



Newsletter for the week of February 25th, 2022

The British International School of Brussels

Dear Parents,

Thank you to everyone for participating in the Zoom parent-teacher meetings this week. We hope that you found them constructive and informative, and that everyone has now received a copy of the report,

The Year 1s watching the ducks and enjoying the sunshine at the Warandeborg park in Wezembeek



Those of you who had meetings on Thursday or Friday will receive the hard copies on the first day back at school.



Here are the highlights of the week, bringing us to the end of this very busy and hard-working half-term. Everyone definitely deserves a good break now, so we hope you have the chance to get out and about in the fresh air and have time to enjoy exploring the green spaces in and around Brussels.

Hello from Reception - enjoying the cold, winter sunshine in the playground

The Year 4s getting ready for their imaginary skiing trip



The Year 6s debating the intricacies of the 1917 February Revolution in Russia.



Floating gently as the Year 2s learn to swim

Carnival in Nursery...

There's nothing quite like the chance to dress up!



Year 3s learning to play the gockenspiel



Highlights of the week ...

Nursery:



Nursery was in a carnival mood this week and we finished our Big Cook, Little Cook topic with a fruity little number called 'Lassi' which was very refreshing after all of our dancing and running away from Spider-Man and our carnival ghost!! What a great end to a short week and we are now looking forward to starting our new theme 'Tales from long ago' after the half term break, so watch this space!

Until then enjoy your week off and thank you for all of your great feedback during the Parent-Teacher meetings, see you back relaxed and refreshed on the 7th of March.

Thank you,



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

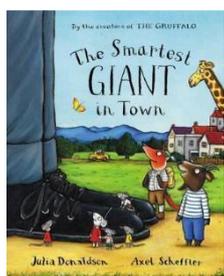
Reception:

Dear Parents,

First of all I want to thank everybody for virtually meeting with us and for the positive feedback about your children in school. They have been working hard during the past weeks so now it's time for them to enjoy their well-deserved holiday.

This week we have been working with tricky words in literacy and we have been practising our reading skills by reading one-to-one with the teachers.

In Maths we have been working on measures, length and height. For that we have measured the children and set up a height chart on our class door, and we have also practised measuring with non-standard measuring units like gems, buttons or cubes.



Our storybook of the week was 'The Smartest Giant in Town' by Julia Donaldson in which we talked all about helping others when they need our help. We also found rhyming words in the story and learned how to identify words that have the same end sounds.

We have come to an end in our Space topic, the children really enjoyed it and we are looking forward to our new topic when they come back to school.





To celebrate the end of half term we had a dressing-up party. The children had access to dressing up costumes and we all had a little dance with party music. Lots of fun!

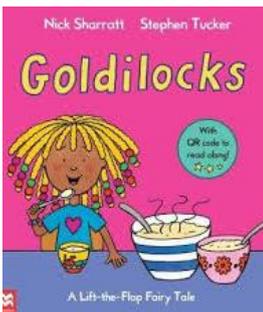
We wish you all a happy and restful holiday.

Ines van Wassenhove and Ivana Julaton
receptionteacher@telenet.be

Year 1:

Dear Parents,

Although it's been a slightly shorter week, we've still managed to cram in lots of fun learning experiences and activities. One of the highlights was a trip to the park on Thursday – a little reward for everything the children have accomplished over the past seven weeks. They really have worked hard!



In **Literacy**, the children have enjoyed finishing off their very own Goldilocks books. They have been adding lots of interesting detail to their illustrations as they understand that this is another way to tell the story.

Lots of counting in **Maths** this week – counting in twos, fives and tens and recognizing odd and even numbers. Please practise this at home if you can.

In **Science** we thought about the types of food that would keep a polar scientist warm whilst in Antarctica. We decided that dried soup would be useful as it's warming and easy to carry. The children developed their observational skills by looking closely at the powder with magnifying glasses and tried to identify what was in there. They then used tweezers to separate out the different vegetables and pasta. Next, we added water to see what would happen when they were rehydrated. We observed closely over the course of the afternoon and noticed changes to colour, shape and size. The following day we used a second packet of soup, followed the instructions on the packet and then drank it from a cup in the garden. It was VERY well received by Year 1!

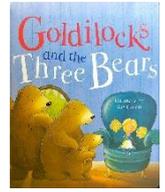


TALK TOPIC: How do you know that we are moving from winter into spring?



Have a wonderful week!

Miss. Corrigan and Mrs. Bandaru year1teacher@telenet.be



Year 2:

Dear Parents,



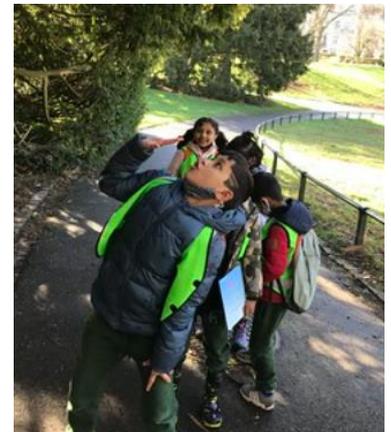
Year 2 had a wonderful trip to Josaphat Park this week, finding an interesting assortment of animals and birds, and thinking about food chains and micro-habitats.

In our literacy sessions, we took time to compose a complex sentence, using an adverbial phrase, adjectives and one ambitious word, to describe the blissful life led by the main character in the book *Wild*, before she was taken from the forest to live in a house.



In maths, we focused on fractions of flat shapes: $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{3}$, and $\frac{2}{3}$, as well as $\frac{1}{2}$ s of numbers. Any chance that you have to talk about fractions in real life situations would be helpful.

We wish you a very happy holiday, and look forward to seeing the children on Monday 7th March.



Talk Topic: Can you find some microhabitats in your local area during the holidays? Which minibeasts can you identify living there?

Gabriel Bird and Ena Tolentino year2teacher@telenet.be

Year 3:



Dear Parents,

The children have worked very hard this week, and thoroughly deserve their short holiday! As the end of the half-term approached, we had to fit in some assessment work: independent writing (non-fiction) about the causes and effects of one type of natural disaster (a tsunami or a hurricane), Maths arithmetic and problem-solving tests, plus our end-of-unit assessment in Science, about rocks, fossils and soil. We prepared well for each one, with appropriate revision activities, so each child was able to deliver their best performance.

But the highlight of our week was our design technology session on Tuesday, where the children, working in pairs, were challenged to design



and build an earthquake-proof building, using straws, kebab sticks, marshmallows and jelly sweets! They then had to place their constructions in Mr Tranter's 'earthquake tray', for testing – with some excellent results, and some a little less excellent (perhaps due to the mysterious disappearance of some of the very important marshmallows and jelly sweets? 🤔). Two buildings in particular withstood the rigorous testing, and the designers were rewarded with a house-point each for their efforts.

Please take a look at all the photos on

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/157096587@N03/albums/72177720296422380> (you will need to scroll down quite a way, and even on to a second page).

Enjoy the break, see you on Monday 7th March.

Patrick Tranter and Naomi Irakoze year3teacher@telenet.be



French, Mlle Mhan:

Reception & Year 1:

To celebrate carnival, we found out about lots of professional disguises (an IT specialist, a pharmacist, a florist, a doctor, a firefighter, a baker, a queen, a clown, etc.) and various animal masks (cat, cow, ladybird, fly, etc.).



We played object association games (e.g. a rolling pin for the pastry chef).

Like the clowns, we played with magic balloons, transforming them into all sorts of shapes, (food, animals, objects). This game allowed us to expand our vocabulary whilst having fun.



Reception also prepared a delicious apple cake for us to eat to celebrate the end of term.

Year 2:



The Year 2s also dressed up in professional 'disguises' and had fun with the special balloons, making sure that they learned all of the vocabulary to go with the actions. They then celebrated the end of term by making a fantastic, and delicious, giant apple cake and to end the week they discovered some new board games in French, playing together in small groups.



Year 3:

This week, as it is normally the time to celebrate carnivals in Belgium, we took a look at the Carnaval de Binche.



This was the opportunity to create our own procession with our own masks and original movements.



The mask making took quite a long time, as we asked for the material in French, decided what we wanted to achieve and then presented our creations.

To end the week, we organized 'tables de conversation' over a cup of tea or orange juice. The subjects were varied. We talked about our tastes in food, colours, sports and everyday life.



Year 4:

Yet another term has flown by in year 4 and what a busy term it has been!

This week we have almost finished our sentence stacking lessons on 'Journey' by Aaron Becker ready for planning and writing our own adventure stories after the holidays. In Spelling we did another 'Go grapheme grafters!' session to identify spelling words we need to work on.



We enjoyed doing a couple of kahoot quizzes in our Topic lesson to test our knowledge of Scandinavia, it's amazing how many facts we have learned about these fascinating countries. In Maths we looked at identifying factor pairs using the 'arc' method to find all possible factors of a given number and worked out how to find change from 10 or 20 euros using the frog method, then we did a quick assessment of our maths skills from this term.

The children enjoyed another great swimming session at the NATO pool. Please note that these sessions will continue after the February holidays until the Easter break.

It has been a pleasure to speak to you all about your children during the parent teacher meetings, I hope that you all have a good break.

Kind Regards,

Camilla Rutayisire

Year4teacher@telenet.be



Year 5:



In Y5 this week we finished this half term with a flourish.

We completed our sentence stack block on the book 'Cosmic', learning what is, and how to use, pathetic fallacy (which the children loved). In Science we began a new unit call Circle of Life naming all the parts of a flower and

how it reproduces. Meanwhile in Numeracy our worked ranged from adding decimals to deciphering word problems to subtraction by adding up. The children were very motivated and now deserve a good week's R and R.

(A very popular lunchtime game of hockey may cause some legs to need some rest too!)

Talk Topic: What if bees became extinct? Go through and explain the chain of events.

And that was our week.

Best wishes,

Tim Stedman year5teacher@telenet.be



Year 6:

Dear Parents,

How pertinent that we are immersed in the history of Russia in Year 6, and yet again, as with Covid, we are living history with the events unfolding in Ukraine. This week our focus has been the February Revolution, the Bolshevik Coup d'état and Lenin. As well as an introduction to the famous allegorical novella by George Orwell, Animal Farm. According to Orwell, the fable reflects events leading up to the Russian Revolution of 1917, and then on into the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union.



'The book was 'first published in England on 17 August 1945. The book tells the story of a group of farm animals who rebel against their human farmer, hoping to create a society where the animals can be equal, free, and happy. Ultimately, the rebellion is betrayed, and the farm ends

up in a state as bad as it was before, under the dictatorship of a pig named Napoleon.'

On Thursday, we enacted The February Revolution, when the Provisional Government was forced to share power with the Petrograd Soviet. In our 'adapted' version, the Provisional Government 'the bourgeoisie' had to negotiate a deal with the 'revolutionaries.' Some hard bargaining ensued: property ownership, elections, wage increases, end



to famine, education for children, medical care, more work opportunities and an end to the war.

In maths, we revisited decimal representations in the metric system and conversions between these, as well as converting areas into common metric units of mass.



Talk Topic: Who do animal(s) represent in Animal Farm?



Happy holiday.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter Year6teacher@telenet.be



French, Mme
Halvorsen:

Years 4 & 5:

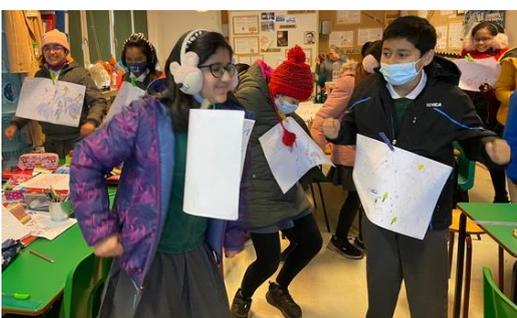
In French with Madame Halvorsen, we finished working on our exciting end-of-term adventurous and imaginary dream trips '**Partir au Ski**' and '**Une Semaine au Ski**' which allowed us to explore, describe and learn so many words and



expressions related to skiing, winter activities, friendly animals such as **le rouge-gorge, le renard, le renne, le castor, le hérisson, les vêtements d'hiver** (winter clothes) using **je porte une écharpe, des gants en laine etc...** songs, le goûter **les crêpes, les gaufres, le chocolat chaud..** and we concluded with exciting and playful skiing and sledging competitions. What a happy week full of energy and adventures!

Year 6:

In French with Mme Halvorsen, we started discussing '**Grandir Pauvre**' an inspiring short story about a young man determined to succeed. Then we embarked on our favourite end of term creative and imaginary dream trip '**Les Classes de Neige**' which allowed us to explore, describe and learn so many words and expressions



related to skiing, winter activities and 'les plats et desserts fétiches des skieurs' (skiers' favorite food and desserts) such as la fondue, la raclette, la tartiflette, les crêpes, les gaufres.. and we concluded with a stunning Olympic downhill competition thanks to Mrs Tranter and her skiing lessons. What a fun week we had!



Music, Miss diFine:



Reception: This week, our fantastic adventure into the Space World came to an end. We enjoyed singing all the space songs we learned this term from the Songbook "Out of the Ark". We also learned a new song called Space (If I had a Rocket) and played and danced with the beanbags and scarves.



Here you can listen to the song "The Planets": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1y8zDKYe8I>



Years 1 & 2: this week we listened to and read the musical story of "The Carnival of the Animals".

America's first Children's Poet Laureate has written new verses to accompany the story composed by Camille Saint-Saëns, and the illustrator of the Harry Potter books has turned these rollicking rhymes into a picture-book fun fest.

In the fourteen movements, different instruments represent an animal: the glissando of the piano is the roaring of the lion, the deep sound of double bass becomes a great caricature of the elephant etc..

Here you can listen and watch the musician playing "The Lion": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8y-KBIDFZOo> . We also danced and played with the beanbags.



Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6:

This week we listen and analysed the last two movements of the Beethoven's 6th Symphony: The fourth movement, "The Thunderstorm", is the part where Beethoven calls for the largest group of instruments in the entire piece with the loud timpani creating the thunders and the violins the sound drops of rain. The fifth movement "The Shepherd's song. Cheerful and thankful feelings after the storm", is the finale and it closes the Symphony. This movement emphasizes a



symmetrical eight-bar theme, in this case representing the shepherds' song of thanksgiving. Year 3 and 4 learned how to play the song "Old McDonald" on the glockenspiels. We continued our Aladdin's rehearsals by singing all the songs this time, without reading the lyrics, trying also to remember the order in which they will be sung during the play.

Information for the week



- Please don't forget that next week is the half-term holiday break. School opens again on **Monday, 7th March.**



- Please remember to let us know if you think that you may be leaving at the end of the Summer term (i.e: 29th June 2022). The **90-day deadline** for written notice of departure is **Thursday, 31st March 2021.** Please notify us before this date if your child will be leaving BISB at the end of the academic year; this will ensure that your deposit can be refunded.



- If you need a receipt for reimbursements or have questions about financial matters, please email Mr. Prescott at bisbbursar@telenet.be



- Thank you to everyone who attended their **Parent-Teacher zoom meeting** over the past week. If you would like to talk to Mme. Halvorsen, Mlle. Ilhan or Miss. Di Fine, please contact School Office and we will arrange a suitable time for a meeting.



- On Wednesday, 9th March, the Year 1s will be visiting **Parc Josaphat**, in preparation for their new literacy unit on poetry. They will be gathering inspiration for their own poems on spring by looking for signs of spring in nature. They will walk to the park first thing in the morning, eat their snack in the park and return to school by lunchtime. Please make sure that children have strong shoes and a warm, waterproof coat



- Please could you make sure that uniform items are clearly marked with your child's name? As the weather gets warmer, so the pile of unnamed jumpers and cardigans at the end of the day grows ever greater ... and they all look exactly the same! Don't forget also that names come off in the wash.



- We have noticed that certain children repeatedly forget to return their reading or library books. Please could you take advantage of the time over the holiday to search for (or ask the children to search for!) any books that are lurking under beds or down the back of furniture? We have invested in some beautiful books over the last few years, and it is disappointing if these cannot be shared with everyone.



- The first group of **Year 1** children will be starting their swimming sessions on Thursday mornings at the Castle Club in Wezembeek after the half-term holiday. Please check for details of the groups on the class Edmodo page. The children will need:
 - ❖ a clearly labelled swimming costume (boys need a Speedo-style costume, **not** shorts)
 - ❖ a swimming hat
 - ❖ a (big) towel
 - ❖ Goggles are optional

Please make sure that **all** of their uniform clothes are labelled clearly with their names! We cannot guarantee that they will come home in their own clothes otherwise 🙄

Well done to everyone for a week of hard work, and a particular well done to the following:



Stars of the Week



Nursery:

Everyone for having such fun and joining in with all our Carnival celebrations ✨

Reception:

Saahithi, for listening attentively to the instructions and following them in our PE games.

Deetya, for remembering that sometimes two letters make one sound when reading, well done.

Year 1:

Abeer, for writing super news this week. Great focus Abeer!

Hridhya, for learning how to draw a super snowy owl for her polar ice collage.

Year 2:

Yashneil, for excellent progress in swimming and for taking such delight in every lesson.

Aasvi, for very good thinking about fractions in maths.

Year 3:

Arhan & Kabir and Jinisha & Nishaank, for their excellently designed and constructed 'earthquake-proof' buildings.

Year 4:

Lavishka, for great enthusiasm and effort with answering questions in class and always being willing to participate and share ideas.

Saksham, for good work with finding factor pairs in maths.

Year 5:

Vinesh for impressive calculation and problem-solving.

Year 6:

Aditya for his impressive timeline of Lenin's rise to power and analysis of Leninism.





And finally, a fitting quote to start a holiday week when the sun might shine, the first signs of spring will definitely be visible, and there will be plenty of time to get out and about in the fresh air! ...

