



The British International  
School of Brussels

## EYFS Nursery

Dear Parents,

We have continued this week with our theme of 'Tales from Long Ago' and have looked further at the story of The Elves and the Shoemaker, using small world play and small construction to retell the story with solid objects to represent the different characters.



Imagination is something that some children have in abundance, but it is a work in progress for others. Using props to help your little one explore the world of imaginary tales is great for sparking interest, giving ideas of how the content can be developed, for example by adding new characters to the plot or deciding on an alternative ending to the story. It is of course also a great exercise in promoting language development, learning new vocabulary and sometimes making up our own silly words!

We would love to hear some 'Traditional Stories or Poems' from the mummies and daddies in Nursery, so if you are willing to record yourselves either on video reading a favourite childhood story or just a voice recording, please follow the steps below:

1. Choose your favourite short story or poem.
2. Record yourself reading it in your mother tongue. Your little one can be part of the recording or not, the choice is yours.
3. Upload it directly onto the Nursery's Edmodo page, so that it is available for everyone to see or hear.
4. Don't forget to give the title of the story or poem and which language you are reading it in.

How exciting! The Nursery team cannot wait to hear your stories or poems and we will play them on the big screen for all of the children to enjoy!

The children did fantastically well participating in some sound activities using a programme on the smart board. We all put our best listening ears on and then had to guess what the sound was that we heard. There were some very tricky ones like rain on an umbrella or the sound pouring a fizzy drink into a glass makes, but everyone tried their best to give ideas of what each sound might be. Building up and encouraging good listening skills is important, as when sounds progress to letters or words they need to be heard in the correct way, as some single letter sounds such as b, d, & p can sound very similar when our ears are not tuned in properly.

We also played around with repeating patterns in Maths this week, using different objects and characters from the Elves and the Shoemaker. Take a look at some more repeating patterns using this link: <https://youtu.be/aF5XXQFMDSO>

One of our creative activities this week was painting with magic paint! The children drew patterns on some amazing shoes using a white wax crayon, which of course could not be seen on the white paper. The paint

then went over the top of the crayon and hey presto, just like magic, there were the patterns they had made along with their names! Take a look at the wonderful artwork in their HSB and ask if they can remember how it was done.



On Friday everyone had a chance to splash or throw paint onto large paper hung on the garden wall, to produce some wonderful artwork worthy of hanging in the Tate Modern Art Gallery! This was to celebrate the HOLI festival of colours and we had the best time doing it! So on that note, enjoy your home celebrations and HAPPY HOLI!

Our **Talk Topic** this week is: 'What is your favourite colour and why?'



Have a great weekend.

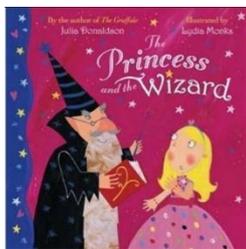
Thank you

Alison Davies, Anna Nagy & Vanessa di Fine [nurseryteacher@telenet.be](mailto:nurseryteacher@telenet.be)

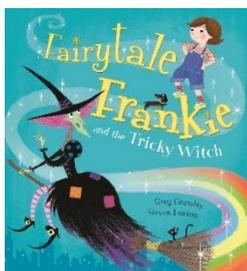
## EYFS Reception

Dear Parents,

This week has flown by and we have been as busy as ever! The children are very excited with our make-believe topic and this week has been all about castles and a little bit of magic as we have read some stories with wizards and magicians. Dressing up is always fun!



In Literacy this week we have worked with the sound 'oo' and the children have made a great effort to learn how to say this sound in words like 'look', 'good' when it is a short sound and in words like 'spoon', 'moon' and 'zoom' when it is a long sound. We read 'The Princess and the Wizard' by Julia Donaldson and the children did a good job in remembering the seven wishes the princess was granted to be able to escape the wicked wizard's castle. The other story this week was 'Fairytale Frankie and the Tricky Witch' by Greg Gormley, which has a funny and unexpected ending so the children had a good laugh with this one!



Witch' by Greg Gormley, which has a funny and unexpected ending so the children had a good laugh with this one!

In Maths we introduced common 3D shapes such as cubes, cones, spheres, pyramids, cylinders and cuboids. We worked together to decide which of these shapes roll, which slide and which can be stacked. For this, we had a small slide in class which the children used with each of the shapes. In that way they could see what each shape did when it was placed at the top of the slide and went down. In your child's home school book you will find a worksheet on which the children marked their conclusions about this practical experience. We also finished the work that was not finished last week on length and height. So we now have our height chart that shows how tall each of the children are.





Our Art session was very exciting too as we built castle models using fruit card trays, kitchen towel rolls and egg boxes. We assembled the different elements to make towers, drawbridges and walls, and then fixed this on big card boxes to make the moat or the gardens. Once this was ready, the children painted all the parts and the end result is fantastic. We used them to set up a small world play where the children could play with small knight figurines and lolly stick puppets, using their imagination and creativity to invent stories around the people who live in the castle. The children have also created a beautiful castle landscape using crayons and watercolours. Photos of their artwork will be posted soon.

In P.E. this week we had a carousel of four different activities. The children were divided into four small groups, and they swapped activities to try them all. They involved practising aim, ball control with rackets, walking on stilts and building structures with big, foam 3D shapes.

We had two virtual music sessions in which we played a counting game, singing a rhyme that has some words in Hindi and it goes like this: 'In pin safety pin in pin out. Khelna hai toh khelo varna get out! Telephone number 1 2 3, you go free!'. It was lots of fun and some children even dared to translate some words for the teachers and the children who do not speak Hindi.



Our **Talk topic** for next week is: **what do you like most about Spring? Why?**

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs. van Wassenhove and Mrs. Julaton  
[receptionteacher@telenet.be](mailto:receptionteacher@telenet.be)



## KS1 Year 1



Dear Parents,

This week, we have once again made the most of opportunities to take our learning outside. We had a lovely PE lesson in the garden on Wednesday, and on Thursday our Year 1 Nature Detectives went on a plant hunt. It really is a joy that, after having to spend so much time indoors over the past few years, we are now able to get out and explore!

Enjoying an outdoor PE lesson



Nature Detectives at the ready!

## LITERACY

This week, we re-wrote the Spring poem that we read last week using wonderful description but keeping the alliteration. Then, we looked back at our list of signs of spring ideas and the children wrote their own poems. These have been sent to you in the Home School Book this week and we would ask that you help your child to learn the poem and practise the actions in readiness for our visit to Josaphat Park on Monday, World Poetry Day.

## MATHS

We began a unit of work on time by talking about what we do at different times of the day and using words such as morning, midday, afternoon, evening and night. Then the children read and wrote times to the hour and half past on analogue and digital clocks. They are beginning to have a notion of how long an hour is and how long a minute is.

## SCIENCE



We explored in the garden, with each pair given a plant to find. They then had to choose plants to examine closely, and draw and label with the correct name, using the appropriate colours. The objective was for children to learn the names of at least four of the plants. The children were delighted to have the opportunity to take their learning outside and cooperated very well.

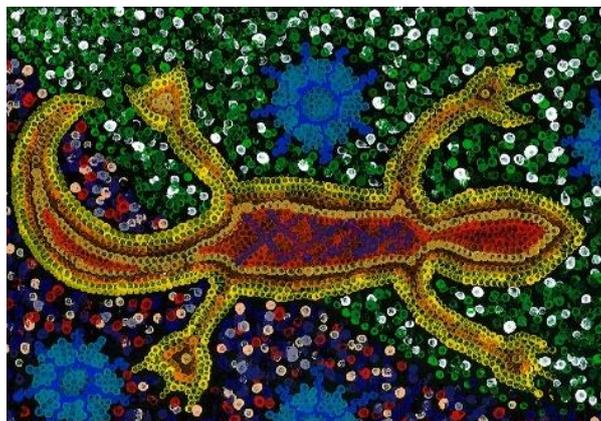
Lots of happy, engaged children learning to identify plants.



## TOPIC

What a difference a week makes! After reading a few non-fiction books about Australia, the children were asked to share which things they were most interested in finding out about. The most popular choice was...

Australian animals! Watch this space.



## ART

We continued the work started last week and began to paint our chosen animal in the style of Aboriginal Art. This involves covering the outline with small dots as you can see in the example below.

**TALK TOPIC:** What is your favourite time of the day?  
Why? What's your least favourite time of the day?  
Why? Ask family members the same questions.

Have wonderful weekend!

Miss Corrigan and Mrs. Bandaru  
[Year1teacher@telenet.be](mailto:Year1teacher@telenet.be)



May I take this opportunity to remind you to regularly check the messages on Edmodo and to 'like' them when you have seen them to indicate that they have been read. Many thanks.

## KS1 Year 2

Dear Parents,

We have enjoyed a week with a poetry focus in our literacy lessons. We read and listened to many poems, including *The Treasures*, by Clare Bevan, and *The Albatross*, by Laura Mucha, both using imagery in nature, one to convey our love of nature, and the other to talk about how nature can reflect our feelings. The children wrote their own poetic lines based on these lovely poems. We were delighted with the children's lines, including, for example:



*"Who will bring me the whoosh of a tree?  
"I", said the wind, "when I blow free."*

and :

*"I will sweep my shyness into the cherry tree."*

We are looking forward to reading our own poems, and poems by other poets, when we go to Josaphat Park this coming Monday (21<sup>st</sup> March), for our Poetry Party in the park, to celebrate World Poetry Day.

In our spelling sessions, we investigated the rules for adding -s when making plural words (eg. dresses, families, volcanoes). In one of our reading sessions this week, the children completed a comprehension exercise from the Ninja comprehension book.

In Maths this week, we continued to work with multiplication, learning the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables. We have been learning about division, as the opposite of multiplication, and as grouping (20 children, grouped in 5s, makes 4 groups, ie.  $20 \div 5 = 4$ ) We used many practical grouping activities to reinforce these concepts, and the children know that if they have not yet memorized a times table, they can solve multiplication (or division), by counting on in 2s, 3s, 5s or 10s.

We used pictures and stories to apply multiplication and division to real life situations, with a focus on the language needed. We also completed some mental maths quizzes.

In preparation for BISB Science Week, the children began thinking about what science is, and began to realise that science involves asking questions about the world around us. They also began to research famous scientists, and to find out what different scientists do.

Please encourage your child, if possible, to log in to Discovery Education, to try the Slug Race coding exercise which they will find assigned to them, and also to log in to Activelearn, to try the assigned multiplication games.

For **Talk topic** this week, please talk about poems, and ask which poems you can recite together, or share with your child in English or a home language.

I wish you a happy weekend. Please remember that your child needs to wear clean, smart PE uniform on Monday and have a warm, waterproof coat for the morning in the park.

Ms. Read & Mrs. Tolentino [year2teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year2teacher@telenet.be)

## **French - Acorn Building: Reception, Years 1 & 2 with Mme. Ilhan**

### **Reception and Year 1:**

This week, we discovered various surprise objects and realised that those objects most certainly came from the house of Mitsi (our famous puppet).



Mitsi asked us to help her to tidy up her house by putting things back in the right rooms.

After completing the mission brilliantly, we designed our apartment and presented it to Mitsi.

We also discovered the book "1,2,3 Maison", this story mixes vocabulary with mathematics and we sang the song "In my house there is...".



Then it was our turn to surprise Mitsi by creating a little city for the Mouse families. Just wait for next week when we share our creations with you!



### **Year 2:**

We started this week by learning how to introduce ourselves, explaining what food we like, what our favourite activities are, when our birthday is etc.....

To learn the names of the different rooms in the house, we played a few association games with household objects, we made a model of our house and then did some exercises to practise the vocabulary we had learned.

We also participated in a city creation project with Reception and Year 1.





During the Wednesday activity session, we had fun cooking eggs in different ways: fried eggs, omelettes, and scrambled eggs with tomatoes and cucumbers.

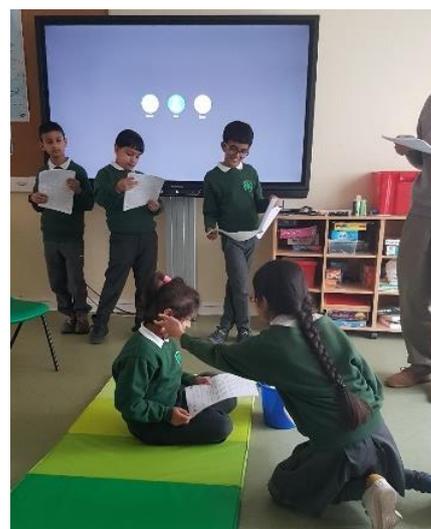
We had a great time preparing delicious sandwiches using lots of vocabulary!



## KS2 Year 3

Dear Parents,

We have spent the afternoons of this week preparing for next week's show, so some of our activities have been temporarily put on hold. The mornings, however, have been very busy! In Literacy, we continued our work on playscripts, with a 3-scene version of 'Little Red Riding Hood' and a short extract from 'Oliver Twist', the latter also doubling as a reading comprehension exercise. In our reading groups, we are now half-way through 'The Wolf's Footprint', and the lost children have turned into wolves - it is great to hear the children adapting their reading to fit this very atmospheric story. In 'Song of the Dolphin Boy', Finn was being chased, fell into the sea, and has now disappeared completely...



In Maths, we began the week with mental addition practice, using the various methods we have learnt to add two 3-digit numbers, then spent some time refining our written addition, using the 'carry over' method to add 3-digit and even 4-digit numbers. In the second half of the week, we moved on to telling the time, on analogue clocks (including Roman numerals), digital clocks and in words, and practised converting each of these styles into the other two. This is most definitely something the children can practise at home, or when you are out and about – "How would you say that time in words?", "What time would this be on a digital clock?" etc.

I have already allocated the next online Maths homework activity ('Bubble Burst 3.18' – telling the time using analogue and digital clocks) and would like all the children to practise as much as possible.

**Talk Topic** is 'As an actor, singer and dancer in a show, what can YOU do to ensure that the show is a great success?'

Enjoy the weekend.

Patrick Tranter and Naomi Irakoze [year3teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year3teacher@telenet.be)



## Year 4

Dear Parents,

This week we have been really busy rehearsing for the Oak Department production of Aladdin. The singing, dancing and acting is beginning to come together, and we are really looking forward to finally bringing it to the stage! The children have clearly been working hard and I'm sure that the show will be enjoyable for everyone, and you will be sure to go home singing all of the songs!



In our Literacy lessons we have finished off our 'Journey' stories and concentrated on spelling. We did a spelling investigation to find out the meaning of the super-, inter- and sub- prefixes, exploring our own knowledge and using dictionaries to find many examples of words with these prefixes. We also flexed our spelling and vocabulary muscles with our 'word within a word' activity, it was amazing how many words could be spelt using the letters from 'performance'!

In Maths we revised three main methods of subtraction – the column method, the frog/number line method and counting back/place value and when to use each one of them. We then used this knowledge to solve money problems, where we calculated the change that needed to be given. We moved on to telling the time to the nearest minute on both digital and analogue clocks including those with roman numerals. We then used the frog method to calculate how long something has taken such as a film or a TV program in hours and minutes.

In Science we continued with our topic on sound. This week we explored pitch and discussed how faster



vibrations produce a higher pitch and slower vibrations a lower pitch. We explored this ourselves through playing a collection of musical instruments and trying to change their pitch which you can see in the photos. We also briefly discussed sound waves and the effect of pitch and volume on them. We also reviewed how sound travels through air



to be heard by people.

Kind Regards,

Camilla Rutayisire [Year4teacher@telenet.be](mailto:Year4teacher@telenet.be)

## Year 5

Dear Parents,

The heatwave we were all expecting failed to materialise and, weatherwise, the week was a bit of a damp squib. However, it's been dry, and we were able to get outside and rehearse for the show to the max! We Year 5s are singing, acting and dancing



Quick-fire reactions in French!

very adroitly and we will put in a super performance next week with our schoolmates.

New classmates were the highlight of the week as we all waited expectantly for our 2 new friends to join us. Coming from the British School in Ukraine, Kirill and Mark, we're really pleased to have them and we gave them a very warm welcome.

Apart from this and theatrical excitement, we have been busy designing and realising our lunar rovers in DT, learning about factors, square numbers and roots in Numeracy; and, in Literacy, taking more, progressively bigger steps with Luna.

In our cartoon movie-short, we have got a deeper view into Luna and her father's relationship and the love between them. This allowed us to get some very useful and skilful writing done using language which we seldom use, but which is a part huge part of who we are: why we love our loved ones and how we show it.



This was followed on Wednesday with our first 'Experience Day' of this unit. We read and listened to the short picture book *The Heart and the Bottle* which is all about coping with trauma, loss and the process of healing; something that so many people in the world are living through right now. The lesson involved much Circle Time discussion, and it was a poignant lesson.

We ended the week in the park playing the ever-popular Anyball and of course in the school backyard, projecting our voices through Acts 1 and 2!

**Talk Topic:** What has been the biggest change (upheaval) you've experienced in your life?

Best wishes

Tim Stedman [year5teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year5teacher@telenet.be)

## Year 6

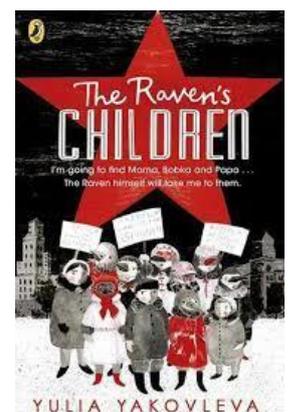
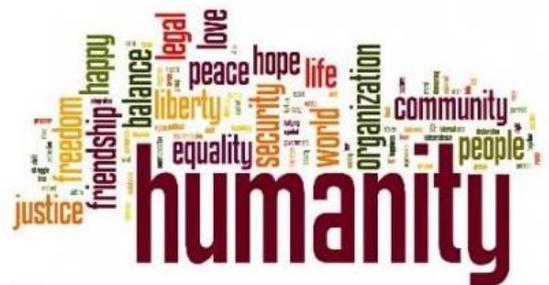
Dear Parents,

Every afternoon this week has been devoted to rehearsing for our forthcoming production of Aladdin and fortunately the weather has been kind, so we have been able to rehearse outside. There was great excitement when the props and scenery appeared on Wednesday. There is still a lot of work to do but thank you for sending in all the costumes so promptly.

We have continued our SATs revision programme with Oak Academy in the mornings. Pupils can revisit these revision lessons independently if they feel they need further practise. In maths, we have covered: problem solving with whole numbers and decimals; calculating intervals across zero; solving problems involving division with remainders; calculating and interpreting the mean as an average; developing strategies to plan and solve problems; investigating properties of number and exploring properties of palindromic numbers.

In Literacy, the children have revised relative clauses, simple, complex and compound sentences. We have finished reading 'Breaking Stalin's Nose,' listened to the opening of Animal Farm and begun reading 'The Raven's Children' – a gripping story about a family in the Soviet Union in the 1930s, a very dark time in Russian history.

**Talk Topic:** Humanity?



Happy weekend.

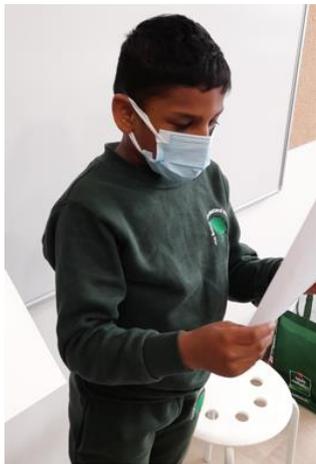
Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter [year6teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year6teacher@telenet.be)

## French - Oak Building. Miss Ilhan & Mme. Halvorsen

**Year 3:** This week, we took a look at some very colourful Belgian comic strip characters!

We discovered the comics of the Schtroumpfs (Smurfs), Tintin, Spirou and many other stars of the Belgian 'Bande dessinée' genre, which is a very important, and extremely popular part of Belgian culture.



We took this opportunity to create our own little story, with speech bubbles (phylactères) and onomatopoeia.

We also did some writing activities by describing some pictures linked to what we had discovered.

We then continued our work on our personal presentation, had another go at conversation tables and carried on with our work about the house.



### Year 4:

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we started the week working on our new project: **L'amie géniale/ l'ami génial** (my awesome friend) using everything we've learned up to now like les verbes réguliers (**aimer, jouer, nager, chanter, danser, dessiner, porter**). We also learned how to describe l'ami(e) génial(e), **son/sa famille (using son/sa/ses ) couleur préférée, animal, couleur, nourriture, vêtements et sports préférés, son âge**. Then, we described 'his or her' wardrobe according to '**les quatre saisons et la météo**'. moreover, we had some brilliant and **very funny** presentations about 'l'amie/ami génial(e)' as in '**Voici ma copine Lily, elle porte une robe mauve et elle chante avec les coccinelles derrière la forêt..... Voici Sam, il habite près de la mer et en face du bonhomme de neige. Il a très soif et un peu faim. Les girafes adorent le soleil qui danse autour de la terre!** They were absolutely funny and creative.

### Year 5:

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we had a busy week exploring '**les prepositions de lieu**', more **verbes réguliers (rouler, pleurer, arriver...)** and irregular verbs with a focus on understanding the difference between '**savoir & connaître**' (to know)



and they came up with several phrases to describe three or more things they know how to do. It was so refreshing to hop on board and listen to their creative phrases full of imagination and humor while combining different grammatical features such as '**les prépositions**, all sorts of adjectives including the possessive and demonstrative adjectives, and we ended up having some delightful, funny and crazy sentences full of humor and imagination, such as : **Mes parents et moi sommes sous la Tour Eiffel et sur un papillon mauve et jaune**'.

#### Year 6:

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we started the week with a brilliant test combining the three tenses of '**le passé composé, l'imparfait and le présent** paying close attention to '**les connecteurs temporels**'. We then worked on our short story: **Léo et la drôle de machine**, a great way to explore the use of different verb tenses, new vocabulary, and discover objects of the past like 'un gramophone' .. and as we started our summary presentations, it was a great opportunity to put into action les **compétences** (skills) **de l'expression orale, la compréhension orale and l'expression écrite**. This great assignment allowed us to review **les pronoms relatifs (qui & que)**, '**la phrase complexe**' (when we use two or more subjects in a sentence), **savoir and connaître, les verbes réfléchis** (in the **passé composé**) and to pay close attention to **the concordance des temps** (the sequence of tenses) when telling a story. Some of the **presentations** were simply excellent!



Applause for individual presentations in French

