



BJAB Newsletter

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

One of the many strengths of BJAB is the diversity of its pupils. In a small school it is incredible to note that we have families from over 40 countries and that 37 languages are spoken at home. The varied languages, cultures and religions which are represented are a source of much pride to me and the monthly Values assemblies reinforce respect and understanding of our different backgrounds. This week, I have witnessed many acts of kindness towards new pupils who have very little English given by those pupils who were in the same position last September. Now seems an appropriate opportunity to thank Ms Lambrechts for her dedication and nurture in English as an Additional Language (EAL) lessons. The palpable confidence and happiness of her pupils after a short time in her care are a testament to her skills.

It was fitting that the European Day of Languages was celebrated by Mrs Cuigniez's class and the Prep pupils in their respective assemblies and I hope you enjoy looking at the colourful costumes in the photographs in this newsletter.

I have enjoyed 'meeting' parents of Years 3 and 4 pupils in the virtual coffee mornings this week and have already acted on some of their suggestions. May I remind you that I always welcome meetings with parents who have concerns, suggestions or those who just want to let me know how happy their children are!

I wish you all a pleasant weekend.

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.

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

This week in Kindergarten we have been practising the things we can do 'All by Ourselves'. We are encouraging a growing in independence in the children by teaching them how to put on their own coat, taking off and putting on their shoes (for example in the gym) and putting away our bags and boxes at snack time.

We really enjoyed 'Red day' on Wednesday, everyone wore something red to school, we painted red pictures, made red collage, built towers of red bricks and helped to make a colour mobile. We sang the 'Colours Song' the children learnt the words very quickly.

Our Music session on Thursday included playing percussion instruments by passing and playing the tambour, maracas and drums to a song called 'I've Got a Tambour'.

In our gym lesson on Friday we played with the parachute, we are getting better at working as a group to move the parachute up and down and we all love to run underneath!



Reception

This week our focus has been on colours and emotions. We investigated using primary colours to make secondary colours, this included painting with our hands and circle paintings with cups. It was lots of fun and a bit messy too! We also read 'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas. We enjoyed the story a lot, we discussed different feelings and past situations where we had felt them. We also used puppets of the colour monsters to act out the story and create stories of our own. We talked about bigger emotions and how to handle them too. We have also practiced talking in full sentences when we have been communicating.

This week in P.E. we continued to look at different ways to move. We played some exciting games, including the bean game. We have been working getting our fingers ready for writing by using tweezers to pick pom poms up from a tray. Next week we begin to look at traditional tales and will be reading some well-known ones over the next couple of weeks.

Early Years Reminders

- The Kindergarten colour next Wednesday is Blue.
- Reception's library day is on a Monday. Please can all children bring their library book on a Monday so they can change it and bring a new one home?

Lower School

This week, Year 1 has learnt about the changing weather and temperatures. Pupils made their own weathervanes and tested them on a windy day!

In topic, Year 2 has started learning about castles and looked at castles from around the world. The children have researched the different parts of a castle and drawn and labeled their own.

During choir Year 3 has been learning a Moari song called Epo I Tai Tai E using Body Percussion. It was such a hit the children have been practicing in the playground.

Year 4 has been studying the ancient Greek myth of King Midas, learning how to analyse and describe the motives and feelings driving characters' actions.

2C hosted an assembly this week to celebrate the European Day of Languages.



Prep School

The science lab has seen its first experiments of the term. Grippled by their first experience with light microscopes, Year 7 has taken scientific enquiry further, by this week studying the effect of temperature on the rate of diffusion. Once their 'Bunsen Burner Licence' was acquired, there was no stopping them, full gas, flames, and enjoyment.

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 have returned to German lessons this week. Last year, German was offered as an enrichment activity, and due to its popularity, is now taught within the curriculum by Mr Seal.

Year 5 has been researching and discovering major historical events which took place during the 1900s. The pupils have been intrigued by everything from the sinking of the Titanic to the founding of Microsoft.

French Spotlight



Cette semaine, le département de français a accueilli Mme Hunt. Les élèves ont pu faire sa connaissance et se présenter à elle en français. Mention spéciale aux élèves de FLE en Year 5, 6, 7 et 8 qui ont terminé leurs évaluations cette semaine !

Meet the Teacher



Mr MacDonald joined the BJAB family in September. Originally from Scotland, Mr. MacDonald has lived in Belgium for three years. Prior to this, he travelled the world working in international schools in New Zealand and Australia.

"It is a privilege to be a teacher at BJAB! What I love most about the school is the wonderful students and being surrounded by people who are so passionate about education."

Music Spotlight

We are currently not singing, which means that 'choir' is a chorus of rhythms and other ensemble activities. The music enrichment group for Years 5-8 has been tackling a sophisticated percussion and chanting arrangement of a famous nonsense poem by Spike Milligan: "On the Ning Nang Nong." So, if you find them at home reciting "jibber jabber joo" or "ning nang ning nang nong" at speed – do not worry, that is perfectly correct! It was a real pleasure to discover through the recent assessment exercise that over three quarters of children in Years 5-8 are learning an instrument or have done so in the recent past. This is very encouraging and we hope that when peripatetic teachers are able to come into school once again, we will be able to schedule more lessons into the day.

In the Year 2 assembly this week, we were treated to some high-quality piano playing from Alexandra. She played with fluid expression and sensitivity, captivating her audience with charming pieces by Shostakovich and Greig. We are looking forward to a creative term ahead.