

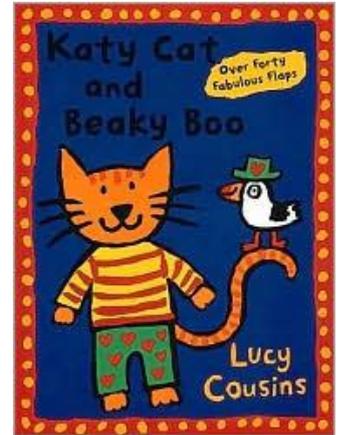
## Nursery

Dear Parents

Hope you all had a great half term break, and welcome back to Nursery for another interesting, busy and fun-packed half term.

We have started with our new theme of 'Clothes' and over the next few weeks the children will explore a number of different aspects on this theme, but the opening activity for this week was all about Katy Cat and her quiet little puffin friend Beaky Boo. The characters are from a book written by Lucy Cousins and it was a great way to introduce the children to the wonderful world of colours and patterns that many of the clothes we wear are made up of.

If you take a look in your little one's home school book you will see their version of some cool designer clothes for Katy and Beaky based on spots and stripes, although I do feel we have a few entrepreneur clothes designers amongst us, who have decided other patterns are available too!



During our maths groups the children did a hands-on matching socks into pairs session, which they did very well, so next time you do laundry give your little one the socks to pair up and make a game of it. Unless you have a washing machine like Mrs Davies that just eats socks, so they all end up odd socks!

The children also revisited the 'When I was a baby' display board, which they love and Mrs Nagy, Ms diFine and Mrs Prescott talked with the children about the clothes they wore then as a baby and the clothes they wear now in school and chatted about the reasons why. To extend this further for our talk topic this week, ask your child if they remember what a uniform is and why they need to wear one for school.

Remember school is **closed on Monday for the 11 November public holiday**, so have a great long weekend and we will see you bright eyed and bushy tailed on Tuesday!

Thank you

Alison Davies, Anna Nagy and Vanessa diFine

[nurseryteacher@telenet.be](mailto:nurseryteacher@telenet.be)

## Reception

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school after a restful week of holidays at home. The children were very excited to come back and full of stories about what they had done in the break.

We have started our new topic this week, Forest and Woodland, and the focus has been on seasonal change and Autumn. We have a new display in the classroom which will be filled with all the artwork the children produce over the following weeks. Until now, we have printed some autumn leaves that will be soon hanging on the tree branches. The real Autumn leaves outside covering the



playground floor have been subject of amusement for the children during their breaktime because ... what can be more fun than finding a big pile of leaves and just throwing them up in the air?

As part of the topic we have read the story 'Tidy' which is about a very neat and organised badger who does his best to keep the forest where he lives basically tidy and clean. Ask your children how Pete the badger managed to keep his forest tidy, if he did at all.

In Phonics this week, we have introduced new letter sounds and included them in our blending games, finding the missing letter games and finding the beginning sound of given words. The children are getting quite good at this, they just need to remember that we use the letter sounds and not the letter names.

In maths the focus has been on teen numbers and counting. You will find in the home school book a piece of work in which the children had to draw as many leaves in the tree as the given number indicated. It was a difficult activity for them but with a little help they were able to finish it and the end result was as expected. We also started experimenting with measures, so we talked about tall and short. We compared the height of the children and the teachers, and thrilling as it sounds, we measured giraffes. Toy giraffes mind you!

Our P.E. sessions continue to be as exciting as usual and to add on to it, we had sack races this week. The children were divided in four groups and really enjoyed the game. You can find some pictures of this in our class page on the school's website. <https://www.bisb.org/project/fun-in-p-e/>

Our talk topic for next week is: *if you were Pete the badger, what would you have done to keep your forest tidy?*

We wish you have a good and restful weekend and will see you all back on **Tuesday**.

Mrs. van Wassenhove and Mrs. Julaton

[receptionteacher@telenet.be](mailto:receptionteacher@telenet.be)

### **Music: Nursery and Reception**

We are learning all the words and songs for our Christmas show and we are being very good at it!

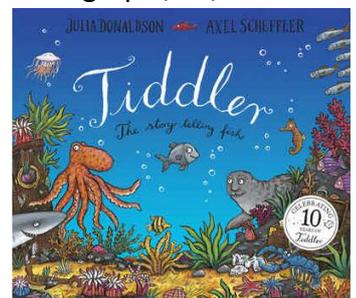
### **French**

In French with Madame Scharf, we are all enjoying learning French : we know how to ask someone for his/her name, we know how to say our name, we can ask "Comment ça va ?" and answer this question with : "Bien, très bien ... merci et toi ?" We can also count up to 12 and we have been singing a few songs. We also started talking about the weather and learnt a song on the same subject.

### **Year 1**

Dear Parents,

It was great to see the children return so enthusiastically to school after the half-term break. As usual, we began our week by learning our focus sounds, which this week share the same vowel digraph /oo/. This has a 'long' sound, as in 'moon', and a 'short' sound, as in 'book'. We created lists of words with each sound, and practised writing them both separately and in sentences. We also had our first spelling test on Thursday, which went very well. Our Literacy focus for the next 3-4 weeks is the book 'Tiddler, The Story-Telling Fish', about a small fish with a big imagination and a habit of telling tall tales! This week we read the book together, discussed it in detail, to make sure we all understood, and mapped it out on the whiteboard. We also had a go at inventing



some new excuses Tiddler might use the next time he is late for school. Finally, in pairs, the children created their own story map, placing pictures from the book in the correct sequence.

This week's Maths focus has been number bonds (to 5, 6, 7 and 10) and their use in addition and subtraction sums. This was our first formal look at the subject of subtraction - starting with practical activities involving 'taking away' objects from a group and converting this process into a number sentence. We have also spent some time discussing 'number stories', in order that the children become used to them and understand that a relatively lengthy problem (eg. There are 6 sheep in a pen, and the farmer puts 4 more in. How many sheep are in the pen now?) can be solved by a simple addition fact:  $6+4=10$ .

On Wednesdays for the rest of this term, in addition to their regular art & craft activities, the children will be doing a Science investigation with Mrs Rutayisire, the Year 3 teacher - this week they had fun experimenting with different ways to free some poor frozen dinosaurs from their ice-block prison! Also new this week was the appearance of the bee-bots (programmable toys), for their annual torture session - but amid all the noisy excitement there is some learning going on, in this case how to programme a sequence of moves to navigate a toy accurately around a grid.

Maths homework for next week will be 'Toucan Team 1.8' (measuring and comparing length/height). Our Talk Topic for next week will be "Think of some more things that might happen to make Tiddler late for school".

Enjoy the extended weekend, see you on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>**.

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru

[year1teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year1teacher@telenet.be)

## **French**

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been talking and singing songs about the autumn season. We talked about the weather and made a chart of all possible weather forecasts. We sang songs pertaining to this subject and we talked about the clothes we wear when it is wet and cold. We also started our second story "Une maison de musiciens" in which we will be learning a lot of new vocabulary. At the moment we are focusing on musical instruments and what we can play: "Je joue du piano, de la guitare, etc ...".

## **Year 2**

Dear Parents!

It has been lovely to come back after the autumn break and we have had lots of fun this week! As our topic is "Take a look around" we decided to take a look at the people around us. We have been focusing on kindness and consideration, and we have been discussing and figuring out how we can be kinder and more considerate to the people around us. As a part of this we have made a great, big Kindness Jar in our classroom, and each child decorated a marble for the jar. Every time someone does something especially kind then the children get to put a marble in the jar. And when they have done so many acts of kindness that all of our marbles are in the jar, then we are going to have a class party! 😊



Next week, group 1 will have their last swimming lesson in year 2. On this day, at the same time as half of year 2 goes swimming, a class from the Junior building usually has a tennis class. However, next week (November 14<sup>th</sup>) they will not be going to tennis and we have been invited to use the time slot. As a fun treat, we have decided to take the children who have not started their swimming lessons yet (swimmers from group 2) for a tennis lesson while their friends go for their last swimming lesson. I sent home a small confirmation slip with the children from group 2, and I hope you all sign it and return it back to me at the beginning of next week.

In maths this week we continued to practise our counting-in-10's, both forward and backwards. The children did a great job – especially backwards!! We played games to practise our counting-in-10's, as well as doing plenty of maths work relating to counting in 10's, 20's and 30's. Counting in 10's helps us to understand that two digit numbers are made up of tens and ones, i.e. 23 is made up of 2 tens and 3 ones. This was the big focus of the week and once we get the hang of this, all maths is going to be a lot easier for us!

In literacy we did a lot of reading and writing. We have been reading Dr. Seuss' "Horton hears a Who!". A story about an elephant named Horton who is super kind and considerate and decides to do everything he can to save and protect the Who's, the teeny, tiny people that live inside a tiny speck of dust. We learned a lot about kindness from Horton and we wrote some stories and did some worksheets explaining how we can be kind to one another. We also continued practising that sentences start with capital letters and end with a full stop – something that they do all know, but can sometimes be a bit difficult to remember so it does take a lot of practise!

**Talk topic is: Why is it harder to be kind to someone we know, or like, less than our best friend? Is it less important to be kind to someone we know less?**

Stars of the week go to Yuvanathi for doing great work in our kindness worksheets and for brilliant progress in reading! And to Inaaya for brilliant progress in English and for being a very kind and considerate friend! Congratulations Yuvanathi and Inaaya 😊

Have a lovely weekend

Elin Hafstein and Ena Tolentino

[Year2teacher@telenet.be](mailto:Year2teacher@telenet.be)

### **Music: Year 1 & 2**

Our week has been dedicated to the show practice. We are learning to control our voices and articulate together.

### **French Year 2**

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about 'bien manger' (healthy eating). We covered 'l'alimentation' (food) and **Qu'est-ce que tu manges? Qu'est-ce que tu bois?** and **Qu'est-ce que tu aimes?** through fun games and role-playing. We learned many words related to fruits, vegetables and desserts. Also, we reviewed greetings and introductions using **bonjour!** **comment tu t'appelles?** **Comment ça va?** **Au revoir!**

### **Year 3**

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to welcome the children back after the holidays, we've come back to a very busy week indeed! The children enjoyed their first week at the swimming pool, they will continue to go swimming every Wednesday of this term. In our science lesson the children pieced together giant skeletons in groups and

then used their detective knowledge and some pictures to label them with the scientific names of the bones. The children have a skeleton to label with the scientific names for their homework next week. If they get stuck, they can refer to this song which had us all singing their names! – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5dYvPruBFY>

Continuing with our Scandinavian theme from last term, in literacy we discussed the author Hans Christian Andersen. We found out about his life – when he was born and died, the famous stories he wrote and where he was from. The children then wrote fact files about him. We then moved on to looking at The Snow Queen, one of his famous tales that some people say ‘Frozen’ was based on, but I’m not so sure! We discussed the setting and characters in the story and what happened. In our grammar lesson we talked about conjunctions which we defined as words used to join two ideas together in a sentence. The children practised using ‘and’, ‘but’, ‘so,’ ‘if,’ ‘when’ and ‘because’ in their writing. Next week we will look at the way conjunctions are used to indicate time or cause.



In maths it was measures week. We practised using rulers to measure to the nearest millimetre and to draw lines accurately. We found the difference in length between pairs of objects and ordered items according to their length. The children also practised their skills in estimation. We discussed capacity and estimated how much liquid different containers would hold. We then found out and sorted them into containers that held less than 250ml and containers that held more. And that was our week!

Have a good weekend,

Kind regards,

Camilla Rutayisire

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## Year 4

Dear Parents,

A highlight of the year in Y4 is the ‘Walk Through the Forest’ and the children seemed to enjoy the trip despite the autumnal conditions in the air and underfoot.

The mission was clear: rescue Mrs Still who had been taken hostage by Semolina Pirates in the forest. Your heroic children were the only hope she had left. And the Y4s went about the task with great purpose and earnestness. Where was she and how were we going to get her out?



The children reached all the required locations using pinpoint navigational accuracy but despite extreme bravery, alas we never found our headteacher. Still, we needed to escape ourselves and had to do so via the ‘drop zone’. We set about this with hunger – it was lunchtime!

This is when the mission got slightly compromised. I missed a left turn; the first time we’ve ever done that on the trip, and we ended 700ms beyond the location we were aiming for. Provisions were consumed, conferences were held, maps were consulted, votes were taken, the group regrouped; and morale and energy were restored. With clinical precision, out of the forest and danger we successfully got. Mrs Still had apparently overpowered her captors and made her own escape in much the same buccaneering manner. The children were delighted to see her on our return.

Overall, a good day: one of the chilliest we've had but by no means the wettest and (Mrs Tolentino remarked) not the toughest despite the 10.4km being very slightly the longest.

Thank you to her and Mrs Irakoze for their help today.

At school, meanwhile, we visited fractions, persuasive writing and slogans, UK properties and insulation. With the latter, the children did a brilliant experiment involving temperature and water. The results recorded were superb and made for excellent graphs created by the children on the iPads.

While half began tennis coaching, the remaining half played indoor hockey. Both groups thoroughly enjoyed their PE.

And that was our week!

**Our Talk Topic for this week is: Explain why we are not coming to school on Monday.**

Best wishes

Tim Stedman, Mrs Tolentino & Mrs Irakoze

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

### **Years 3 &4 French**

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we went over the use of “**Il y a**” (there is/ there are) and we played the ‘**qu’est-ce que c’est**’ game, in order to review the vocabulary words related to ‘**ma maison**’ (my house) . Also, we reviewed greetings and introductions using *bonjour!* *comment tu t’appelles?* *Comment ça va?* *Comment allez-vous?* *Au revoir!*

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been revising the seasons and the weather with a song “*Quel temps fait-il?*” which helped us describe all possible weather scenarios. We described the weather for each season and we also quickly revised the clothes we wear when it is wet and cold.

### **Year 5**

Dear Parents,

The weather has been variable but noticeably chillier this week. Please make sure your child has a rainproof coat as we go out in all but the heaviest downpours. We welcomed Ravi into our class this week and we hope he and his family will be very happy here at BISB.

In Literacy we delved into the realm of auxiliary verbs and found out how to use them. We also did a comprehension on the Pied Piper of Hamelin. These comprehensions improve the understanding of what has been read as well as introducing many new words. We have had fun with our words of the day this week, which have ranged from demure to disdain. Story writing on Fridays is a highlight, as all the children love writing.



In Numeracy we learnt how to convert fractions to their simplest form. For some children this is not easy so we will revisit it. We have now moved on to multiplying and dividing, looking for patterns when using multiples of ten.

Marvellous maps took us into the realm of compass points, and we had fun doing some tracking worksheets before moving on to a map.

In PE we went outside and did some serious skipping. We learnt how to move into a turning rope and how to get out again. Some of us learnt to skip which was a great achievement. We then played our favourite game of rock, paper, scissors.

In Art we created conservation posters, which are looking very good indeed. This class is so eager to do art and I love their enthusiasm.

The highlight of the week was our virtual safari to Djuma Private Game reserve in South Africa. We got on board along with another school and learnt all about many different animals. We saw a pride of sleeping lions, all 18 of them, some pods of hippos, a steenbok, some impala, a kudu, a big crocodile and an African spoonbill. The guides answered questions and gave a lot of information about the animals. We will be jumping aboard again on Wednesday. I have posted the link on Edmodo so the children can watch with you and tell you what they learnt.



The talk topic this week is: Should we be allowed to bring mobile devices to school? Discuss.

Have a super weekend.

Mrs Vetter

[Year5teacher@telenet.be](mailto:Year5teacher@telenet.be)

## **Years 5 & 6 French**

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we **reviewed feminine and masculine nouns** and the use of **definite articles** with these nouns.

We talked about the different sounds and **the use of accents** with the vowel 'e', and how that can affect the meaning of that vowel. We got ready for our future project '**Ma Maison de Rêve**' (my dream house) and we learned many words related to 'la maison et les meubles' (house and furniture).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we started reading a new book "Je te sauverai" about sea pollution. We also learnt new adjectives to be able to describe ourselves and other people, putting all the adjectives in the feminine form when we talk about girls/ladies. We even used very difficult adjectives.

## **Year 6**

Dear Parents,

With renewed energy, we are ready for another action-packed term in Year 6, and there is no better way to begin a new term than with an outing! When I booked our workshop with the House of European History, I mentioned that we were studying spying

and could they possibly show us a few exhibits related to this topic. Imagine my surprise when we arrived, to discover that the education department had created a bespoke workshop for us – including using authentic Morse-code machines and an old-fashioned teleprinter. The students have written about their



experiences for the newsletter, so I shall let you read their recounts. We shall be sending 'Thank you' letters to our delightful guide, Marion, next week.

In grammar, we worked on the passive voice and our reading skill focus is inference with the help of 'Iggy'. We continued our reading of Point Blanc; we are thrilled that this book is now being made into a television series.

Learning about the different formulae for calculating the area of compound shapes, triangles, circles and semi-circles was the focus of maths. Explanatory videos and examples are available on Edmodo in this week's support folder.

Once again, thank you to Mrs Cioponea for keeping me up-to-date with science news and events. On Monday November 11<sup>th</sup>, it will be possible to observe Mercury in transit; please look at the following links about the transit and how to observe it safely:

<https://in-the-sky.org/>

<http://www.nakedeyepanets.com/mercury-transit-2019.htm>

<https://www.skyatnightmagazine.com/advice/skills/transit-mercury-11-november-2019-what-how-see/>

In Year 6, we shall have an Astronomy Day as part of a global project on Tuesday 12th: <https://www.iau-100.org/astro-day-schools>

Combining computing and literacy skills, we are creating a 'book knowledge organiser' about Point Blanc in Microsoft Publisher – tricky! You may have seen an example of this style of document on Edmodo about the book Spylark.

**IMPORTANT – GIRLS ONLY!** I have posted this information on Edmodo Junior2020 – **it is essential** to sign-up as soon as registration opens, if you want a chance to participate in the fantastic science workshop

<http://www.greenlightforgirls.org/calendar/2019/11/30/g4g-day-brussels>

Talk Topic: Cyberbullying and mobile phones – what do you know?

Happy long weekend,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

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### **Music: Junior Department**

Music lessons resonate with the sound of our Christmas production songs! Four weeks to go before the show and the deadline next week to know our words, no time to rest!

### **English as an Additional Language (EAL)**

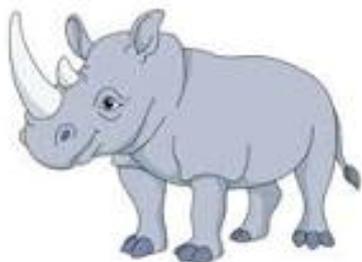
Dear Parents,

It is good to see the children again after the holiday, and to hear about what they did with their week off.

This week, in the EAL small group in the Junior department, we talked about adjectives, recounts and using commas in a list. We spotted adjectives in a text, we wrote our own text and improved it by adding adjectives and we extended our vocabulary by using a thesaurus to find words that mean something

similar to *big, small, tired, angry* and other adjectives. We then wrote a short recount about the holiday, making use of adjectives.

The Year One and Two EAL group had fun reading the story *Tiddler*, which Year One are reading in class. We talked about true, real stories, and fictional, imaginary stories. The children had fun taking turns to call a register and then making up imaginary reasons why they were late for school. We practised forming and writing sentences, recounting our holiday activities.



In the Reception EAL small group this week, we read two stories about animals: *Handa's Surprise* and *Rhino's Horns*. We practised answering *who* and *what* questions, and we described animals, using sentences like *It has horns/it has no horns*.

I wish you a very happy long weekend.

Kate Read

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