



24th February 2023

Primary News

A word from Mrs Železinger

Dear Parents and Students,

This Tuesday was very colourful indeed, as we celebrated *Pust*, one of the most important cultural festivals in Slovenia. Students and staff across the school were dressed in their favourite book characters, coinciding with this block's theme and upcoming World Book week. It was fantastic to see so many different costumes and accessories! Thank you to the PTA for sweetening the day with *krofi*, (deep-fried dough), a typical dish on the carnival menu.



The bookings for **Term 2 Parent-Teacher Virtual Interviews** opened last Tuesday. Please follow the instructions sent out to book your slots with Specialist Subject Teachers. Booking will officially close on Tuesday 14th March at 15:00.

Following the recent bake sale organised by the parents and the Student Council, the collection (662 Eur) will be donated to chosen charities. Thank you all for your contributions.

We concluded this week with a whole-Primary assembly. Thank you to the Year 1 class for their wonderful performance 'Light and Rhymes', which reflected the current topic they have been learning about this block.



Congratulations to students receiving *Star of the Week* and to *Sapphire* as this week's House winners.

Next week on **2nd March**, we will be celebrating **World Book Day**. As part of our celebrations, parents are invited to come and read to their child's class during the week. Parents can bring their own books to share or choose books available at school. Please contact the class teacher for further details and to sign up for this. We would love as many parents to join us as possible to share their love of reading.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Katarina Železinger
Head of Primary

Class Teacher Reports

Early Years

In the Early Years this week, the children dressed as their favourite book characters to celebrate *Pust*. Through the celebration of *Pust*, the children learned about weather changes and different traditions of celebrating the arrival of spring.

As part of our celebration, Nursery and Reception students had a visit from students from the local kindergarten. The students showed costumes to their new friends, listened to a story about *Pust*, and danced and sang festive songs. In addition, the Nursery students created fun, colourful masks that day to scare the winter away.



Early Years, prefect Marlene read us a collection of “Winnie the Witch” books, and the parents surprised us with delicious doughnuts. What a day!

Through Julia Donaldson’s story “Monkey Puzzle”, the Pre-Nursery students were learning to name and identify jungle animals. The Nursery students expanded their vocabulary by discussing similarities between baby animals and their mothers. They said it was easy to recognise the young jungle animals as they looked very similar to their mothers. But do they? The butterfly’s life cycle was our favourite topic of discussion.

Ms Kukovica

Year 1

This week we spoke about the traditional tale of *The three little pigs* and attempted to use speech bubbles to remember what the characters say in the story. In Math, we continued to use cubes to estimate and measure objects around the classroom, while in Topic, we listened to the story about the fox and the stars, a traditional Native American story.



We also spoke about the use and symbols around dreamcatchers and made our own, which we will leave in the classroom for now, to make sure our classroom is full of good thoughts and kindness.

Ms Miklavec

Year 2

The children adored our day on Tuesday when they were able to dress as their favourite book characters for Pust.



The day was filled with joy and fantasy as the children remained in character throughout the lessons. Thank you for helping your child to be dressed for the day. Everyone really enjoyed themselves.

Ms te Velde & Ms Torrington

Year 4

This week, year 4 students had an exciting start with PUST where they dressed up in some fantastic costumes. In English, they were learning about grammar and apostrophes and they were writing about their favourite books!



In Maths, they completed fractions and decimals units and created amazing posters to help them organize their knowledge.

Ms Pirnat and Ms Harris

Year 5

This week the children had a very fun time celebrating PUST and showcased brilliant costumes. The children very much enjoyed eating their Krof at break time and discussing the tradition in class.



In English, the children have been learning how to write a newspaper report and have specifically been looking at headlines.

In Math, the children have been learning how to round, add and subtract decimals. We are looking forward to celebrating St David's Day next week together.

Mrs Thomas-Hayes

Year 6

The Year 6 class has finished another English Unit, and in their latest writing activity, they got to try out formal and informal language through a dialogue exercise. The students pretended to be a customs officer and an exotic animal smuggler, and they had some exciting and engaging conversations. This activity helped them learn more about how to use different types of language.



In addition to the English Unit, we also had a great time celebrating Pust this week. The Year 6 students dressed up as their favourite book characters, and we all had a lot of fun parading around the school to show off our costumes. Some of the students even acted out scenes from their favourite stories, bringing the characters to life.

Mr Kokalj

Departmental News

PE

During PE lessons this week, we continued to develop our understanding of invasion and movement games. Years 1 & 2 focused on being able to pass, dribble and shoot when playing basketball, with Years 3 & 4 continuing to work on their tactical understanding of team games when playing Swedish Handball. Years 5 & 6 continued to explore the importance of teamwork and possession when playing an adapted version of Handball and all year groups enjoyed being able to participate in some competitive match play scenarios.

PE Department

EAL

Our EAL students had a great time in class this week practising their language and communication skills by drawing and describing a room. Using furniture and

prepositions, the students worked in pairs to describe a room to their partner, who then tried to draw it based on the description given.



This activity was a fun and engaging way for our students to improve their vocabulary, use prepositions correctly, and communicate effectively with their partners.

Mr Siter

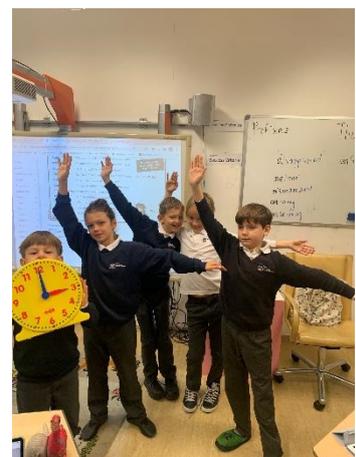
Slovene

Koliko je ura?

Students in Y3 and Y4 in Slovene Intermediate group were learning about time this week.

They did several activities to learn to tell time in Slovene and also to talk about their day.

Ms Jakop



Pust širokih ust!

This week Year 1 and 2 students at Slovene Foundation have been talking about carnival customs in Slovenia.



The students got to know the "kurents" more closely, and they also made their own masks. They really enjoyed their work, and above all, they were very creative!

Ms Drogenik

In our Y5/6 Slovene Advanced lesson this week, we delved into the history of Pust and explored the different types of masks that are worn during the festival. The students had a great time describing their favourite masks and learning about the meanings behind them.



Some of the most popular masks included the "kurent," a large, feathered creature with a beak-like nose and red cheeks. The kurent is said to represent the spirit of the Pust festival, and it is believed to ward off evil spirits and bring good luck.

Another favourite mask was the "laufar," a horned creature with a long tongue and wild, unkempt hair. The laufar is said to symbolize the power of nature and the cycle of life and death.

Our exploration of Pust and the masks worn during the festival was a fun and enlightening experience for everyone involved.

Ms Kotnik

Other News

Charity of Year 6 Students

I am excited to share with you the news about an inspiring act of kindness that has been demonstrated by two of our Year Six students, Lucian and Bartek.

They have recently collected 80 euros to aid those affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Their selfless act of kindness is truly commendable and demonstrates the positive impact that young individuals can have on the world around them. It is a heartwarming reminder that even small actions can make a significant difference in the lives of others.



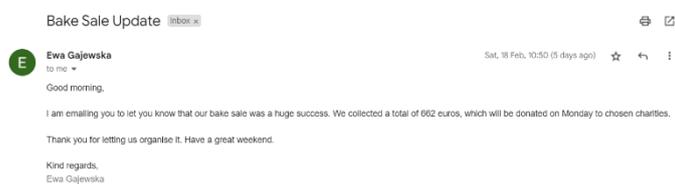
I want to express my gratitude to both Lucian and Bartek for their noble efforts. Their donation has been kindly accepted and will be merged with the funds collected from the school bake sale, which was also organized to support the same cause. The secondary student council representative, Mr Malden, will oversee the merging of the funds.

I am thrilled to see such compassion and generosity from our students, and it is a testament to the values that we strive to instil in them. I hope that this act of kindness will inspire other students to take similar actions and make a positive impact in their communities.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the school bake sale, and a special thanks to Lucian and Bartek for their admirable contribution. Let us continue to support one another and spread kindness wherever we can.

BISL Parent Survey

As parents of students at our school, you will all have recently received messages from a research company concerning this year's annual BISL Parent Survey. We encourage every family to take a few minutes to complete the survey since the information received will be extremely helpful in supporting the continued improvement of the school.



In advance, many thanks for your support of the school through the completion of the Parent Survey. The headline results of both the recent Student Survey and the Parent Survey will, of course, be shared with the community once completed and analysed.

Principal's Update

Friday 24th February 2023

Dear Parents and Families,

We held another evacuation (fire) practice this week as part of a planned sequence of necessary activities to ensure that everyone in our community remains as safe as possible. I am happy to report that the practice went well, and the staff, students and guests all moved to the designated safety zones both quickly and quietly. Well done. Of course, after such an activity we seek out feedback from everyone involved in order to make important adjustments to our procedures for the future. The whole exercise reminded me of how caring, supportive and responsible the BISL community is.

That review and reflection are so important for our young people. To check your understanding, and to make the necessary adjustments in order to improve, seem to be the ingredients for a fulfilling life well-lived. Ideal education is founded on values such as BISL's - Respect, Responsibility, Commitment, Integrity and Compassion - and it is then able to mesh together the growth of an individual who has character, confidence, skill and care for others, with the excellence of great academic results. After that, children can then make the most of the opportunities they face, and have a great chance of fulfilling their dreams, big and small alike.

Earthquake Relief Bake Sale

When mentioning character education, it is entirely appropriate to highlight here the incredible efforts of our Head Students Ewa and Julia alongside Urmak, the Student Council and many other secondary students who initiated and delivered a wonderful Bake Sale last week in aid of the Turkish and Syrian earthquake. In a school of our size, the fact that they



raised EUR 752 is a remarkable achievement in such a short space of time.

This type of initiative, teamwork, commitment and passion for justice as well as consideration for the situation of other people, is truly at the heart of what a good education should and must be. A magnificent effort and all involved should be very pleased and proud of their efforts.

New Principal – Ms Mel Hitchcocks

It was terrific to have the school's new Principal visiting this week in order to see the school in action and to start a handover process with key staff. Ms Hitchcocks and I spent a good amount of quality time together going over the School Development Plan and other important information that will ensure she can have a confident and efficient start to her BISL career. It was a pleasure to have her visit and I am confident that the school is in good shape and in excellent hands for the future.

BISL Parent Survey

BISL Retention Survey

We have two very important surveys published for parents. The access links in order to complete our formal annual Parent Survey have been sent over the past weeks and I urge everyone to do the survey and help the school progress and improve quickly. This survey will close in one week's time.

The other area of the school where we most certainly do need all parent help is the new **BISL Parent Retention Survey**. This survey is published today and is designed to help the school plan the number of teachers and classes as accurately as possible for the next school year.

In particular, we all are aware that some BISL year groups are full or nearly full, so it supports our decision-making very much if we can know in advance approximately how many students we will have in each year group. Without reasonably accurate information, and the speed it takes to identify and employ high-quality new staff here, the likelihood of having to operate waitlists in some year

groups becomes higher – and this is something that is always best to be avoided for all concerned.

Traffic in School

Again, please, just a gentle reminder to everyone driving in school.

For everyone's safety, that the school parking is only used for dropping off and picking up children (no staying), and that the *speed limits are strictly adhered to*.

We strongly recommend that parents use the public parking right next to the school that can be accessed via *Ulica Koroškega Bataljiona*. There is a gate from the parking that allows direct access to the front of the school.

Have a great weekend,



Matthew Cox
School Principal

Dates to Note

Thu	Mar 2 nd	World Book Day
Fri	Mar 3 rd	Coffee with the Principal
Wed	Mar 8 th	Women's day (Slovenia)
Thu	Thu 9 th	Second-hand Uniform Sale
Wed	Mar 22 nd	BISL Spring Concert
Fri	Mar 24 th	Block 5 End
Fri	Mar 24 th	Dress Down Day

All upcoming events and details are available on our [website](#).

School Contact Details

Reception Hours: M-F 07:15-16:00

General Telephone: +386 40486548

Admissions: +386 40618356

General Enquiries: enquiries@britishschool.si

Accounts: accounts@britishschool.si

Principal: principal@britishschool.si

School Calendars

For Term dates and school holidays, [click here](#).