



The British International
School of Brussels

BISB Home School Letter: April 22nd, 2022

EYFS Nursery

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the Easter break and from what your children are telling us, you all had a magnificent time! Everyone was very happy to be in Nursery and during our circle times this week many of the children shared their holiday adventures with us, from going to the beach to relaxing in the park or doing a lot of chocolate egg eating, to picking tulips on the farm. There have been some great contributions and excited chatter within the group!



It was a relatively short but busy, busy week as usual and we have taken advantage of the continuing good weather to spend as much outside time as we can with some extended playground activities where possible. During the morning session it isn't always practical to share the playground with our Reception friends because of the bigger groups, but in the afternoon it is and it's wonderful seeing purposeful play in action across the EYFS classes.

We have been exploring the exploding signs of Spring in the playground looking particularly at how many of our plants and flowers are bursting into life during this glorious sunny period. We took good care not to pick any of our blooming plant life but instead looked carefully at the different colours, sizes, shapes and felt the textures of the variety of grasses and flowers growing in the window boxes.

Over the next few weeks we will be preparing and planting the Nursery vegetable garden, we are just trying to decide what should go in it at the moment! One of the little ones did ask if we could grow chocolate cake as it was their favourite, which led on to a discussion about cocoa beans and how they eventually became a bar of chocolate. We then decided it might be healthier to plant lettuce or tomatoes as they were slightly easier to grow and a tad healthier!

In your child's HSB you will find two activities, the first one is a free drawing and sticker picture representing some of the flowers they saw in the garden or out and about in the holiday. We also discussed the names of each flower, ask your little one what their drawing represents, is it a rose, tulip, daisy, pansy or daffodil or something else? To remind the children that flowers have different names, during the music sessions with Miss di Fine the children learned a new song all about tulips, bluebells, daffodils, snowdrops and sunflowers!

The second activity is a counting and sticking activity, matching the bunches of flowers to the number on the pot. However, some pots don't have flower picture to go with them. If this is the case then ask your child to draw the correct number of flowers popping out of the pot instead. Please guide your child but don't do the activity for them.

Just a quick reminder, during the warm weather can you please send in cold or room temperature water in your child's container, quite a few children are bringing in very warm water, which is not particularly thirst quenching on a warm day! Once again can we please request that if you are giving your little one grapes or

cherry tomatoes for snack time, please cut them in half, these are two of the foods on the choking risk list for children under five and should always be cut in half. Thank you for your understanding.

Our new topic 'Jump on board the big red train' will start next week, so watch this space for some great train journeys and other train-related adventures! Until then discuss our **Talk topic** over the weekend: "Have you ever travelled on a train? What sort of train was it? Where did you go? and how long did it take?"



Last but not least, please join us in giving a warm welcome to Reyan and his parents who have joined our afternoon session.

Have a fabulous weekend and see you soon!

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

EYFS Reception

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after a long holiday! The children were very excited to share with us the adventures they experienced during the two weeks off school. Travelling in and out of Belgium, playing family games at home and visiting museums and the zoo were some of the things the children told us as we had a long group chat on Tuesday morning. Lots of fun and life memories for them!

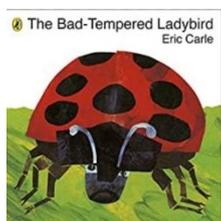


The start of a new term brings two new topics. During this first half of term we will adventure into the world of minibeasts. Our new topic is called 'Creepy crawlers in the garden' and, throughout the following weeks, we will be learning about these tiny animals' life cycles, body description and features and why they are so important for our environment. Our classroom role play area has been transformed into a 'Minibeast Investigation Lab'. In it, the

children have access to non-fiction books about the related topic and have real size plastic examples of all the animals we will be looking at. Whenever we find an animal or insect of interest in the playground, we will safely place it in an insect box in order to look at it closely, see how it moves and what it does. After handling it with extreme care, we will set it free back into its habitat. This was the case on Friday when the children found two ladybirds and two snails. We carefully scooped them into our study boxes and observed them for some time. The most exciting part was when the snail came out of the shell and the children could see from really close how it looked like. Later in the afternoon we set them free in the garden.



Our storybook this week was 'The bad-tempered ladybird' by Eric Carle and we also read an insect fact book in which we learned how to distinguish an insect from another creepy crawly minibeast, what insects do and eat, and how they protect themselves from other animals.



In your child's home school book you will find a piece of work about minibeasts and their habitats in which the children had to match each minibeast to the place where they would

probably find them. Talk about it with your children and if you go out to the park over the weekend look for some real examples of this tiny creatures.

In Phonics we introduced the sound 'oi' like in coin, oil and oink and we have been practising our blending and reading. Please remember to read the books the children take home together with them, focusing on the letter sounds and how to blend them. It does help a lot when the children practise this skill both at home and in school.

In Maths we worked with number bonds to 5, pairs of numbers that add up to make five. For this we used big ladybirds made of felt in which we had to place different number of spots on each wing to make five. We also used small plastic cubes as counters, each child was given five of them and was asked to show how to make five by separating different number of cubes on each hand.



We have dedicated our art sessions to creating beautiful spring flowers. In one activity, we drew a flower with big petals which had to be decorated with different patterns. The children practised their fine motor skills by continuing the pattern and being careful to follow it properly. In the other activity, we are working on making a cherry blossom windsock. Inspired by the beautiful cherry trees we can see in the school's street, each child painted one branch on which they stuck small pale pink tissue paper balls that resemble the flowers in the cherry trees. Once the paper and the paint are dry we are going to give it a cylindrical shape and attach strips of tissue paper to make it look like a windsock.

In PE we played two fun minibeast group games. The first one was 'Spiders and Scorpions Tag' in which the scorpions had to catch the spiders and tag them, and the spiders could only be saved if another spider touched them. The challenge was in the way each animal walked as the spiders had to move around on their hands and feet with their stomach facing the sky and the scorpions moved on their hands and feet with their stomach facing the floor. Both ways of moving involved developing upper body strength. The second game was an adapted version of 'Mrs. Crocodile'. Each time the children were allowed to cross the river, they had to move imitating a minibeast. So, for instance, they had to 'dance like a bee', 'slide like a snail', 'leap like a grasshopper' or 'ripple like a centipede'.



That was all for a busy week. Our **Talk topic for next week is: 'What do you know about worms?'**

Enjoy your weekend.

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



KS1 Year 1

Dear Parents,

It certainly is good to be back at school! We enjoyed listening to the children's news, recounting all of their holiday adventures. It's great that so many of you were out and about during the Easter break. We are delighted

Welcoming our new friend to Year 1



to welcome a new member to the class. His name is Reyansh and he has already made lots of new friends. We are so pleased that he came to join us!

It's so good to be back in school!

LITERACY

We have kicked off the new term with a continuation of our unit of work on Australian animals. We have read non-fiction texts about the crocodile and the wombat and the children have continued writing their own non-fiction fact file about Australian animals.

MATHS

This week we have been revisiting addition and subtraction using the strategy of counting on and counting back. Because of the two-week break, we have taken the time for lots of revision of counting: counting on and back in ones and tens.

SCIENCE

Making our lift-the-flap books.

We really enjoyed sorting pictures of different animals into different groups: mammals, fish, birds, amphibians and reptiles. We looked at some of the characteristics of these groups. We then identified which of the animals could be found in Belgium. We hope that you enjoy the lift-the-flap books that the children brought home to show their understanding of herbivore, carnivore and omnivore.

ART

We are busy preparing work for our Australia display. We painted a stunning representation of Uluru, used collage materials for the Australian flag and finger painted the Aboriginal flag. We look forward to adding our Aboriginal artwork to the display board in the creative corner of the classroom.

Have a wonderful weekend!

TALK TOPIC: What is your favourite Australian animal? Why? Can you share three facts about it?

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



KS1 Year 2

Dear Parents,

It is wonderful to welcome the children back to school for our summer term. We were delighted to hear and to read about the exciting adventures the children had in the Easter holidays. They spent the first session on Tuesday writing about their fortnight's holiday.





This term our topic is Journeys. Our first core text is a lovely picture book about the journey of Zeraffa, the giraffe, who was sent as a gift from Egypt to France in the early 19th century. In one drama session, we discussed the reasons for and against sending the giraffe to France (as a gift for the king) and are writing a letter to the Pasha of Egypt, using formal style, vocabulary that shows respect, and structures that aim at persuasion.

In our spelling sessions this week, we revised the rules for making plurals (cat/cats, bunny/bunnies, fox/foxes). We also studied the prefix *dis-* as a way of changing the meaning of a word to its opposite (as in agree/disagree), and found that sometimes *dis* is not a prefix (as in discussion, distance). Each child has new “focus five” words, ie. spellings which they have not yet mastered, and which they should focus on learning and spelling correctly over the next two weeks.

In our maths sessions this week, we conducted a quick revision of the work covered last term, and then took the 2 maths assessments on that work. The children did well, and the tests showed strengths in several areas, but also showed that we need more time to explore fractions, and to add money, where the total goes over £1 (or 1€).

We enjoyed the sunshine, with some outdoor exploration of bubbles and sand with Mrs Davies on Wednesday afternoon, before continuing the exciting story of ‘Billy and the Minpins’ by Roald Dahl, practising prediction skills and looking at the way the author uses language to create tension in the reader (or listener). We also had an excellent session working on football skills (dribbling and scoring goals).

Please remember that next Wednesday, 27th April, Year 2 will be visiting the Folon Foundation Museum at La Hulpe. We will leave school promptly at 9:00, and will return to school by 3:10, travelling there and back by coach. It is essential that everybody arrives at school well before 9:00 on that day: please ensure you arrive as soon as possible after 8:30. I will be giving house points for all children who are in the classroom before 8:40.

Please also make sure that your child is wearing smart, clean PE uniform.



Our **Talk topic this week is: what kind of art do you like?**

We wish you a very happy weekend.

Ms. Read & Mrs. Tolentino Year2teacher@telenet.be

Music with Miss Di Fine - Acorn Building

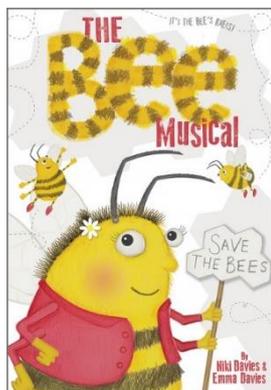
Reception: Spring is here and in Music we are celebrating it by singing a song called “A Spring Thing”.



We sang about different flower types, like daffodils, bluebells, crocuses and snowdrops and how they all bloom beautifully in springtime! We then danced to the springy rhythm and beats with the scarves, pretending to be different colourful flowers.

Years 1 & 2:

This week we started our new singing project for this term, the summer show! We are very excited about it, and we are already working on learning the songs we will perform. The play is called "The Bee Musical":



All the bees in Mr Waxworth's hive are on a quest to convince the world about the importance of bee-ing a bee. We already bee-lieve that it is going to be great and that you will all love it! Bzzz....

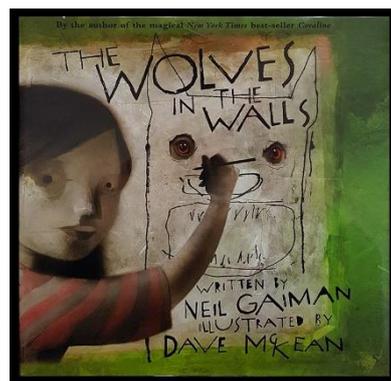


We also improvised different body percussion patterns on the song Dum Dum Dah Dah.

KS2 Year 3

Dear Parents,

We welcomed two new pupils to our class this week, so the children have very kindly been helping them to settle in. We have made a start on a number of new projects, which will keep us very busy over the next few weeks. In Literacy, we began working on our new writing unit, which follows the Neil Gaiman story 'The Wolves in the Walls', a slightly scary, strange, but funny story about a girl who hears 'imaginary' noises, which turn out to be real... In our reading groups we read a condensed version of the Story of Icarus, and practised answering some quite tricky comprehension questions. In grammar, we began working on phrases, clauses and sentences, learning what elements are required for each and how to identify them.



In Maths, we revised some mental methods for adding and subtracting 1-digit numbers and multiples of 10 to and from 3-digit numbers. Then we moved on to fractions, practised ordering those with the same denominator, then worked on addition and subtraction of fractions, including some with different denominators, such as $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{6}$.

Our new topic for this term is 'Inventors and Inventions', and we opened with a discussion about the enormity of the scope of this subject. We looked at some of the very earliest inventions, such as the fish hook, then considered the different fields of research and discovery, such as medicine, our planet and space, transport and so on. We also compared the relative impact of some different types of invention, from 'useful, nice-to-have' everyday things to others which have completely changed the way humanity has developed, such as medical advances, aeroplanes etc.



We made our debut at the NATO pool on Wednesday, which went very well. We have a mix of very good swimmers, some who are water-

confident and raring to get going and a number who are still a little under-confident in the water. Our aim is for each child to show improvement over the next few weeks, regardless of their starting point.

This month's photo gallery is available at

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/157096587@N03/albums/72177720298276400>

You will find a few pictures from 1st April too, which are in stark contrast to the beautiful weather we have enjoyed this week!

Online Maths homework will be 'Seaside Scuffle 3.22' – multiplication and division facts for the 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 & 10 times tables.

Talk Topic is 'Why was Marie Curie's work so important?'

Enjoy the weekend.



Patrick Tranter and Naomi Irakoze year3teacher@telenet.be

Year 4



Dear Parents,

It's been wonderful to be back in school this week and, although the week was a little shorter, it was no less busy! We have enjoyed starting our new topic 'Raging Rivers' which promises to offer us loads of exciting cross curricular activities such as writing river poems, building bridges and finding out about the great rivers of the world and their related geography. We made our own mind maps in our topic lesson and we were amazed by all the associations we could make with rivers, including cleanliness and pollution, habitats for animals and homes for people, transport, tourism and being a source of both food and drink.



In our Literacy lessons we explored similes and metaphors in preparation for starting our new 'Write Stuff' poetry unit next week on Valerie Bloom's 'The River'. We discussed the difference between similes and metaphors and then we tried converting similes into metaphors, a difficult but interesting task! We also wrote our own metaphors to describe a river to go onto our new river art display. In Art this week we explored the work of the French impressionist painter Claude Monet, who often painted rivers and river scenes, and then we had a go at creating our own river paintings in his style.



In Maths we explored writing 5-digit numbers using place value grids for 10,000, 1000s, 100s, 10s and 1s. We practised reading, writing and ordering these 5-digit numbers. We then moved on to exploring negative numbers in the context of temperature. We looked at reading thermometers and working out the new temperature if it increased or decreased, finding the difference between two temperatures and ordering temperatures from coldest to warmest including temperatures with negative numbers.

In Science we started our new topic 'The Big Build'. We did a group task to make a simple beam bridge and explored how using a central pillar made the bridge stronger. Some bridges



could hold more than 1 kilo, which is pretty good considering our beams were made out of paper! In PE this week we started our new unit on athletics. We explored the fundamentals of the sport focusing on jumping, turning and running through, making some very unusual hopscotch designs and playing a team game called 'catch the flag.'

Talk topic: Why are rivers important?

Kind Regards,

Camilla Rutayisire Year4teacher@telenet.be

Year 5

Dear Parents,

We were back to a classic timetable again with some terrific weather and everyone fully charged up.

We started with some relative clauses, colons and the connective opener 'despite', in Mrs C's sentence stack lessons. This was followed with a circle time session of a Mrs C experience day. The children had to consider negative times they've lived through and what traits they needed to come through the other side. The class enjoyed this and writing their private thoughts. Even



more popular was making origami rockets and then launching them into the recycling bin with our negative times written and locked inside.



In the afternoon, we began our delayed new topic of North America.

The children loved a logic and spatial problem involving colouring the 50 states on a map in a certain pattern.

For the rest of the week, the children learnt about 2 pivotal moments in US history through the medium of art. The kids listened intently about how the War

of Independence began with the Boston Tea Party and how slavery ended 100 years later with campaigning in parliament.

Not too far away from topic, the children began a very popular unit in Computing being asked to create an iMovie trailer for a Route 66 road trip. This created much excitement but as is often the case, excitement can blind focus and the class often needed to be reminded about what their trailer was about and what actual information needed to be conveyed.

In numeracy, we visited all three domains of shape & measure, data handling and number.

The class enjoyed flooding a table to measure capacity in ml, had to think hard to plot a mile:kilometre conversion graph and then breezed adding money amounts.

And that was our week.

Talk Topic: Which 5 places would you visit on a road trip across the USA and why?

Best wishes,

Tim Stedman year5teacher@telenet.be

Year 6

Dear Parents,

What fabulous weather to start our summer and final term of Primary school. We are now in the 'icing on the cake' revision phase in preparation for our SATs examinations which will commence the week beginning 16th May, during which children will sit the following tests:



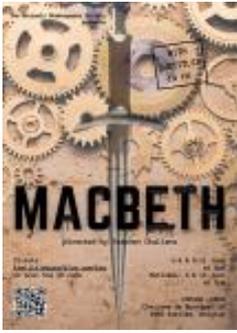
- Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar
- Arithmetic paper 1
- Maths Reasoning paper 2
- Maths Reasoning paper 3
- Reading Comprehension
- Optional GCSE Foundation paper Maths – calculator and non-calculator
- Writing (teacher assessed)

During the next few weeks, we shall be taking a final look at topics which frequently appear in the above KS2 examinations. Students wishing to take the optional GCSE Maths paper will need to revise (Corbett Maths) independently.

This week, we have revised: Roman numerals, volume and measurement, fractions decimals and percentages. Children also worked through a comprehension task.

We shall be continuing our study of DNA but are eagerly awaiting some sweeties so that we can create an edible gene. This week, we investigated smoking and the effects of cigarettes on the tissues of the lungs and on gaseous exchange; the impact on the health of smokers and their unborn babies, and how to describe trends in secondary data.

We began our topic about the Titanic by learning about many of the contributory factors related to the sinking of this ship.



As we have the opportunity to see a performance of Macbeth by the Brussels Shakespeare Society, we shall be studying Macbeth. We have met the three witches and await their prophesies with bated breath.

The Year 6 pupils are organising some of our end-of-year events, so for your calendar, would you please note the following:

June 9th – pasta party, evening trip to the theatre to see Macbeth – late pick up from the theatre around 22.30

June 21st – trip to Bastogne War Museum – travel by train – early start and late return (20.00?)

June 28/29th – BBQ buffet – no-sleepover at school.

As soon as the Year 6 travel agents have confirmed all the arrangements, I will be able to provide you with more information!

Talk Topic: Why is smoking so dangerous?

Happy weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter year6teacher@telenet.be

Music KS2- Oak Building: Miss di Fine

Years 3 & 4:

This week we practiced different rhythmic patterns and note values



playing our recorders. We talked about how important it is to identify the notes on the staff, their pitches and rhythms. The essential key to playing any piece on any instrument is by learning how to read the music. That's why in class we also spend some time playing games that help us to learn the notes and their values! Moreover, we are also learning how



to play the song "Oh when the Saints go marching in" on the glockenspiel.



Years 5 & 6

This week we talked about how women in world history (Cleopatra, Queen Elizabeth I and others) have inspired classical music compositions and also how many women become

famous and important by being themselves inspired by music (conductors, composers and singers). We also practiced recorders and played a body-clapping game called "The sevens percussion game".



French - Oak Building:



Year 4:

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we revised the definite and indefinite articles, the vocabulary related to places such as '**les pays, les villes, les continents, le jardin, la maison, le parc** etc... and '**la préposition adéquate**' such as **À, En, Au, Aux** when using those common nouns or

places with verbs of movement (**aller, marcher, habiter, travailler, jouer** etc) as in **J'habite à Bruxelles/ papa travaille en Belgique, Nous jouons au parc..** Then, we continued working on our **Printemps** project and we tried to up with some brilliant and funny phrases, which we hope to finish presenting next week.

Year 5:

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we revised the vocabulary related to '**mon corps**' (my body). We sang and learned additional words related to '**mon corps**'. We also reviewed the use of the definite articles '**le, la, l', les**' with these words when they are masculine, feminine, singular and plural, as in for



example: '**la main, le nez, les orteils**'. Then we played the game '**Jacques a dit**' and we set up a scene '**Chez le docteur**' and focused on the use of '**Avoir mal**' combined with the different forms of **la préposition 'À, Au, Aux**. After which we continued working on our **Printemps** project, and we tried to come up with some brilliant and funny phrases that we hope to finish presenting next week.

Year 6:

In French with Madame Halvorsen, we were so excited to show our '**souvenirs d'enfance**' project. We had five exciting presentations where they got to share '**des moments inoubliables**' (unforgettable moments) while making ample use of the **imparfait et le passé composé** using such

expressions as '**il y a cinq ans, quand j'étais petit/petite, quand j'avais six ans** etc.. Those presentations

allowed us to discover names of monuments, nationalities and review the use of combined prepositions

such as: **à, au, aux, en** or **de la, du**, when talking about **places and countries**. We also talked about

'Les élections présidentielles' in France and the debated topics between the two candidates: E. Macron and M. Le Pen.

