaps to be filled in! We also talked about harmony and its theoretical meaning in music.

French - Oak Building

Year 3:

In French with Madame Scharf, we worked on describing ourselves by using adjectives and realised they have a masculine and a feminine form. Those which end with an "e" remain the same, most of the others that end with a consonant will take an "e" : "il est grand / elle est grande". Some are different such as : "il est heureux / elle est heureuse". We wrote a whole long list of adjectives in our notebooks.

We also talked about Saint-Nicolas and learnt that he was a bishop in Turkey. We talked about the structure of the Catholic Church to understand what a bishop is. We also talked about Mother Theresa who was a nun. The children are so curious that it is very exciting to teach them new things.



Year 4:

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we had a brilliant week organizing an interactive French language marathon and activities where the children could apply and put 'the French

language pieces together' of all that we've learned and covered until now. The children have been

extremely good and up to the task. They were able to face the challenging quiz activities and situations, which included different topics ranging from descriptive adjectives, regular verbs, possessive adjectives, and the different use of avoir and être. After that, we started getting ready for the school show and our French songs: Le Père Noël est enrhumé and Le Père Noël frappe à la porte.

Year 5 In French with Madame Halvorsen, what a fun week we had with our class project 'Le spectacle des vedettes'! We watched some spectacular and colourful presentations with beautiful drawings and descriptions, which allowed the students to explore and put to use everything that we have learnt and studied. We saw many famous characters (des pirates, chevaliers, princesses (Elsa, Arielle, Rapunzel), Harry Potter, Superman, Ms Dhoni, Pikachu etc.). The presentations included regular verbs, prepositions, avoir, être and physical descriptions with combined adjectives such as – j'ai les yeux verts clairs, je porte des lunettes etc., and fun details of their 'chic' clothes using words such as 'épée, couronne, cape, boucle d'oreille, etc. After that, we started getting ready for the school show and our French songs: Le Père Noël est enrhumé and Le Père Noël frappe à la porte.



Year 6

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we used part of the week to correct and go over our last test and assignments on les verbes réfléchis, l'heure and le passé composé. Then we pursued our adventure with Le Passé Composé, but this time with the auxiliaire être, and we focused on the verbs that take être when using the past tense with the Passé Composé. It's quite challenging but it's so crucial for speaking, reading and writing. After that, we had fun, practical activities to encourage everyone to practice out loud what we've learned and to build their confidence when speaking French. After that, we started getting ready for the school show and our French songs: Le Père Noël est enrhumé and Le Père Noël frappe à la porte.



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

In French geography and history in Year 3 and 4 we quickly went over what we had discovered about Antwerp and talked about the Belgian Royal Family in more detail, celebrating "la fête de la dynastie belge" on November 15. We learnt that there have been seven kings since 1831 and that the next one will be a queen (Princess Elisabeth, the daughter of King Philippe) because King Baudouin changed the Salic law in 1991. In Year 5, we worked on the main Belgian rivers and the most important towns, which we placed on the map of Belgium. In Year 6, we talked about Belgium being part of the Pays-Bas espagnols (1482-1713), the Pays-Bas autrichiens (1713-1795) and the French period. We talked about Louis XIV (le Roi Soleil) and absolute sovereignty after feudalism.