



The British International
School of Brussels

EYFS Nursery

It has been a busy couple of weeks in the Nursery class, and we are very impressed with how much the children have gained in confidence. They are very used to the daily routines now and are becoming increasingly independent. The “dip and flip” method for putting on coats independently has really helped! If you’d like to watch this with your child, use the following link: <https://youtu.be/NpCNf4oTxg4>

We continue to explore the topic, All About Me focusing on the 5 senses. We had a five senses tray, and the children had to decide which of their senses they use to explore various objects. We also had some tasting experiences with salty, sweet, and some guessing games using only the sense of smell. The children realised that they rely heavily on their sense of sight, as they kept trying to peek at the samples rather than using just their noses! We also talked about healthy eating and the children made fruit salad, cutting the pieces of fruit themselves. The children were quite adventurous trying fig, mango, and blueberries to name a few.

We carried on with our exploration of science, using our sense of sight to discover “magic milk “. The children had a go at mixing milk with food colouring and washing up liquid with a really beautiful result. We also turned the dramatic play area into a baby clinic. The children took turns being doctors and concerned parents with their sick babies. It was wonderful watching the children develop the language they needed for this activity.

Just a few reminders: The weather has become much colder, so please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing. Also, if your child is unwell, please allow them to rest at home and keep their classmates healthy! If you are leaving on holiday before Nursery finishes on the 20th of October please let us know.

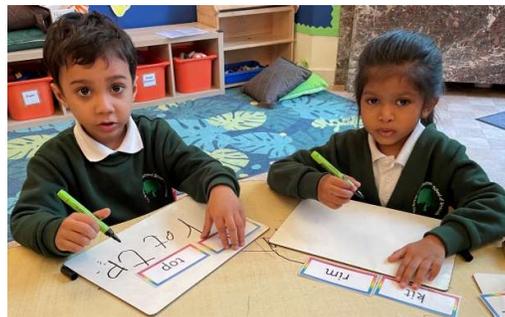
Enjoy the following photos of your child in action! Alison Davies and Smita Bandaru
nurseryteacher@telenet.be



EYFS Reception

Dear Parents, we are looking forward to seeing you next week for our Parent Teacher Meetings, which are an important event to talk about your child and how their first weeks in school have been.

In **Literacy** we learned the phonemes ck, e, u, r, h, b, f and l. We have been playing different games in which the children had to match beginning sound with grapheme, build words whilst matching phoneme-grapheme correspondence and letter bingo. Through these they build up their phonemic knowledge by practicing the new sounds and revisiting the sounds they have learned in the past weeks. Amongst the different storybooks read these are the ones they liked: *'In every house, on every street'* by Jess Hitchman and *'That's when I'm happy'* by Beth Shosnan.



The latter inspired the work done in the **Home School Book** in which the children talked about those things that make them feel happy and those things that make them feel sad. They represented this in beautiful drawings and we wrote down what they told us.



In **Maths** we have been singing a catchy song about the days of the week – if you have not heard it yet at home please ask your child to sing it for you- and build our own week train where each wagon represents a day. We played a game using colourful scarves to understand positional language and we began to work with number subitising. For this, we played with dice and had a

fun experience playing games on the interactive board.

The children have worked hard in their **'Finger Gym'** sessions where they participate in different activities that help develop and strengthen their fine motor skills. It is very important that they can use all sorts of tools that will help them exercise their fingers and hands and also contribute to the good development of eye-hand coordination.



In **Art** we used marbles to paint and create a beautiful background for our Family Portraits – photos of these masterpieces to come soon!- and we started our series of Autumn works of art.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Aashrita: for her wonderful work in the Home School Book in which she showed an excellent interpretation of her feelings

Harnirbaan: for working hard in our 'Finger Gym' sessions and becoming more confident when using scissors

Our talk topic is: How can we help a friend that is feeling lonely?

Have a lovely weekend.



Mrs. van Wassenhove, Mrs. Cassidy and Mrs. Julaton receptionteacher@telenet.be

KS1 Year 1

As we near the end of the half term, it is a good time to reflect on the past seven weeks and how the children have developed. I'm looking forward to sharing this with you, in the Parent Teacher Meetings next week. They are becoming increasingly independent, confident and resilient and, for the most part, they treat each other with respect and kindness. We look forward to planning and celebrating the end of our Science unit with a Senses Party on Thursday 20th October. (You should by now have received a letter about this.)

In Literacy, we embarked upon a brand-new unit of work on poetry and the five senses. We began by reading 'Five Little Senses all in a Row' and the children devised actions to accompany it. We read a poem called 'Thanksgiving' by Ivy O. Eastwick, celebrating the natural world and we wrote an additional two stanzas. Another firm favourite was 'Orange' by the wonderful Michael Rosen. As the weeks have progressed there has been a marked improvement in the children's ability to generate descriptive language.

During Maths, we have been developing strategies to help us estimate sets of objects such as looking for groups within the count and using known number facts such as doubles and number bonds. The children were deepening their understanding of teen numbers by picturing them in terms of 10s and some 1s. For this we used a range of concrete apparatus to help the children visualize what the digits represent.



Here we are with our 'Orange' poems.



Excitedly waiting to watch the play at the theatre.

For Science, we investigated the senses of sight and taste. The children learnt how our eyes work and labelled a diagram with the different parts such as iris and eyelashes. We made a pictogram to show our favourite fruit and learned how to use the data to answer lots of questions.

In Art, we looked at the work of Paul Klee and in the same style, created a watercolour wash using a sweeping motion and then a watercolour pattern on top, using a dabbing technique. This was to create the background in preparation for our line drawings next week.

For Topic, we used Google Earth again to zoom right in on BISB and Schaerbeek. We have been looking at maps of the local area and followed a route when we went on our walk of the local area. We enjoyed experiencing the sights and sounds of the streets close to school.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Ashvanth : We notice and appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness.

Nithara : For using beautiful descriptive language in our poetry work.

TALK TOPIC: If you could only have one of the five senses, which one would you pick? Why? How would you manage without the others?

Have a wonderful weekend!

Miss Corrigan and Miss Navarro year1teacher@telenet.be

KS1 Year 2

Year Two have been invaded by the pesky Evil Pea! We arrived at school one day to find that the Evil Pea had done terrible things to the other vegetables – he had steamed the broccoli, grated poor carrot, chopped the courgette and made frites out of the potato! He had also tied up many more vegetables with rope! We made it our class mission to first read the clues and find his mischievous pea minions around the classroom! We then set to untying the veggies and used the rope to tie up the naughty peas! Finally we decided a good pea punishment should be to eat those little green creatures – and we all tasted a spoonful of peas! We used this experience day to collect a huge bank of vocabulary words to describe the Evil Pea's taste, appearance, actions and behaviour for our next class text type – instructions! The children were



introduced to the class instruction text which they analysed for the structure, types of words and punctuation within it.

The following week that villainous vegetable, the Evil Pea escaped from the freezer once again and destroyed the classroom – hiding all colours except green and throwing green paint and paper everywhere! The children decided to design their own Evil Pea traps and write instructions for how to make them!

In Math's we have been busily revising our number facts – bonds to ten, bonds to twenty, doubling facts up to 15 and making 100 with multiples of 10. We have also had a lot of practical, hands-on fun learning about length and measurement by measuring in centimetres and metres objects and ourselves! Finally we have been learning to tell the time to o'clock, half past and quarter to and past. Please take some time over the holidays to rehearse telling the time.



We concluded our Science learning about Healthy Eating and Exercise by creating our own delicious, rainbow-coloured fruit kebabs!

Year Two finished their superhero cityscape collages by adding in lots of photographs of themselves and their friends in action poses taken during Superhero Training Day. They also learned about the artist Keith Haring and recreated some bold movement exercise pictures in his style. We look forward to you viewing our fabulous artwork when you visit the school for the Parent-Teacher Meetings next week!

In Topic, Year Two continue learning about real-life superheroes – Amelia Earhart (pilot), Laura Dekker (sailor), Junko Tabei (mountaineer) and Sally Ride (astronaut). We also learned about the five oceans and the superhero undersea explorers Jacques Cousteau and Sylvia Earle.

Our new learning gem this week is Emerald Power – the power of resilience and the ability to try something new, be brave, bounce back and try again if they make a mistake. Our swimmers are already demonstrating Emerald Power!



You can observe some of the exciting lessons of Year Two on our school Flickr account here:

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

Talk Topic: We are sending home the Christmas concert playscripts next week. Do take the time to read and rehearse your child's lines with them at home over the holidays! It would be great if the children knew their lines ready for when our performance rehearsals begin after the holidays. Thank you!

We wish you a very happy Diwali weekend, Miss Bird and Mrs Tolentino

Year2teacher@telenet.be

Music with Miss Di Fine



Reception: In music we celebrated the arrival of the Autumn season by singing and dancing to songs and classical pieces. The songs we learned are called “Autumn Leaves” and “One, Two, Three Little Acorns.” The first song is all about leaves, their beautiful colors and all their gentle actions (spinning or floating by) when they fall from the tree. We imitate their actions with our body movements and their sounds with some percussion instruments. If you want to listen to the song follow the link: <https://youtu.be/fPw1UOIA9Kc> . The second song is a good song for practicing some counting. In the song the squirrel is collecting 12 acorns for his Winter store. We also danced the Autumn season First movement of Vivaldi’s Concerto. Click on the link if you want to dance along: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoNRH_2Mrws

Years 1 & 2: The Autumn season has arrived and we are enjoying singing all about Harvest time. We learned to sing two songs called “Under the Harvest Moon” and “The Owl”. We had so much fun imitating the sound and the action of some of the Harvest elements such as the gentle fall of the leaves, the corn swaying, the mice running etc. We chose a selection of percussion instruments that could imitate those sounds as the glockenspiel, the maracas etc. We also played the song “Incy Wincy Spider” with the boomwhackers that helped us to identify the pitches/notes of the song and to keep a steady beat.



Years 3, 4, 5 & 6: During the past two weeks we have been very busy singing, playing and learning about music theory, recorder, glockenspiel and music history. With year 3 and year 4 we learned all about the glockenspiel instrument, listening to its magical sound and discovering how to play it. We had fun reading and playing the notes of the ABC song on the glockenspiel. Although we all knew the lyrics of the song by heart we never had the chance to play the melody of the song. Thus, rather than singing the words/lyrics of the song, we sang the name of the pitches (notes) in order to help ourselves to read and understand what we were playing. We also learned the two round songs called “Kookaburra” and “A cat called Alexander”. With year 5 and Year 6 we talked about the Renaissance period in music history, listening to some famous renaissance music from composers such as J. des Prez and C Monteverdi.



French with Ms Kowalska

Reception

After reviewing the colours with the colour monster, we have been working on the theme of autumn fruits. We touched, smelled and tasted the seasonal fruits, played blind taste-testing and sang a song "Autumn fruits". The children learned names of five seasonal fruits: apple, pear, grape, plum, chestnut (pomme, poire, raisin, prune, châtaigne).

This week we began exploring the autumn forest and getting to know its inhabitants: squirrel, deer, doe, fox, owl, badger, rabbit and wolf.

Year 1

We are working on our new theme: the autumn forest. The children learn the names of the animals, sing " Dans la forêt lointaine ", mime " Dans sa maison un grand cerf ", play, draw and do crafts. We read books about nature, which the children are always fond of.

Last Tuesday, we went to see the show "Lili sous la pluie" at the Théâtre de la Montagne Magique. Throughout the show (50 min.), the children remained very attentive. They all really enjoyed the play. It was a great moment that we will surely repeat.

Year 2 & 3

The children worked hard learning a lot of new French words and expressions related to our theme of seasons and weather. We have been practising describing the weather in each season, playing riddles, singing ("[Colchiques dans les prés](#)")

Some of Year 3 children are ready to begin reading books in French. This week many of them have borrowed a book or a children's magazine with a CD to try to read it on their own. Happy reading, well done!

Next Tuesday the Year 2 children will be going to the theatre to see Little Red Riding Hood - a fun version of a classic children's story. In preparation for the show, we are reading stories inspired by 'Little Red Riding Hood'.

Belgium: geography, history & culture

Year 3 & 4

We have been learning to locate Belgium on a political map of Europe. We study the administrative map of Belgium with its regions, communities and provinces and we become familiar with the location of the biggest Belgian cities - the main towns of the provinces.

Year 5 & 6

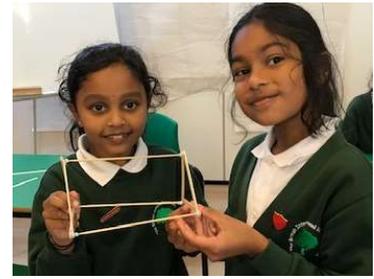
Two weeks ago, we were talking about the Gallic War (58 - 51 B.C.) and the influence of Roman culture on the people of Gaule Belgique (Galla Belgica - today's Belgium).

This week the children discovered CoBrA, the post-war art movement (1948 - 1951) which brought together Danish, Belgian and Dutch artists (Copenhagen - Brussels - Amsterdam). The poets and visual artists had created works together that drew their inspiration from non-European art, Scandinavian folklore, children's creations, rupestrian art, lyrical abstraction. I drew the children's attention to the work of the Belgian painter, Pierre Alechinsky, a member of CoBrA.

KS2 Year 3

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy two weeks finishing off the group projects started at the beginning of term and moving on to new areas of work in Science and Topic. We also fitted in the half-termly progress assessments in maths and reading, which give an idea of how well work is being assimilated at this early stage of the year with children still adjusting to different ways of working.



The children tackle these assessments with enthusiasm, particularly in maths, and enjoy the satisfaction of being able to answer the questions confidently. There were the usual cases of over-confidence and 'I don't need to check my answers' (!), with the inevitable silly loss of points, but generally the results were positive and all the children can be pleased with themselves and the way that they concentrated and the way that they tried to work answers out independently, rather than

giving up immediately if the answers were not immediately obvious.

In Science we moved on to the 'Healthy Food' part of our topic and took a first look at the food pyramid and what we eat, as well as what we should be eating. This week we've been saving seeds from our snack and lunches, which we will be planting to see what will grow.



In Literacy we reached a high point in of 'The Girl Who Planted Trees' – writing our own interpretation of the storm on the mountain that washed the seeds away. This was independent writing without any input or discussion to add ideas, but the results were fantastic with some impressive descriptive phrases and imaginative ideas.



In Maths we continued work on doubles, halves, and multiples of 2, 3, 5 and 10 and took a look at 3D shapes and their properties. We also revised telling the time on both digital and analogue clocks.



The highlight of the week was making 3D shape models with a variety of materials. This was group work, which has its own challenges, but there were some great models!



Fun Friday saw the first of the orienteering challenges with groups setting off around the Georges Henri park in search of the orange markers. The children are divided into House groups during Fun Fridays, giving them a



chance to work and play with children from other classes and helping the Year 3s to learn new skills more quickly as they partner with older children who already have experience of outdoor learning. Enjoy your weekend!



Jane Still year3teacher@telenet.be

KS2 Year 4

Dear Parents,

In our literacy lessons we have finished our Write Stuff unit on writing a dream for the BFG with a most impressive sentence stack containing similes, complex sentences, ellipsis and personification to name but a few features of our language! Before writing our own dreams for the BFG we discussed the success criteria for our writing and planned our narrative maps. There were some great examples of creative and imaginative writing using the target features and they can be proud of their work. We have continued to read the book, taking turns to read pages of the text and we are nearly at the end! We have really enjoyed Roald Dahl's humour and trying to understand the BFG's gobblefunked style.

In Maths we reviewed the column method of addition for two 3 digit numbers involving regrouping. We talked about being methodical and respecting the columns. We then moved onto the expanded method of column subtraction for two 3-digit numbers including borrowing digits. We discussed measuring length and converting millimeters to centimeters and vice versa. We also halved and doubled 3-digit numbers and reviewed our Maths from this first term.

In our topic lessons we have discussed time zones and time differences. We looked at the line of meridian and places with large and small time differences from Belgium. We discussed jet lag with reference to different time zones. In Science we learned about dental hygiene and what we can do to look after our teeth. We made posters informing people about what they can do to keep their teeth healthy. We then discussed food chains and practiced making some in groups with picture cards.

Stars of the week –

Aryansh for great progress in mathematics.

Skandha for good work with doubling 2-digit and 3-digit numbers.

Don't forget it's our Parent Teacher Meetings next week, details regarding the time and day were sent by email to the email address that we have in our records. I'm looking forward to meeting with you to discuss your child's progress.

Talk topic: Next term we will be discussing and writing poetry. Do you have a favourite poet or poem? Do poems need to rhyme? What would be a good topic for a poem?



Kind Regards,

Camilla Rutayisire Year4teacher@telenet.be

KS2 Year 5

Dear Parents,



The gang in the park

An hour of code with MINEcraft!



We are now fully into the year, the autumn (at last) and our Y5 routines and Y5 team. This week, we welcomed new recruit Ayaan eagerly, sent two letters home for upcoming trips and next week, we will all get to see each other at our October Parent-Teacher meetings. The excitement doesn't end there: on Tuesday and Friday we were treated to some outside science expertise in the STEM night and this Friday's 'I Love Science Expo'. And this in turn had followed some great experiments in class. This week was about dissolving and last week the children got to choose and lead their own investigations (with super results).

In Literacy, the class have been learning how to extend sentences and writing their own stories using powerful literary features to bring it to life. They are all particularly good writers and are adept at manipulating words for effect.

In Maths, meanwhile, we have been measuring (both length and time), converting (mm, cm, m, am:pm, 24hr times) and reading timetables. The latter is something you can easily practice at home and out and about.

But it's been in Topic where we've been doing the most moving and shaking. The Y5s have done various artworks on miners, examined rocks (which they really enjoyed), classified gems according to their crystal systems and learnt the story of the diamond trade against a background of war. Blood diamonds are a grown-up topic with some tough themes but the children are maturing and responded well to the issues we explored. They designed a newspaper front page to communicate the civil war in Sierra Leone, the illicit trade of the gemstones for weapons and the Kimberley Process which stopped it or at least banned it. The class showed interest throughout.

This Topic is now drawing to a close and next week we will start: How Are We Going to Power the World?

And that's been our fortnight. See you next week - bring your questions and a smile.

Talk Topic: What are the reasons why countries and groups go to war?

Best wishes, Tim Stedman year5teacher@telenet.be



The gang coming BACK from the park!



Will it dissolve ?

KS2 Year 6

Dear Parents, Firstly we need to congratulate the children chosen to serve on the School Council this term: Aardharrshini and Trishan. Also the new House Captains: Nevaan, Hasini and Umaiza. Other Year 6 positions of responsibility are filled by Ovee as administrative leader, Kirill as digital leader, Sujathaa as lead gardener, Diya as head librarian, Kuval as sports leader and Rhithul as eco warrior. We look forward to working with this great team on many exciting opportunities over the next couple of months. 🙌

The children have been working hard in Maths lessons showing they can work with abstract concepts of number in algebra and also practically with the conversion of weights, liquid measures, distances and time. They have sat the test for the first round of the 'Primary Maths Challenge' set by Mr. Stedman and we look forward to discovering who is through to round two – good luck to all!



We have been preparing to write a science fiction adventure story based in a world afflicted by an ecological disaster. Inspiration has come from our class reader: 'The Last Wild' by Piers Torday, and also an award-winning animated short film called 'Varmints'. Experience days to stimulate writer's creativity



involved growing our own mustard from seeds and sampling the results in egg and mustard sandwiches – great job year 6!

Our creative writing compliments our Topic work which has combined learning about biodiversity in world biomes, with a local study of biodiversity in two streets near our school. We used the National Geographic SEEK app to identify plants and insects on Rue Emeraude and Rue Emile Max. We are now busy composing the findings in a letter to our headteacher and commune to share what we discovered.



It has been a busy couple of weeks in Science as we continued our study of the kingdoms of life with observations on how bacteria spread. We used *synthetic* germs only visible in UV light to discover how easily they can be transmitted undetected. We also set up an experiment to see how bacteria affects the growth of another kingdom of life: fungi, with our mouldy bread project! It was great to see the children's excitement for science in class and at the International STEM Fair online. It was wonderful to see so many of our class in the presence of such eminent scientists! The fun and learning continues with a visit to the 'I Love Science Fair' this Friday.



In these photos the class are showing good teamwork skills on a recent Fun Friday activity where they supported a blindfolded classmate around obstacles to ensure they do not spill a single drop of water!



Our Stars of the Week are: **Umaiza** for consistently excellent homework that shows great care and attention to detail and **Platon** for his expertise on mushrooms in our study of fungi.



Talk Topic: What did Charles Demuth paint?
year6teacher@telenet.be

Elisabeth Bounds

French with Madame Halvorsen

Year 4

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we talked about '**le substantif**' (the noun) used with l'**article défini or indéfini**' in gender and number. We looked at how to use them with the **fournitures scolaires**' (school supplies). We then followed-up with a fun game '**Qu'est-ce qu'il y a dans le/la/les.?**' (what is there in the ..?) using '**il y a**' (there is/there are). Then we had fun singing and miming 'Salut, Bonjour' song and we did some oral, reading and writing activities with our French book Vitamine with **les couleurs, les numéros and les animaux**.



Year 5

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we revised the auxiliary **être** and how it affects '**les adjectifs**' that describe and agree with **le substantif/sujet** (the noun). Then, we worked on the challenge of using '**les adjectifs possessifs**' with different nouns while taking into account the gender and number of the noun in French which allowed us to revise le vocabulaire **de la famille, les fournitures scolaires, les fruits, les animaux**. We also did some oral, reading and writing activities with our French book Zig Zag and reviewed **les animaux, les couleurs and les chiffres**.



Year 6

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we went on reviewing and exploring '**les verbes réguliers and irréguliers**' and we talked specifically about **les verbes réfléchis** and **les verbes transitifs**(VT). We explored the very notion of why they're called '**les verbes réfléchis**' (VR) and how are they different from **non reflexive verbs**. It was great to see their quick response when having to choose which is what and how well they could explain the reason and difference between a **VR** and a **VT** such as '**se réveiller (VR) and réveiller**' (VT). It was even more fun to role-play a conversation scene between two friends '**au café**'. Moreover, we worked with our French book Zig Zag, and we got to do some oral, reading and writing activities.

