



The British International  
School of Brussels

## Newsletter for the week of September 3rd, 2021

Dear All,

A very warm welcome back, and a particularly warm welcome to all of our new families!



These three days have flown past, and it has been an absolute pleasure to see everyone coming through the doors, smiling and chattering as if they have never been away. Our new children have amazed us all with their bravery and confidence and the ease with which they have settled straight into school life – it's a very daunting thing to have to walk into a new environment surrounded by new people, but they have all done brilliantly and have been welcomed with open arms by their fellow classmates. Even the very newest and youngest children in Nursery are adapting amazingly quickly and are already running around happily in the playground and playing together (more or less peacefully!) in the classroom. The strong sense of family and friendship in our community makes such a difference in helping new families and children integrate easily and feel at home.



The Oak department started the year off in style by all setting off for their first 'S.K.I. L.L.S' day carousel in the park on Friday, and having a fantastic time doing watercolour paintings of the arches, playing cricket, rounders and football, listening to opera and performing choral poetry in the fresh air. I hope that all the children have come home full of stories of the week (even if these are only about playtimes and not a full report on every piece of work that they did!) and that you and they all feel that the year has started well.



We would also like to welcome Miss. Corrigan, who is our new Year 1 teacher. We welcome her into the BISB family and wish her the very best as she begins to discover the BISB experience!

Thank you for respecting the precise arrival and pick-up times. Lessons start promptly in both buildings at 9h, and there have been very few children arriving after this time this week. Thank you too for keeping the pavements as clear as possible. We are really pleased to see just how many children are now arriving on bikes and scooters – the new bike racks in front of the Oak building hopefully make easier this year. However, please make sure that your bike is not locked up through, or around, another bike or bike lock, otherwise we have to get the bolt cutters out to free them off! Named keys can be left at the door in the morning.

Please don't forget your name cards when collecting children in the afternoon, it makes it much easier and quicker for staff on the door to send the right children out!



Several parents have asked this week if it is possible to come in and see the classrooms. We are still required to respect the no-visitor policy for the short-term future, but, once the restrictions in Brussels are lifted, we will make sure that you are able to come and discover the buildings and see just what happens in and around the classrooms. The teachers have worked extremely hard over the holidays and the buildings are bright and cheerful, with new displays already beginning to go up on classroom walls and in the open spaces as the children set to work. The Oak building has been decorated over the holiday and the new Science Studio is also being used during lunchtimes as a canteen, which makes a big difference to the lunchtime routines.



There was great excitement for Mrs. Tranter's expanding Year 6 class as they came back to find a huge, bright new classroom, with a wall having been knocked down to join two smaller rooms – I can only imagine how they are going to transform it into their own, very special, domain!



Many thanks go to Tomasz, who maintains our buildings and whose ingenious ideas transform the spaces we have, and to Jerry and JayR, who keep the buildings clean every day and who worked hard over the holidays to ensure that everything was ready for the return to school.

Everything is set for another positive, challenging and happy year. Please remember that we are all here to help if you have any concerns or questions, so don't hesitate to contact us - the Parent-School partnership is essential to the well-being and progress of our children and is a vital part of school life.

In the meantime, here are the main points of information for the week:

### Information for the week



**Uniform sales:** the children are looking very smart in their uniforms and the ordering system seems to be working well. Please contact Patricia in the School Office if you need help.

- If your child needs new items of uniform, please complete the order form and email to the school office stating
  - child's name and class and
  - the item/s of clothing and the size that you require. (If you are unsure of the size needed, please give a choice of sizes and you can return the items that don't fit). We will prepare the item/s and send them home with your child.

All uniform purchases are to be paid for by **bank transfer**. Patricia will send you details once your order is complete and you have the correct sizes.

**Please make sure that all uniform items are labelled with your child's name – permanent markers work wonders and ensure that everyone goes home with their own clothes!**



- **A Welcome Walk-in-the-Woods on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> September** will replace our usual first Saturday Coffee Morning. Details will follow in a later newsletter. Everyone is welcome!



- Don't forget the **Curriculum Briefing meeting on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September** with your child's class teacher. The details for each class will be on your class Edmodo page.

A later zoom meeting will be arranged with Mmes. Scharf, Halvorsen and Mayeur during which they will present the French and music programmes of work. We will also arrange a meeting with Mrs. Read, our EAL teacher, to discuss the support she is providing in the classroom and in small individual groups.



- Please make sure that you have joined your child's class Edmodo page so that you can keep up to date with class news and information on lessons. We also invite you to log on to the **BISB Internet Café** using the following code: **i67e62**. This is the school-wide information page and will keep you up-to-date with the latest information on school events and news.



- As we still have to limit visitor access to school during the school day, please contact Patricia in the school office if you would like to see a teacher or a member of the office team, or send an email to your child's class teacher or a message via Edmodo. We will then arrange a meeting outside school hours or on Zoom.



- Please make sure that you complete and return all of the medical and permission forms as soon as possible. The **Contact Form** is a particularly important document and must be returned to school office **by Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> September**. Could you please ensure that your Belgian address is correct. Thank you.



- Please let us know as soon as possible if you think that you may be leaving in the Autumn term. The 90-day deadline for written notice of the child's last day at school at the end of this half term has already passed, but please note that the deadline for written notice of departure for the end of the Autumn term (Wednesday, 22nd December) falls on **Thursday 23rd September**. If we are notified after this date, the deposit is **not** refundable.
- **Garderie:** Please inform the office at the beginning of the week if you would like your child to attend garderie.



- **Late pick-ups:** We do understand that this may be unavoidable due to traffic or unexpected events, but please note that any children remaining in school after the pick-up time will be in garderie in the Acorn building and should be collected from there. A garderie fee will be charged. Please inform School office or the Oak GSM number if you are going to be late.



- **GSM number for the Oak Building** (Years 3, 4, 5 &6) : **0468 45 87 76**

Please use this number if you need to contact the Oak department if your child is going to be late due to a medical appointment, or if you need to let us know about a change to pick-up arrangements.

If you need your child to be collected by a person other than yourself (or by their regular childminder, for whom we already have details), please send a **WhatsApp message** to the Oak Department mobile number: **0468 45 87 76**

- The message should state
- **your name,**
- the **name and year of your child** and the
- **name of the person collecting your child.**

**e.g: William's mum; William; year 4 will go home with ..... (specify if it is another parent e.g Anya in yr 3's mum)**

If your child is being collected by someone **who is not a school parent**, we will need to see a form of identification in order for your child to leave.

We hope this will make pick-up arrangements more straightforward when you need someone else to collect your child at the last minute.

Please note that we will **not** allow a child to leave with someone other than their own parent (or childminder for whom we already have the details), without having received a message on the WhatsApp number.

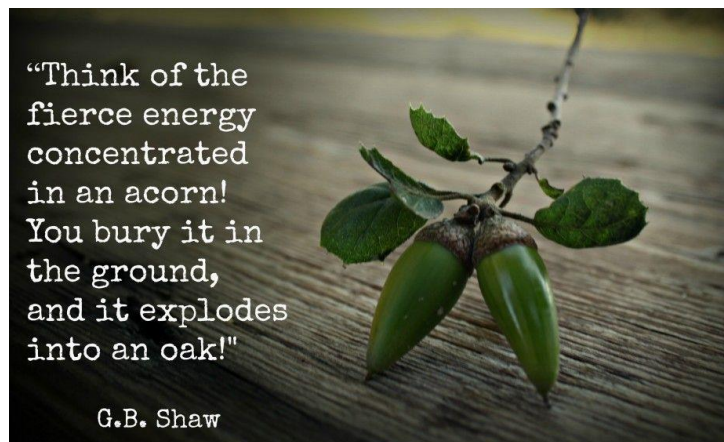
*The first days of school.....*





We hope that you and your children have enjoyed the week and are now enjoying a well-deserved rest after all the hard work and excitement. Have a lovely weekend and make the most of the fresh air and late summer sunshine.

*And a fitting thought to end the first week of our new school year....*



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Jane Still, Headteacher