



# BJAB Newsletter

## Headteacher's Message

This week's Inauguration of Joe Biden as President of the USA had, for me, one highly memorable moment: the poem read by Amanda Gorman. As the country's youngest ever Poet Laureate it was not only the words which impressed me, it was her poise and delivery. Pupils in the Prep school have already had the opportunity to review the poem and analyse the style. In assembly for Years 1-4 we spoke about democracy and the great institutions of state in countries across the world. School Council and its sister the Eco Council are examples of how pupils can participate in the life of BJAB by sharing and discussing ideas. My thanks to all the staff who support these mini-institutions.

It was pleasing to see so many parents in the Prep school attend the on-line Parent Partnership event about mathematics this week. Apart from the excellent subject matter (delivered so well by Mrs Johnson and Miss Nolan) it was good to see everyone! As I have said frequently over the last year, our community is resilient but it is important we continue to find ways to stay in touch with each other.

### Announcements

The next art day, across the whole school, will focus on the rich and varied styles of Graffiti. We encourage you to visit some of Brussel's examples of Graffiti highlighted on this [website](#). Please take photographs of your family members in front of these pieces of art and send to the school office. This should cheer us all up!

### Dates for your diary

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**  
Art Day

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 9:30 (virtual)**  
Parent Partnership:  
Relationships and Sex  
Education in the Prep School  
*More information to follow*

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February**  
Express Yourself Day  
*More information to follow*

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 9:30 (virtual)**  
Parent Partnership:  
Relationships and Sex  
Education in Year 2  
*More information to follow*

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February**  
Inset Day

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup>  
February**  
Half Term

## *PreKindergarten & Kindergarten*



This week we continued our topic about 'Space'. We have been learning the names of the planets in our solar system and looking at the colours and characteristics of the planets. We already know many of the names. In Creative Development the children designed their own planet using bright coloured paint and some sparkles.

The Kindergarten children have begun working on name recognition, both of their own name and of the other children in their group. They are learning the initial letter sound of their name and then they decorated the letter to make a name mobile.

In Personal, Social and Emotional development we have been finding out about the importance of having a healthy diet to help us grow and be fit and healthy. We made fruit kebabs, we used our favourite fruits to thread onto sticks and we ate them for our desert on Wednesday, delicious! We also found out what astronauts eat when they are in space by watching a video of Chris Hadfield the astronaut.



## *Reception*

On Monday morning in Reception, we came in to find out that the evil pea had been playing hide and seek in the school over the weekend. We saw photos of the different places he had been and thought that it was a good idea to warn the other children in our building. We created wanted posters, writing about what he looked like and where we had last seen him. Using the 'Supertato' books we have examined different character and discussed what makes a good friend. We have thought about ways in which we are good friends and how we show friendship.

In mathematical development we have been learning about halving. We can halve objects and are becoming more confident with halving amounts, beginning to recognise the relationship between doubling and halving. In phonics we are continuing to learn the Set 2 sounds, recapping on the Set 1 sounds learned last term. In P.E. we have been continuing our Superhero dance unit, learning and creating new superhero dance moves. This week our Superhero Power in class has been kindness.

### *Early Years Reminders*

- School uniform is an important aspect of school life at Bjab. I politely remind you that Reception children should be wearing school uniform, this includes wearing Bjab hats, scarves and gloves. Also, all Pre – Kindergarten and Kindergarten children need to wear the Bjab Smock over their clothes. All information can be found in the parent guidelines. If your copy has been misplaced, please feel free to contact the office staff to obtain a new one.
- Children should only bring healthy snacks to school. Cakes, biscuits, crisps and chocolate are not permitted and please note we are a nut free school due to allergies.

## Lower School

Year 1 has been learning about algorithms in Computing this week. We directed each other around a grid using physical blocks based on a Michael Rosen story.

Year 2 has gone back to the Renaissance times in music, discovering and listening to pieces by famous composers from 500 years ago! After practising a few steps, the children performed a classic court dance to some music of the period.

Play scripts have been the focus for English this week in Year 3. We have enjoyed writing and performing our own plays about the adventures of Hansel and Gretel.

In Mathematics, Year 4 has been finding equivalent fractions and practised putting fractions in their lowest terms.



## Prep School

In design technology this week, Year 6 has been given a brief to design and make an earthquake-proof building. In groups, they have designed buildings using techniques previously studied including cross-bracing and the use of an essential pillar. This week, the pupils have begun to make the building following their designs, a thoroughly enjoyable learning experience for all.

The Year 7 pupils are developing their enterprising skills and have been challenged this half term to create a business idea to successfully pitch to the year 5 pupils. Having carried out market research, the pupils have started to consider what social and environmental responsibilities their businesses will have.

Following today's highly competent assembly by Year 6, drama will be dominated in Year 5 by research and practice for an assembly due to take place in February.

## French Spotlight



Cette semaine, les enfants qui participent au club de français ont appris à nommer les animaux. Nous avons répondu à des devinettes et joué au loto pour apprendre le nouveau vocabulaire. C'était très amusant!

## Meet the Teacher



Mrs Cuigniez has been part of the BJAB family for seven years. Originally from the Czech Republic, Mrs Cuigniez lived and taught in London for 5 years before moving to Belgium. Outside school, Mrs Cuigniez is very active enjoying golf, tennis and Scottish country dancing, a skill she will be sharing in an after school club later this term.

## Art Club

In Art Club, we looked at paintings by Vincent Van Gogh and discussed his sunflower paintings. We will learn about drawing using a grid during our sessions, using varying shades of the same colour, and how to blend them. The objective is to create a sunflower display for our Sunshine Gym.

## School Houses

There is a new leader, congratulations Hergé for overtaking Schuman in house points this week.

House	Points
Hergé	4629
Schuman	4572
Montgomery	3739
Baudouin	3642