



BJAB Newsletter

Headteacher's Message

Welcome to our new-look newsletter. I hope you find the news from around the school informative and interesting. My thanks to Miss Butler who is taking the lead on its production.

During the week, the children have been formally assessed using standardised age-appropriate tests. The results are for internal use only as they are used primarily by the teacher to formulate each pupil's learning journey along the curriculum. It will be particularly interesting to look at the results this Autumn, given the events of the last six months, to notice any changes in overall trends.

You will all have received a copy of our Covid - 19 procedures, which is also available on the website. My intention is to reassure everyone that we have a shared understanding of what measures need to be taken in the event of anyone feeling unwell. I am grateful to parents who have sent messages to me conveying their satisfaction, such as the one below, which I reproduce (with permission!) because I think it helps to maintain confidence that we can protect and support each other.

I commend your and the BJAB team's thoughtfulness and preparedness. In times of such uncertainty, nothing matters more than having a clear plan which is communicated well across the community.

The children deserve some good rest and relaxation after this hot, sunny and hard-working week so I wish you all a pleasant weekend. Incidentally, car-free Sunday is always one of my favourite days in Brussels.

Dates for your diary

New: Virtual Coffee Mornings

Mrs White invites parents to join her via Zoom to discuss the start of the school year. Connection details will be sent to all parents by year group.

22nd September, 10.00 – Y4

24th September, 10.00 – Y3

28th September, 10.00 – Y6

29th September, 10.00 – Y5

1st October, 10.00 – Y7 & 8

5th October, 10.00 – Y1

6th October, 10.00 – Y2

8th October, 10.00 – EYFS

Friday 30th October

Interim Reports to parents

Monday 2nd November –

Friday 6th November

Autumn Half Term break



PreKindergarten & Kindergarten

We have had a fantastic week in Kindergarten. The children are now settled and happy in school, they are getting used to the routine and school day. They are making friends and forming new relationships.

Our focus this week was 'Our family' many of the children have already brought in family photos and we have enjoyed looking at them. We talked about the family members and found out that we have different words for mummy and daddy depending on our language. (Do not worry if you have not yet brought in a photo you still have time as we will be making our 'Family Tree' at the end of the month).

Our creative activity this week was self-portraits. They looked closely at their faces in mirrors and then tried to paint a picture of themselves. They have also enjoyed drawing, cutting and sticking. The children were very excited to go to the library for the first time.

One of the highlights this week was going to the gym, we are learning to warm up our muscles at the beginning of the lesson with some simple exercises. We then used colourful scarves to throw, catch and move with, we also rolled on our sides from one end of the gym to the other on a very long mat, it was great fun. We have been making the most of the good weather and have been playing outside with the sand and water; bathing babies, making bubbles, cleaning trucks and preparing sand soup!



Reception

This week we have been focusing on our families. We have been talking to each other about members of our families and telling interesting things about them. We wrote our names and tried to write names of different family members. We also looked at photos of our own families and explained who we have in our families.

In Mathematics we have continued to develop our understanding of numbers 10 and 20. We have ordered numbers and matched amounts to numerals. To develop understanding of the world, we have looked at family celebrations and traditions and have discussed some that we have in our families.

To continue our physical development, we have been moving in different ways and talking about the effect that physical exercise has upon our bodies. It has been lots of fun. We also dressed and undressed ourselves, working hard to fasten buttons. The children have developed their fine motor skills further by threading beads and creating family members in playdough.

Early Years Reminders

- Next week in Kindergarten we are starting colour of the week. On Wednesday of each week the children can come to school wearing the colour of the week or they can bring in an object in that colour. Our first colour of the week is RED.
- Please can I remind all Reception parents that Physical Education (P.E) is on a Wednesday. All children are asked to come to school in their P.E. kits and to bring their school uniforms with them. The children will get changed back into their uniforms after the lesson.

Lower School

It has been a busy third week of term in the Lower School. Year 1 pupils have been learning the importance of handwashing. Year 3 has simulated how a network of computers exchange messages and are now very keen to locate the router in their homes, and Year 4 has demonstrated what excellent role models they are this week and have truly embodied our BJAB values.

This week our Head Pupils gave a presentation on democracy which has galvanised the Lower School children into action. Voting will take place next week for class Eco and School Council representatives.

Our value of the month is Aspiration and we have been discussing how we can achieve our goals. In addition, we have discussed statements, such as, “if we believe, we can achieve, we are halfway there”.



Prep School

This week saw some specialist subjects start in earnest. Delivered by our very own in-house actress, Ms Vanderbiest, drama lessons are a new feature in the Prep school curriculum. Pupils in Years 5 and 6 have been creating characters through physical movement, whilst our older pupils have started their journey to commedia dell'arte and Greek tragedy through mask work.

It has been a busy week in the Computer Lab too, with each year experiencing their first hands-on session. The excitement for the upcoming coding and programming lessons are palpable.

School enrichment is also well under way, with activities planned daily for pupils to participate in. Our first Sport Enrichment, ran by Mr Mitchell, saw a third of the Prep School turn out to start football training. With several school fixtures booked for next year, we look forward to seeing their skills develop.

French spotlight

Cette semaine en français les plus jeunes ont appris les différentes manières de dire bonjour et comment se présenter en quelques mots. Les plus grands ont révisé les parties du visage afin d'être capables de décrire des personnes, ils ont aussi raconté leurs vacances et leur routine matinale. Un excellent début pour cette nouvelle année scolaire !

Meet the Teacher



Mrs Sutton is a new addition to the BJAB family, joining Miss Cowx in Year 3. Originally from the Midlands UK, Mrs Sutton has moved to Belgium this summer for a new adventure and to start her sixth year as a teacher.

“I have only been at BJAB for a month, but I already feel like part of the family. The staff, parents and children have been so welcoming and supportive whilst I settle into school. I have the most fantastic children in my class and I am really excited about the year ahead.”

Announcements

This week, we welcomed Ms Chang to our team as a Learning Support Assistant. We are also excited to announce that our new French teacher Miss Hunt and Early Years Learning Support Assistant Mrs Wells will be joining the BJAB family from Monday.