



The British International
School of Brussels

BISB Home School Letter: June 19th, 2021

EYFS Nursery

Dear Parents,



Our nomad tent!

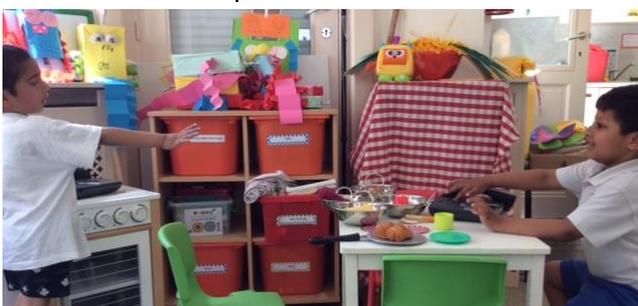


Water, water everywhere it gets in your eyes and it gets in your hair.... especially when we are all having great fun with our water-spouting ducks and fish! This week was just superb for all of our water play activities, including splashing about in bare feet and washing the baby dolls in the big baby bath! I'm not sure Mrs Davies would like some of the hair washing techniques she saw practised to be done on her hair and the jury is definitely out on what is considered head massage or just headache! This led onto a little talk on how we wash our hair at home, and we now know whose mummies or daddies get shampoo in their children's eyes when washing their hair, but of course we won't tell!

We have continued with our robot mini theme and the nursery windowsills are full of junk model robots of all different shapes, sizes and colour. They range from a princess with a crown robot to a silly robot! The most important thing is that the children are interested and are using their sense of awe and wonder, and that they are having a ball creating all of the components they wish to add to their models!

One of the seven areas of learning in EYFS is: **Expressive Arts and Design**, this involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. We try to provide lots of fun opportunities in this area and very much encourage each child to share their thoughts, ideas and feelings to the best of their ability through a variety of activities, not only in art but also, music, movement, dance, role play, and design and technology. Making the Robots and bringing them to life through stories, songs and our best Robot voices is such a rich language experience - all from simply using a cardboard box with some colourful papers and a lot of imagination.

If you look in your little one's home school book this week, we have our last Robot maths activity. This time it's all about recognising and matching shapes. The instructions are written on the template, so please take time to work together with your child, talking about the shapes, the colours and how they all fit together to create another super Robot.



Next week on **Friday 25th June**, it is our in-house birthday event for the whole school to celebrate 20 years of BISB growing little Acorns into mighty Oaks! Unfortunately, we are not able to invite parents to join because of the continuing COVID restrictions.

However, all of the children, including nursery, will be performing a number of songs in front of the other classes and will then have their own individual class party with cake, ice cream and other yummy snacks afterwards. Therefore, snacks from home are not required on that day.

Can we please ask you to dress your child in a colourful tee shirt and a pair of black or white leggings for the performance on that day?

Our **talk topic** is: “Why is it important for us to sing and also do the actions to our songs for the birthday celebration?”

Until next week have a super weekend.

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

EYFS Reception

Dear Parents,

Another fun week has just flown away and we are quickly reaching the end of the school year. As you might know already, we will be celebrating the school's 20th birthday next Friday 25th June. This will be a celebration for the children and the teachers so everything will happen in-house. As part of the preparations the children have decorated birthday hats which they will wear on that Friday, and we have been practising three songs about minibeasts that will be our gift to the school. The children are very excited about it and you have probably heard them singing parts of the songs at home. For **Friday 25th** we would appreciate it if they can come dressed in **summer colourful clothes** – i.e: **shorts and T-shirts**, no dresses or skirts please as these are not comfortable for them to play outside.



Last Tuesday we had the visit of Cap Sciences and the children participated in a scientific workshop in which they did two experiments. The first one was about static electricity, and the aim was to see if the static in the balloon, created by rubbing it in our hair, could make small plastic balls stick to it. The second experiment was about how magnets attract and repel each other. The children were all very engaged in both subjects and participated excitedly throughout the whole workshop. These two experiments were part of our STEM week programme

and, despite having happened almost 10 days after STEM week, the children could retell each one of them and choose the one they liked best and the one they liked least. Therefore, they all got their Twinkl stars STEM passport, which acknowledges their participation in this special science week. They all loved receiving a sticker per experiment and a last golden, happy face for their wonderful participation in all the activities.



In Maths we continued working on halving. In your child's home school book you will find a piece of work related to this to do at home. There is one sheet of paper with two sandcastles on it and a separate sheet with shells, flags, etc. which the children have to cut out and share between the two sandcastles. This was tried as a hands-on experience in class with real sand. The children had to build their own sandcastles and then halve all of the decorative items they wanted to use to decorate them.

In Literacy we kept on working on writing words and we focused on reading comprehension. We revised digraphs and trigraphs and worked with words which have these sounds.

We only had one PE session this week, as Tuesday afternoon was dedicated to science. Given the very hot weather on Thursday afternoon we decided to have a water play session. We had four big trays filled with water and each had different toys to play with. Dolls to be bathed, ponies having fun in their pool, sea animals and splashy rubber fish, and cups and water mills. Lots of fun guaranteed!

Our talk topic for next week is: *What's your favourite thing to do during the hot summer days?*

Have a lovely weekend and see you all back on Monday,

Kind regards,

Mrs. van Wassenhove and Mrs. Julaton

receptionteacher@telenet.be

KS1 Year 1

Dear Parents,

We have enjoyed the fabulous sunny weather this week as well as practising for our sports day, which is due to take place next week. The children are all excited and looking forward to it. The weather was so good we even managed to have a picnic lunch outside under the



shade of a big tree. Summer has been the focus of our learning in general this week. We have discussed the importance of sun safety and learned the slogan 'slip, slap, slop': You slip on a T-shirt, slap on a hat and slop on some sunscreen when it gets hot in the summer. The children made some safety posters to remind people how to stay safe in sunny weather. We also discussed how to protect our eyes and had fun making some fabulous sunglasses!



In our Science and Topic lessons we have been thinking about the seaside. The children learned about animals commonly found at the seaside and learned to label the parts of three common seaside animals – a seagull, crab and a fish. They learned that these animals have some parts in common such as eyes and mouths and some different parts such as scales, claws, tails and fins. We also learned about what a Marine Biologist does and how they work to protect the world's oceans. We had some fun looking at and discussing shells and we now know that empty shells once had an animal living inside them. We had some fun making sandcastles out of moon sand and making sandcastle collages.

In Literacy we wrote our final acrostic poem about summer. We have written this type of poem a few times throughout the year, including in the autumn and spring, and it has been lovely to see how well the children have progressed with coming up with great vocabulary for describing the sights, sounds, tastes and feelings of different seasons. We also learned the last list of spellings for the year, which we will do on Monday. The children also took home their last homework of the year on Monday.



In Maths we have practised finding change from 10 cents and then from 20 cents. We learned that when you don't pay with an exact amount you can expect some money back from the shopkeeper and that you can work out how much to give back using subtraction. We also revised adding and subtracting 1 from any 2 digit number and then moved on to adding and subtracting 10 from and 2 digit number.

Talk topic: What are your plans for the holidays?

And that was our week! I hope you have a great weekend,

Camilla Rutayisire and Smita Bandaru Year1teacher@telenet.be

KS1 Year 2

Dear Parents,

The Year Twos showed just what mighty oaks they have become this week by completing the ACORN Award!



The ACORN award stands for:

ADVENTURE – the children stayed overnight at school in the Acorn building for a sleepover on Friday night,

CHALLENGE – they walked a 5km route in the shining sun around the Foret de Soignes,

ORGANISATION – they prepared and cooked in school a delicious meal of pasta and tomato sauce for themselves and for the Year 4 children,

RESPONSIBILITY – they each committed to carrying out an act of service at home every day in the two weeks leading up the sleepover,

NEW SKILL – everyone learned and showed off one new skill at the Talent Show!

Then this morning, we all walked around to the Oak building for breakfast and a little tour of their new school building before they were collected by their parents.

It was a super-active and enjoyable day – we built troll shelters in the forest, played Fox and Hounds with our new Year 4 buddies and spotted lots of wildlife, such as ducklings, baby coots and hundreds of tiny little froglets. A fun night of singing and dancing, movies, midnight feasts and popcorn was had on our return to school - and very little sleep!



They really have shown how ready they are for becoming mighty oaks next term!

During the week, the children were busy finishing their Mrs. C style instructions about bird feeders by researching everyday food items that are good for and harmful for birds.

In Maths, we have been recapping our knowledge of multiplication and division and have been challenging ourselves to learn our four-times tables (and for some children, beyond) in preparation for Year Three.

We learned about the environmental hero, Rachel Carson, her work on the world's ocean life and habitats and her campaign to stop polluting the seas with chemicals.

Our songs for the BISB Birthday party next Friday are starting to sound very tuneful and we have added some fun and silly dance moves too! In Art, we coloured and cut out minibeasts to make fancy hats for next week's singing show.

Please send your child to school in their white school t-shirt for the rest of term, unless a special day (see below). Plain grey, blue or black shorts are also acceptable in this warm weather (but please not denim).

Special days:

Friday 25th June: BISB 20 years Birthday Party: please send your child to school wearing a brightly coloured plain (i.e. no logo/pattern/image) t-shirt and dark trousers/leggings/shorts. (You can always turn a t-shirt inside out to hide the logo/image). Thank you.

Talk Topic: Can you describe some of the adventures, challenges and new skills of the Acorn Award? What did you enjoy the most? What was most challenging? What new skills have you gained over the last two weeks?

Gabriel Bird, year2teacher@telenet.be Mrs. Tolentino

Music - Acorn Building: Reception, Years 1 & 2

All children were busy this week learning songs for the school's upcoming celebration. Reception, Y1 and Y2 are learning songs based on the theme of Minibeasts.



French - Acorn Building: Reception, Years 1 & 2

Reception and Year 1:

In French with Madame Scharf, we dedicated the week to speaking about holidays and all the activities we can do during this fun period. We started by learning all the various ways we can travel: "en voiture, en avion, en bateau, à vélo, à moto, à pied etc...". We went "à la mer, à la plage et à la piscine" where we could swim (nager), dive (plonger) or jump (sauter). At the beach (à la plage), we can build a sandcastle (un château de sable) and play (jouer). We watched Petit Ours Brun, Simon, Trotro et Peppa Pig who helped us discover all these new words.



Year 2: In French with Madame Halvorsen, we talked about **'la nourriture'** (food) and we learned about the things we can have for breakfast, lunch and dinner. We made up fun scenes **'au supermarché'** and we were able to shop and buy the food we like. We really had fun because we used the 'greeting' expressions we had learned and the numbers from **'un à cinquante'** (1 to 50) to ask for the price and pay for the grocery. We also explored ideas and words we associate with **'les grandes vacances'** and **'l'été'** (summer vacation) and we danced and sang beautiful songs.

KS2 Year 3

Dear Parents,

The highlight of the week was undoubtedly our visit to the train museum at TrainWorld on Tuesday. Although a few of the children had been before, it was a great experience for all, especially as it linked so well with this term's topic 'The World on Wheels'. From the outset, the atmosphere was exciting, as it was quite dark inside, and the sheer size of the older machines on display really helped to add perspective to the trains we have been learning about through books, pictures and videos. Unfortunately, Covid restrictions meant that many of the trains were inaccessible to visitors, but there were three that were open for us to view from the inside. The grand finale was the train-driving simulator game, which everyone enjoyed! We then had lunch in a nearby park, followed by an extra-long playtime in the sand – sorry about the shoes and socks! The day's photos have been uploaded to a separate website page <http://www.bisb.org/project/year-3-visit-to-trainworld/>.



Back at school, we have been catching up or continuing with a number of things. In reading, we continued with 'Mouse Bird Snake Wolf', and have just found out what happened when the wolf came to life. One group missed their reading session this week, due to our trip, but we will catch up next week. In Art, we made a start on our final project of this term's topic – train fridge magnets. On Wednesday, we made the salt dough, which involved a lot of mixing, kneading and rolling, then cut out our train shapes. We will paint them next week, once they have dried. In preparation for our end-of-term show, we also made cat masks, using animal print patterns and pipe-cleaner eyelashes!

There are many things scheduled for the final week and a half of term, so please check for updates and information on the Edmodo BISB Internet Café group page. One item requiring your attention is the menu choice for the barbecue – please complete and return it by 24th June.

Finally, please return all library books next week, as we have to collect them all in before the end of the year, and please be aware that we will be sending home exercise books, paintings and any other artistic creations over the course of the next 10 days.

Talk topic for next week is 'What are you expecting next year in Year 4?'



Have a great weekend!

Patrick Tranter and Naomi Irakoze

year3teacher@telenet.be

Year 4



Dear Parents,

Continuing with our problem-solving theme in Maths on Tuesday, the children, working in teams, were tasked with organising a school trip and writing a letter to parents to let them know about the day. Pupils had to take on different roles: organiser, coordinator, recorder and resource manager. Each group was given a set of cards, which they had to read through to find the necessary details – some cards were irrelevant! Well, this proved to be a worthwhile exercise in paying attention to detail – on this school trip, each group departed and returned at different times! On Wednesday, it was the 20-card challenge. Again, in teams, pupils had to solve twenty-word problems; one team finished in record time – and, yes, this team made the most errors. I do hope that the children are beginning to appreciate that speed, in completing calculations, is pointless without accuracy.

Happy weekend,

Mrs Tranter

In our science lesson this week, Year 4 completed their investigation into whether toothpaste can protect our teeth from decay. We examined closely the eggs that were left in different liquids last week. Some had been brushed with toothpaste, and others had not. We found that most of the eggs that had been brushed with toothpaste had not suffered the damage shown on eggs left in the same liquids but not protected with toothpaste. We did discuss the limitations of our findings, but I was pleased that the children agreed that brushing our teeth with toothpaste is essential.

The second part of our science lesson involved a study of how humans digest their food. We watched a video on the human digestive system (the children are asked to watch this video again, by logging in to their Discovery Education account, and finding their assignments. We then made our own large diagrams of the digestive system, and our own working models of the different parts, to demonstrate how it functions.

In our coding session, we designed another app using Discovery Education code. During the summer holiday, the children can continue to practise using this code, by logging in to their accounts, but they should not go on to any of the level 5 or 6 lessons, please. (Mrs. Read)

In Literacy we set to and wrote our Science week reports, making sure that we used our editing skills to the full, spotting mistakes, improving vocabulary, altering sentences for effect, and, above all, adding personal opinion to produce an engaging piece of writing to reflect the work done over the year. Generally, the results are very positive, with some people working extremely hard; making a great effort to check, check and check again, and arriving at a finished, neatly presented and interesting report that demonstrates an excellent mastery of language. Well done!

In Art we had a busy week planning and organizing our end-of-week Forest trip with the Year 2s. Our mission was to welcome the Year 2s to the Oak Department and to make their overnight stay special – so we set to, designing celebration bunting and individual welcome cards for each person that included a special message about what they can look forward to next year in Oak. The design skills have also improved hugely, and everyone now has a sharp eye for layout and lettering, uses colour and different media to good effect and certainly knows how to add that personal touch with some imaginative doodling 😊. The Year 2s were delighted!

It was great to end the year with a shared class trip to the Forest, and, despite the unbelievable heat, everyone successfully managed the second walk of the day, hunted happily for pixies and thrones, tried their hand at constructing troll houses and had fun playing games around the racetrack. We thoroughly enjoyed the visit to the Year 2 Michelin-starred restaurant afterwards (their cooking is pretty spectacular!) and above all showed commendable kindness and consideration for the younger children, who, I am sure, will be delighted to meet up again with familiar faces in September. (Mrs. Still)

Place cards
from the Year
2 fine-
dining
restaurant!



Talk Topic: How do you think you have changed over the year? How will that help you in Year 5 next year?

Have a lovely weekend,

Beverley Tranter year6teacher@telenet.be Kate Read EALteacher@telenet.be Jane Still headteacher@bisb.org

Year 5

Dear Parents,

Monday's action started with a lever-arm catapult fight and ended with a brilliant cricket match after school dominated by our Y5s.

Science was all about levers in action and the class had to build their own medieval-style coat hanger catapults and then test 2 variables with it. What affects distance of each shot from the trebuchet – number of elastic bands? How much the lever is sprung? The height of the catapult even? Quite clearly, fun was had!

On Tuesday, the class thrilled to watch the 2019 movie of the musical cats. They sang along and followed the poetry in the subtitles and miaowed and caterwauled at the right moments. The Oak performance of excerpts from the show to celebrate the school's 20th anniversary will be magical. Just a week to go 'til curtain!

On Wednesday, they learnt a new dance motif to a song that will close the entertainment. It was hot and the dancing made us all the more sweaty.

The children tell me they know the moves and I'm sure they do or at least will: they love to dance.

In Maths, we added on a lesson in response to some gaps highlighted by last week's Numeracy tests. Line graphs were drawn up, curves extrapolated and information eeked out of the data. The children said the independent work was harder than the actual exam questions.



Elsewhere the class coded like madmen, offered up some brilliant WW1 Kahoots for us all to enjoy and counted the cog teeth on the bikes which are happily filling up the bike rack in the playground. What does the size of rear cogs on a bicycle mean for the effort you put in on the pedals?

Oh, and we sweltered!

And that was our week.

Our Talk Topic for this week is: What was the highlight of this year? Explain.

Tim Stedman

year5teacher@telenet.be

Year 6

Dear Parents,

Monday was an emotional day; we finished reading *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* and watching the film. As expected, the children were silent as the film credits rolled, whilst listening to the haunting musical accompaniment. This is an important book. Here is an extract from an interview with John Boyne, the author, which in many ways, reflects my choices of books (and topics) in Year 6.



What's the main consideration when writing for children as opposed to adults?

I've written four books for young people and I don't try to change the language. I don't try to simplify it. The themes that I write about are as serious as the things I write about in adult novels. For me, it's about taking a young person, putting them in the centre of an adult experience and seeing how they manage to cope. I think that's what's more interesting for young people. I've been in lots of schools over the years, and they don't want to be talked down to. They don't want stupid stories. They're willing to be challenged with the serious subjects that my books cover - the Holocaust, the First World War, the death of a parent - and talk about them and learn about them. It comes down to, if you write a good book - no matter if it's for adults or for children - you just need to write something from the heart and hope it finds that readership.

Now, the students are busy writing scenes for their three-act play about Russia: Empires of the Tsars. We shall be performing this next week; some children want to dress-up, which is absolutely fine... I shall be recording this activity to share with you.

The Year 6 classroom is looking more and more like a Party Planners Headquarters. House Captains are busy organising the end of year activities: water fights, sports day, BBQ lunch, the final quiz, etc.. The BBQ is causing some frustration – students are in despair at some of the questions which have been asked! They have my deepest sympathy; the 'flip-flop' saga of 2019 proved to be a major turning point in my 'organising school trips' career – from that moment, I decided to include pictures of required clothing and equipment, in the hope of resolving differing interpretations of 'flip-flop'!

Oak is overrun with cats! Rehearsals for our *Cats* production are now a regular occurrence, this week, Mr Stedman began his intensive flashdance preparations; our playground is definitely taking on a festival atmosphere: cat masks, posters, costumes and music.

Year 6 will be posting information on Edmodo about our 'We are all Wonders' sleepover (with pictures!).

Talk Topic: What do you think about John Boyne's viewpoint?

Happy weekend, Mrs Tranter year6teacher@telenet.be

Music - Oak Building:

KS2: All children were busy this week learning songs for the school's upcoming celebration, with the Oaks taking up the challenge of learning a song in French, "Sacré Charlemagne". They all sounded fantastic!



French - Oak Building:

Year 3:

In **French** with Madame Halvorsen, we started talking about **l'été** (summer) and everything we associate with this sunny season starting with '**les grandes vacances**' (summer holidays). We learned new vocabulary to prepare **les valises** (to pack the suitcases) and head for '**la mer**' (the sea) where we caught some '**poissons**' and met **les crabes, les dauphins, les baleines** and built a beautiful '**château de sable**'. We danced and sang beautiful songs related to '**les vacances**' and we also sang '**Sacré Charlemagne**', an upbeat song for the school anniversary.

Year 4:

In French with Madame Scharf, we spent the week talking about holidays using the future proche to say where we are going to go on holiday. We created a mind map to help us revise the means of transport, the places we want to go to and all the activities we can do. We also talked about the weather in order to make the difference between "il fait chaud" and "c'est chaud" and insisted on saying "j'ai chaud". We also answered the question: "Est-ce que tu sais où tu vas aller en vacances?" which made us use the prepositions "je vais au (+pays masculin), en (+pays féminin), à (+noms de villes)".

Year 5:

In **French** with Madame Halvorsen, we continued working on **l'été** and described a scene '**au bord de la mer**' (by the seaside). We looked at the use of '**les verbes réfléchis/pronominaux**' (the reflexive verbs) and how we use them in daily life to describe '**ma routine**'. We also sang '**Sacré Charlemagne**', an upbeat song for the school anniversary. Then we had an exciting collective test to see how well they could apply **les verbes pronominaux** and we followed up with a **Kahoot game** using everything we've learned this week. It was beautifully played!

Year 6:

In French with Madame Scharf, we have been very busy travelling to Paris! Before we left for Paris, we created a general mind map revising the means of transport, the places we want to go to and all the various activities we can do. This allowed us to tell the others what we were planning on doing during the holidays by using the future proche. We then took off for Paris and visited the most famous monuments, but also revised a little history and learnt some very interesting facts and figures about this famous city. We watched a cartoon called Mirette, she is a young detective helped by her cat in Paris.

