

Nursery

Dear Parents

A very warm welcome to the wonderful world of the pre-nursery and nursery class, which is the first step on our Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, which starts here and goes right to the end of the reception class! This is the first of many home/school letters you will receive electronically each week, to keep you updated on how we are and what



we are doing in the Nursery. The letter is a valuable source of information and corresponds to your child's home school book each week. So please do read it with interest.

It has been a pleasure to meet and greet the many new children we have joining us for this next academic year and of course to warmly welcome back our pre-nursery children from last year, into this year's nursery group. Of course, it goes without saying, a very big welcome to all you mummies and daddies too!

Over the next couple of weeks is the settling in period for many of the children, some who have never been away from mummy and daddy before, so it could take a little while to get into the swing of things! So please don't worry if your little one is taking their time to get used to this new environment, eventually it will happen and they will feel right at home. A big thumbs up to everyone so far for a great start.

We will start introducing aspects of our nursery theme for this term, next week, "*All about me and my family*" is the name of the theme and we will start off simply with some photographs of the children and a creative activity, which is great for social interaction and language skills. We also have a talk topic each week, you will receive a separate letter explaining how to do this with your child, starting from next week.

Just a quick reminder about snacks and lunches, we always sit with the children and try to encourage them to eat but, unfortunately, we cannot feed everything to every child. So please help and encourage your child to become an independent eater, who is able to use a spoon and fork, as quickly as possible. Please remember to check the portion size of the food you are sending, if a lot of food is returned home then you are giving too much, or it is something they do not like and if they don't eat it at home, they won't eat it at nursery!

Lastly, please, please, label everything and write your child's name on their bags and uniform, otherwise it really is tricky to identify, as we have a sea of jumpers etc that all look identical! You could also add a little keyring to personalise your child's bag, something easily identifiable until they recognise their written name.

Until next week have a great weekend and hope to see you all at the coffee morning this Saturday.

Alison Davies, Anna Nagy & Vanessa Di Fine

nurseryteacher@telenet.be



Reception

Dear Parents,

We'd like to welcome all of you back to BISB, especially the new families who have joined the school this week.

The children are settling in nicely to their new classroom, their new teachers and the new routines in Reception. This week has been all about getting to know each other and making new friends; for some getting used to a full day in school and for others getting used to being in a new environment. Well done everybody!

Our first topic of the year is 'Myself and my Family'. We have already started talking about the children's families and as from next week we'll start working on it in more depth. To go along with our class discussions we'd appreciate if you could send a family picture, so each child can introduce their family. Thank you.

We would like to invite you all to our Curriculum Briefing Evening next week on Wednesday, 11th of September at 18:00. We will talk about our teaching programme and give you an idea of how and what the children are going to experience in Reception throughout the year. Please be aware that this opportunity is not to discuss the progress of individual children as there will be a chance to discuss this later on in the year. Mrs Read, our EAL teacher, and Madame Scharf, our French teacher, are also hoping to make an appearance to brief you on who they are and what they do in the school. We expect all of you to attend as it is an important occasion to learn what your children will be working on this year.

On Monday morning we will have our first 'Talk Topic' session, this is a moment in which we discuss ideas about a certain subject related to our topic. It's also a good opportunity for you as a family to use the talk topic as a starter of a nice discussion and conversation with your children. Little minds come up with great ideas, you will be surprised!

Our talk topic for next week is, *'Can you tell us something special you and your family have done lately?'*

Looking forward to seeing you all in our Coffee Morning tomorrow Saturday 7th at 10:00 in the Infant Department.

Have a lovely weekend,

Ines van Wassenhove and Ivana Julaton

Languages

In this first half term, Mrs. Read and Mme. Scharf are working together with the Reception class for four sessions each week. We are using stories, games, songs and other activities to give all the children a solid base in English, and we will gradually introduce some simple French words. This week, we have very much enjoyed meeting your children, and working on greetings, colours, parts of the body and common classroom instructions.

Year 1

Dear Parents,

It was great to welcome the children back to school, and also to welcome our six new classmates, all of whom have settled in very well, with minimal fuss - well done!

The first week has been spent learning new methods and routines (and some new rules!) and doing some early Maths and Literacy work to refresh the children's memories. In Phonics, we are revising all the Phase

2 single-letter sounds briefly, and this week covered the first six - s, a, t, p, i & n. The children practised blending the sounds, and we had a couple of short sessions of CVC spelling practice too. For our first writing session, we focused on the relationship between pictures in books and the writing that accompanies them, emphasising that the two must be related; the children then wrote some words or sentences to go with a picture from a 'Floppy' story we had read.

In Maths, we revised quickly a number of areas: counting, repeating patterns, ordering numbers and finding missing numbers. We will cover all of these areas (several times, in some cases) in the formal curriculum this year. We practised counting groups of objects, both physically and on paper, and the children learnt to move items as they count them or to mark them off, if counting on paper. To assist with number familiarity, we also practised trying to recognise arrays of dots on dominoes and dice, without the need to count them each time. For this week's Home School Book page, the children have done a 'missing numbers' or 'ordering numbers' worksheet.

Our topic for this term is 'Water, Water, Everywhere!', and we aspects of science and geography as we explore the many uses water all around us. To begin with, we talked about where we use it for, who needs it and who lives in it. We also took a water cycle, which we will examine in more depth later on. Thursday, we did some simple experiments to test some of the water, and began to discuss the concept of 'liquid'.



will be covering and effects of find water, what first look at the Then, on properties of

A few notices: Library books will be issued on Mondays this year (starting on 9th September), so please ensure your child returns his/her books by each Monday morning at the latest. PE this year will be on Tuesdays, so children should wear their PE uniform to school on that day each week. The Curriculum Briefing for Year 1 will take place next Wednesday, 11th September, at 6.00pm in the Year 1 Classroom. We will explain the programme for the year and cover a number of points about our routines. It would be very helpful if at least one parent for each child could attend.

Finally, Talk Topic for Monday 9th September will be "Where do we find most of the water on Earth, and who lives in it?"

Wishing you a pleasant weekend,

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru
year1teacher@telenet.be

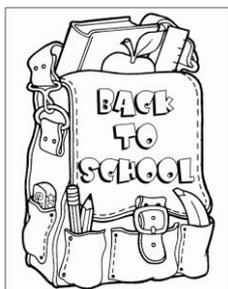
In **French** with Mrs. Scharf, we got to know each other and we started listening to our first story "Un pays blanc" in which we will review everything we learnt last year : introductions, colours, animals, counting etc. We will also learn a lot of new vocabulary and sing beautiful songs.

Year 2

Welcome to school everyone!

We have quite a few newcomers in your class this year and we have spent the week getting to know each other and the children are all starting to form friendships. The first days can be a bit difficult but now at the end of the week the children already seem a little bit more settled and happy.

All the children also had to settle into new routines. The class and the teacher have spent the week getting to know each other and we have been creating our class rules and habits for the year to come.



In math we have been working on estimating and counting numbers between 0-100 and we worked on our times tables. We also reviewed counting in 2's, 5's and 10's, which we will practice often in the coming year. In literacy we did all kinds of exciting things like writing a creative story, practising our phonics, and learning how to spell new words.

On Saturday morning we have our Welcome Back Coffee Morning from 10-12 and we hope to see all of you there. I would also like to remind you that on the coming Wednesday, 11th of September, we have our curriculum evening where I will explain what we will be doing in year two this winter.

The talk topic for the weekend is "discuss the most interesting things that you notice in your surroundings this weekend". And stars of the week go to Ishaan for his excellent story writing this week and to Asritha for her brilliant artwork this week.

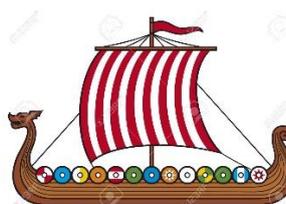
I hope all the children enjoyed their first week and I wish you all a lovely weekend.

Elin Hafstein

Year2teacher@telenet.be

In **French** with Mrs Halvorsen, we started talking about "**La Grande Rentrée**" (Back to School). We seized the occasion to play with the greetings, numbers, How old are you? colours and farm animals. We had an 'Introduce yourself game' which allowed us to use everything we covered.

Year 3



Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to welcome the children back after the summer break and to see so many familiar faces! We've had a great time this week getting to know each other again and welcoming children who are new to the school. We got straight into our new topic 'Vicious Vikings' which we are already enjoying. This week we learned about Viking longships and we made a huge display of one in our classroom which we filled with scary looking Vikings! We learned about why the longships were long, how many people they could hold and why the Vikings put a dragon on the front. We then used our knowledge of them to make fact files.

This week in literacy we started to read the 'Viking Vik' stories by Shoo Rayner. We are starting to become familiar with some Viking related vocabulary such as longship, fjord and shield. In our first grammar lesson we revised basic sentence punctuation, particularly capital letters and full stops. I heard the children read and we started choosing our reading books. In year three the children can change their reading books themselves whenever they have finished them. Please sign in the comments section to indicate that the book has been read.

In maths we revised number facts such as number bonds (pairs) to 10 and doubles and how this knowledge can be used to find the pairs to 100. We then moved on to finding pairs that make 100 with 5 in the digits column such as $15+85$ and $44+55$. We started looking at number patterns in sums and how they can help us e.g knowing $12-5$ can help solve $32-5$.

At the curriculum evening next week, I will be sharing the class timetable along with lots of important information about the upcoming year. I hope to see you there.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Camilla Rutayisire

Year3teacher@telenet.be

Year 4



Dear Parents,

What a wonderful return to school and a week of enthusiasm and optimism. There has been real energy and positivity in the air and we had a very successful first five days back.

The children came back fit and healthy and raring to go. Mokshitha and Arjun also joined the class and two more chairs are still to be filled next week. How exciting!!

We took time to both settle down and build a foundation and create a 'feeling'. While getting to know Y4 routines, I also got the children to reflect greatly on their learning and their attitude to school. We used adjectives, added to multiples of 100 and played a late summer Fifteen15 cricket match. We started our Homes topic with an exploration of ancient Anglo-Saxon houses and there were not one but two spelling tests.

Saumya showed spelling and vocab mastery. Daswantth is confident of having multiple preferred learning styles. Priyal has excellent spatial reasoning, Dhanishka is a punctuation princess and Crishelle writes sentences which drip description like honey. Arjun and Anwitha caught, captained and bowled like pros while Akshat hit the most beautifully exquisite on-drive. Aadriyan's mental arithmetic and drive in maths was electric. Freya shone with knowledge while Shanvitha was energy personified. Anjika and Mokshitha were delightful and showed many strengths. Hiya showed impressive Think Tank problem-solving, Thomas was terrific in guided reading and Aditya did absolutely everything right.

I was absolutely thrilled.

Our Talk Topic for this week is: What did homes in your home country look like in 500AD?

Next week, more and also swimming as you will read in a letter today.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman & Mrs Tolentino

year4teacher@telenet.be

Please click [here](#) for our Year 4 webpage

Years 3 &4 French

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on “ **La Grande Rentrée**” (back to school) and “**je me présente**” (I talk about myself). A great activity to talk about ourselves, our age, our dream activities and what we like ‘**J’aime**. We included: les couleurs, les sports, les animaux et les numéros’ from 1 to 100. We got to work in groups.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we introduced ourselves and filled in a personal introduction sheet with details about ourselves. We also revised counting up to 50 and started learning/revising all school stationary to be able to ask in French what we need in the classroom : “Je peux avoir une gomme s’il vous plaît ?”

Year 5

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school and it is lovely to be back with you all myself. I look forward to an exciting school year. Welcome Suhaavi and family. I am sure you will be very happy here with us.

In Numeracy we took a look at 5-digit numbers. We revised how to write these in words and numbers. We looked at the place value and compared pairs of numbers. We wrote numbers in either descending or ascending order. We also looked at “no work” addition and subtraction which is an easy way to operate, changing only the digit being added or subtracted.

In Literacy we began our word of the day which we record in the back of our literacy book. This week we learned words like abide and abolish. I find this is a good way of introducing new and interesting vocabulary. We also began reading our class reader, Mill Girl, which is giving us an insight into Victorian life. Spellings were given out on Monday. There are 6 weeks of spelling and our objective this week is to learn week 1 words. In grammar we began looking at fronted adverbial which I think the class really enjoyed. Hopefully this grammar will find its way into story writing.

In Topic we began our look at Victorians. The children have questions to be answered in the following weeks. We have already found out that there was a huge gap between the lives of the rich and poor people.

In Art we have drawn a picture denoting our recent holidays and are currently drawing Eliza (the poor Victorian girl from our book).

In PE we have not, as yet, started tennis, so we took the opportunity to go outside and play a game of team rock, paper, scissors. Great fun was had by all and the result was very close in the end.



The letter has gone out regarding our first outing. Please could I have the replies in as soon as possible?

The talk topic for this week is: What do you know about the history of school uniforms? Do some research and discuss this with your parents.

I look forward to seeing lots of you at the curriculum evening where I will give you more information about year 5.

Have a lovely weekend,

Valeria Vetter

Year5teacher@telenet.be

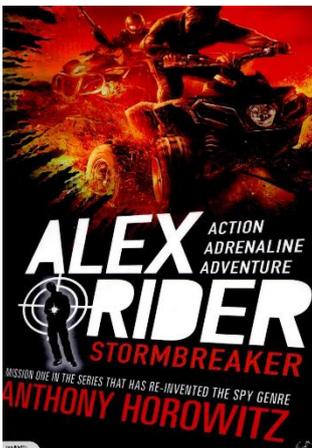
Years 5 & 6 French

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on “ **La Grande Rentrée**” (back to school) with

“**Je me présente**” (I introduce myself). A great activity to talk about ourselves (age, personality and dream activities). We also got to talk about what we like ‘**J’aime** and we included: les couleurs, les sports et les animaux . We talked about ‘**Avoir**’ (to have) and **Être** (to be) . We had an interactive game where they had to choose the appropriate form of these two auxiliaries.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we started the new school year by talking about our holidays using the passé composé which forced us to revise the conjugation of “être & avoir” in the present tense.

Year 6



Dear Parents,

I am thrilled to be back in the Year 6 classroom with such a dynamic group of students. This is it – Year 6 – and we haven’t wasted a moment from Monday at 0900!

This week, we revised place value and the basic mathematical skills of addition, subtraction, long multiplication and division of whole numbers. We then extended these skills to include decimals. Method, method, method! In preparation for our computing curriculum, the students learnt about binary numbers and are now able to convert these to base 10. We finished this week’s moths by investigating powers.

Straight into SPaG. Spellings for this week are adventurous adjectives and can be found in the Edmodo spelling folder. Children are expected to learn how to spell words, understand their meaning, know which word class they belong to and be able to use them in a sentence. Students revisited relative pronouns and relative clauses. We began reading our class reading book – Stormbreaker – and we are ‘hooked’ already! Each pupil has been given a Year 6 reading book – these are expected to be read within two weeks.

Year 6 students were the first to visit our new swimming venue at NATO. This is a brand-new pool with modern, bright and spacious facilities and friendly, welcoming staff. Thank you to Mr Carp, for assisting BISB in obtaining a swimming session at NATO.

We began the CodeHS Introduction to Programming course with Karel the Dog, which teaches students the basics of programming. Students will learn JavaScript commands, functions, and control structures.

Talk Topic – Which countries tend to have school uniforms?

Happy weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

Year6teacher@telenet.be

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to meet all the children this week, and to see the new children settling in and making friends. I will be working with children from each of the classes, to help develop their skills in using English to access the school curriculum. This involves working either in a small group, or within the class.

We focus on the areas that will be most useful to the particular children in the group, for example: specific grammar points, ranging from simple word order to complex connected clauses; vocabulary extension; developing confidence in speaking and listening; reading and writing skills.

I work closely with the children's class teachers, and we always try to make sure that the what we work on in the EAL sessions ties in with the children's class work, as well as being of general benefit.

Our activities include games, songs, stories, drama, conversation, interviews, reading and writing.

I will keep you updated through this weekly letter, and you are welcome to contact me through at EALteacher@telenet.be if you have any questions or concerns.

I look forward to meeting you next Wednesday at the curriculum briefing meeting.

Kate Read

EALteacher@telenet.be

