

BCG Newsletter

22 November 2022





Last Friday the majority of the school came together for Remembrance Day. All students and teachers from Year 2 to Year 13 gathered to remember those that had given their lives for others in conflicts across the world. We had two poems, beautifully read by Pol Chermés Holgado from Year 6 and our Head Girl, Judith Rey Moreno from Year 13. I talked to the students about good, fair debate and the importance of appreciating the different views of others. The social skills learnt at school will benefit them in later life. Find the full speech below.

The girls scored their first-ever team goal and won their first game at the BISA Football Tournament at BSB on Wednesday and just narrowly missed out on the final on goal difference. The boys were beaten in the final after penalties. Both teams were really supportive of each other, and again they did the school proud in the way they conducted themselves. Good luck to the U14 Boys and Girls Football at BSB this week!

We also had our first Open Day. It is always a pleasure to welcome prospective students to our school and we had another great event. There is a very positive atmosphere around school and the children seem full of energy and enthusiasm. I have seen some wonderful costumes for the various dressing up days and I also spotted some really funky socks for odd socks day. The odd socks of course work as a reminder that everyone is individual and that everyone has the right to be heard.

As you know, following the success of previous events, we are going to start some regular information mornings for parent, <u>please complete the form here if you have not done so already</u>. Last Wednesday Ester Pou and the Languages Team did a presentation on Languages at BCG. It was very informative and feedback from parents suggest that it was much appreciated.

- Link https://youtu.be/gS7gUxyaE9k
- Presentation slides here

We provided a very comprehensive Careers and University application support for our students and on the 30th November we will be hosting a University Fair. Representatives form 30 universities will be available for explanations and advice. All Year 11, 12 and 13 students will be able to attend. We also have students and teachers from many other schools in Barcelona coming to the event.

Another upcoming after school talk on November 29th - is called Food Waste & Climate Change for families - and is being given by MyGranchef. More information can be found in this newsletter

The EYFS & Primary Christmas photos are ready - children took home a sample and all you need to do is scan the QR and get more details on how to purchase copies.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2022 SPEECH

Good morning,

Albert Einstein once said - "Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding."

Today is Thursday is the 11 November 2022 and each year on that day we commemorate the end of the Great War - this war was also called World War 1.

The war involved millions of young soldiers from many different nations - a huge amount of whom died for their countries - died so that their families, friends and neighbours could live on in peace. They sacrificed their lives for others - this is called the ultimate sacrifice.

Much of the First World War was fought in the countryside in Northern France and in Belgium. Flanders is a town in Belgium. There are many poignant, that is to say, meaningful, poems that have been written about war and Pol will read one to us now.

The day before he wrote "In Flanders Fields", one of John's closest friends was killed and buried in a grave decorated with only a simple wooden cross. Wild poppies were already blooming between the crosses that marked the graves of those who were killed in battle.

Pol will now read In Flanders Fields by John Mccrae.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, That mark our place; and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

The poppy is a flower that started growing on the battlefields and has become the sign of hope and remembrance for all that died. Across the world people wear paper poppies as a sign of respect.

So, every 11th day of the 11th month at 11am (which is the time peace was declared) across the world, people stop what they are doing and take two minutes to reflect, to imagine, to respect all those who have lost their lives fighting in wars all over the world. Not just the Great War but all those that have happened since. In fact, there are 27 live conflicts happening around the world now, one of which is of course in the Ukraine.

The two minutes silence starts and ends with a bugle this sound is called the Last Post - the last note is the start of the 2 mins silence where I would like you all stand and bow your heads and remain still and silent out of respect for all of the women and men that have lost their lives fighting to ensure we live in a peaceful world.

The 2 minutes will end when you hear the bugle for a second time.

Wars generally start because people from different countries disagree about something - it might be about religion or land or power. But it is always because they cannot reach a peaceful agreement. We have our very own Roman legionnaires here today too.

Ronald Reagan, the 40th American president said "Peace is not absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means."

Being in an international school, you meet other children from many different countries. You learn that we all have different backgrounds and we all have different points of view. No one is right or wrong and you learn to respect everyone's opinions. This privileged environment that we are in provides you all with some very special skills that I hope you will use later on in your life.

You are the leaders of tomorrow and I want you to really learn from each other, listen to each other and respect each other so that one day when you are making important decisions perhaps in government, or international trade, you will be able to respect the point of view of those sitting on the opposite side of the table - and find a common understanding and reach a common goal.

A famous American general Norman Schwarzkopf said this very clearly with the words "The more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war."

Please stand and bow your heads for the 2 minute silence.

Thank you

Our second poem will be read by Judith and is called For the Fallen by Laurence Binyon.

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children, England mourns for her dead across the sea. Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit, Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

To end this assembly Yevgen will leave us with some final words.

"Today, as we should every day, we remember those who volunteered, sacrificed, served, fought, and died, for our freedom. We thank you, and we salute you as we salute those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. We will never forget. We will remember you."



EYFS & PRIMARY NEWS

34 days... Until Christmas that is. I can't believe I am writing this newsletter and we are already approaching Christmas. Where on earth have the past 11 weeks gone? School is always so busy that you could blink and easily miss one of the many wonderful activities going on around the place.

In the 'spirit' of not missing anything out, I have to give huge mention to our annual Halloween and La Castanyada celebrations. It is no secret that Mr Mower is not a fan of Halloween but that didn't stop him getting involved and dressing up for the occasion and joining in our fancy dress Halloween Parade! The children very much enjoyed seeing him dancing to some spooky music (secretly we all think he enjoyed it). The effort put into the children's outfits was incredible as always. One pupil's scary make-up was so convincing, I genuinely did not recognise her! I would like to thank our very own Castanyera for the amazing effort she put into visiting each classroom and sharing her story, as well as making paper packets for the children to collect their roasted chestnuts. Thank you Carles Garcia (Sandra's husband) for a great job roasting the chestnuts. They were delicious!

We received an early Christmas present in the form of 467 euros to spend on books from English Libros who ran our Book Fair last term. This was a wonderful surprise and will further add to our growing collection of a wide range of books for all of our pupils to enjoy.

It has been a very busy few weeks since returning from half term as we have begun preparations for our long awaited Christmas Fair. A school Christmas Fair is a long held tradition, which I personally love. It is the first Christmas Fair post-Covid that we have been able to invite parents to and it is set to be our biggest and best yet!

Last week, our Parent Reps attended a meeting with us to share ideas. We welcome support and contributions from all of our families willing to run our food and drinks stalls, plus the Tombola. I hear there are some fantastic prizes to be won already. Rumour has it Father Christmas will be paying us a visit too... You will receive your invite to the Christmas Fair later this week which will include details of all the fun activities plus lots more!

Over the half term, we saw the very beginnings of phase 1 of our Positive Playground Campaign. To improve the children's experience at playtimes, we decided to add some markings on our patio so the children would have more ideas for games to play. Over the holidays, Mr Mower came in every day and personally painted a giant chessboard, a huge Snakes & Ladders, Hop Scotch, a mirroring game and a giant dragon. We were both quite overwhelmed when we saw the

children's reaction to these on their first day back. They absolutely loved them! From all of us we would like to say an enormous thank you to Mr Mower. We now also have a designated 'Quiet Zone' where children can use the new seated area for quiet reading or drawing. This week, we will open the Primary Library for any children who love to read. Last week I started a weekly Bench Ball Club at lunch times too. I have seen a significant improvement in behaviour already. I am excited for the next phases of our project which we will implement over the next 2 years. If you have any unwanted pallets you would like to donate, we would be very grateful.

Miss Kelly Wakelin Head of EYFS & Primary School

Bordas Trip - Y1

On Wednesday, Year 1 went on a trip to Gava's Bordas Gardening Centre to deepen our understanding about plants and trees. It was a wonderful excursion; we learnt lots of interesting facts and had the opportunity to plant our very own conifer tree, which we took home at the end of the day!

We now know that when planting a tree in a pot, it is important to have a hole in the bottom so that the water can drain. Also, you should put rocks in before the soil, so that the roots have oxygen to breathe. We now know that conifers stay green all year round, but other trees shed their leaves and these are called deciduous or 'oja caduca' in Spanish. We also know that some trees are very clever because they store their water in the base of the trunk, like a giant water bottle. We saw smelly, herbal plants and deadly, carnivorous plants. And to finish our tour, we were shown the oldest tree in the Garden Centre, which is over 500 years old, a gnarled and twisted olive tree, cut clean in half so that it could be transported to its new home. We wondered about its history and the sights it has seen.

A magical trip about the wonders of nature.

Miss Kempner





What a fantastic day Year 3 had recently when we were no longer students studying at BCG but Roman soldiers, Roman civilians, and even Roman Gods and Goddesses. Our Roman Day was a culmination of all the learning we have been doing over the past term focusing on the spread of the Roman empire in Europe. It has been a really fun topic and one that all of us have thoroughly enjoyed. Our favourite part of the day might have been marching with our amazing Roman shields up and down the green playground. It was important we marched just like the Romans otherwise we might have been sent to the Roman arena to fight the lions. It was fascinating to learn about how well the Roman armies organised themselves using their shields for protection. It was not surprising to us that they managed to conquer so many lands. What a fun day was had by us all!

Year 4 - Vikings

Year 4 learnt all about the Vikings last half term, culminating in an exciting Viking Day. We spent two days on an exciting Design and Technology project, researching, designing and making a Viking longboat. The children displayed excellent teamwork working together, sharing ideas and supporting each other. We shared these boats with each other, sat in a life-size replica of a Viking longboat, using our maths measuring skills to measure the correct size. The children, dressed up as fearsome Vikings, using the Viking shields they designed as part of their homework project, then solved a Viking themed treasure hunt mystery.





They had to follow the clues, find the answers and crack the code using their knowledge of Viking runes - the Viking alphabet. The hidden message led them to the gold which they raided from a dragon (Mr Mower!) hiding in a tree! We also had a delicious Viking feast of mixed berries and flatbreads, with our special (non-alcoholic!) honey mead. A fantastic day was had by all.

Year 5B

It has been a busy couple of weeks since the children returned from the holidays in 5B - they have come back with a great attitude for learning! We have been continuing our learning on the Maya civilisation and our Space topic. Please encourage your child to take part in the Space project which has been posted on Google Classroom - we can't wait to see what they produce! We have also been starting our new topic on Multiplication. Please encourage your child to practise the Times Tables on Century Tech, as this will help them enormously with the Maths we are doing in class.

Liam Ball Year 5B Class Teacher

SECONDARY NEWS

Dear parents,

The students have settled back in after the half-term break and already we are approaching the business end of term, as the students study hard for their Formal Assessments, and the Christmas festivities appear on the horizon. It is important the students remain focused throughout this time and take pride in their efforts during the assessment period.

Attendance

Recently, I have been looking at the levels of attendance for the first half term. It is extremely important for every child's mental and academic health that they are in school, and on time each day. We will follow up with parents about the relevant attendance issues.

Chromebooks

To date, four Chromebooks have been seriously damaged this term, and the school has (for the most part) had to absorb the costs to replace them. The majority of these incidents occurred when students dropped their bags during lunch break. We have informed (and reminded) students that they should be placed in lockers at morning break and lunch. Therefore, we are considering asking families to be liable for any damage if it takes place during this time. Please remind the students that they need to look after the school's property and treat their Chromebooks with respect.

Parents' Evenings

It was good to meet some of you at the recent Y7 and Y10 Parents' Evenings. Next term we have a combined GCSE Options and Y9 Parents Evening where the options teachers will have the opportunity to give a brief presentation and then you will be able to speak to their subject teachers. There will also be a Y8 Parents' Evening.

Christmas Fair

The Christmas fair looks to be a fun community event - we invite all secondary parents to get involved or come along and enjoy the festive cheer on December 2nd from 3 pm to 6 pm.

Christmas Concert

Mark the evening of December 15th in your diaries. This will be the evening of the Christmas Concert, an event that is sure to warm your hearts and celebrate the holiday season.

Secondary Key Dates

November

November 21st - 2nd - (Y 7-10) - Secondary Formal Assessment Fortnight

Wednesday 23rd - U14 Boys and Girls Football at BSB

November 23rd - (Years 7-10) - 9 am to 10 am - Parent Rep Meeting Key Stage 3 & 4

November 28th (Y12) - Y12 Assessment Week starts

November 30th - International Universities Fair

December

December 2nd - Christmas Fair

December 12th - Y9 and Y10 First Aid Course

December 13th - School Newsletter

December 14th - (Y12 & Y13) - 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm - Parent Rep Meeting Key Stage 5

December 15th - ECAP Term 1 Ends

December 15th - 7pm Christmas Concert

December 16th - 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm - Open Day

December 20th - 4:45 pm - 5:45 pm - Y11 IBDP Options Evening (Teachers in

attendance)

December 22nd - (Years 7 - 10 & 12) - Secondary Full Reports to Parents

December 22nd - (Y 11 & Y13) - Grade and Target Reports to Parents

December 22nd - Class Christmas parties & Non-Uniform Day

December 22nd - Half Day - School Closes at 12:30 pm

Mr. Ruddin

The DofE International Award Practice Expedition

On Friday 4th November to Saturday 5th November over 50 students from Years 11, 12 and 13 took part in the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Practice Expedition. They started out from Port Ginesta and made their way along carefully planned routes to the school, where tents were expertly pitched and delicious meals cooked. Some groups decided to challenge themselves. Camping overnight was a bit chilly, but everyone warmed up the next morning with even more tasty meals!

This was a vital component of the Award. Students have been given the opportunity to reflect upon the entire process, from the planning stage to carrying out the expedition. There were excellent examples of teamwork shown throughout the day as challenges arose and were overcome, and everyone came away having learnt valuable lessons.

The next stage is, for those who were successful, to take what they have learnt forward and to start to prepare for their qualifying expeditions. These will take place for both Bronze and Silver levels of the Award in 2023. More information will follow soon.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE NEWS

EXTENDED ESSAY Y13 - "A journey once begun, has no end"

If you've been around before, you might already know that the Extended Essay (also called EE) is a compulsory Core aspect of the Diploma program. In short, it is a 40-hour research project, consisting of both a 4000-word essay and a reflection form called RPPF (Reflections on Planning and Progress Form).

It has been a very busy fortnight for our Y13 cohort, who prepared for the final sprint toward the finishing line. After the final submission of their essay, students joined me for a very last workshop on how to best evaluate and reflect on their EE process: a 12-month experience full of doubts, challenges, initiatives, and achievements!

Shortly after, our Y13s also attended their ultimate official meeting (the daunting "Viva Voce") with their supervisor, with whom they evaluated a demanding but rewarding process.

Coming to an end, last Thursday, the students submitted their final reflection, in which they reflected on how the Extended Essay has changed them as learners but even more importantly as individuals.

I have been privileged to be around this friendly bunch of teenagers (young adults shall I say) for the past year and I am confident to say they will remember a lot more than data and terminology. For some, the EE confirmed vocations and university pathways, for others it helped them gain confidence and believe in themselves. If a year ago "they felt like they had a massive mountain to climb



without the proper equipment" (directly inspired by Julian Bakker, Y13), they know now that wherever there is dedication and hard work there is nothing out of their reach.

Miss Delmet EE Coordinator



STUDENT MENTION

IDO world show dance championships

Huge congratulations to Alicja K. in 5B and Amelia K. in 7B who recently travelled to Poland for the IDO world show dance championships. Both girls did fantastically well, Alicja made it to the semi final with her dance group and Amelia managed to come third in her category. Well done!



Outstanding Pearson Learner Award

Natasha W. (who left last summer to continue with her IB studies in the UK and has a sister, Gabriela in Year 3) has been awarded an Outstanding Pearson Learner Award for getting the highest mark in Europe for iGCSE Geography and Global Citizenship.

Congratulations Natasha!

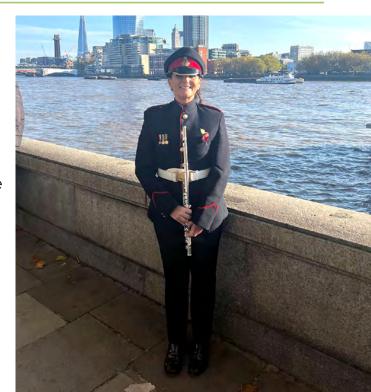


Lord Mayor's Show in London

Miss McDonald attended the Lord Mayor's Show in London last weekend performing with her flute band, Kellswater.

The three mile route through the streets of London was lined with thousands of spectators to view the colourful floats and military bands and of course catch a glimpse of the new Lord Mayor in his gold State Coach.

The procession was also broadcast live on BBC TV.



ENRICHMENT NEWS

ECAP Term 2 (January to March 2023)

The timetable will be sent to parents shortly. We will aim to open the booking system on the 8th December until the 15th December. We require you to register again for term 2 clubs, there is no automatic roll over. We hope to keep most clubs on the same day as they currently operate with only those undersubscribed being cancelled and replaced by an alternative.

We are currently working with Barcelona Hockey club in P.E. lessons and they are looking to offer an ECAP club on Mondays next term for students in years 3 to 8. This is a fabulous opportunity for our students and one that we hope families will consider joining.

PE News

As mentioned, we are collaborating with Barcelona Hockey Club coaches to promote this activity to students. We have many excellent hockey players in our school such as Arnau M., year 12, who represents the Catalan National U17 team. Mariona M. (year 13), Judith R. (year 13), Pau R. (year 13) and Ariadna R. (year 11) and Clara P. (year 4) also play at a highly competitive level with local clubs in the area.

On this note, we remind you that if you have a child in school who participates in an event outside school, please share this with us and we will celebrate their success in our newsletter!

Although we will be teaching at a very safe and beginner level, accidents can happen in Hockey simply with the natural nature of the equipment and student excitement. For this reason we suggest wearing a gum shield. Better safe than sorry!

Monday 19th November saw our first of 2 moderation visits for the year 11 IGCSE students. They will play ASB and BSB in a series of matches aimed at assessing their practical performance. Thanks to the non-IGCSE students who are joining to make up teams and collaborating with peers towards their success!

This week, we give our star performer awards to **Beni G.** (year 7), Sophia R. (year 8) and Michael B. (year 8, eAthlete)

Sophia and Beni were given the player of the tournament award by their respective coaches (Miss Bell and Mr. Alonso)



on Wednesday 16th November after outstanding performances against BSB and SEK in the BISA Schools U12 Football Tournament. Their level of effort, teamwork and commitment was superb. In terms of communication, both students excelled. They listened to the coach's advice, encouraged team mates and despite a few knocks and bumps managed positive self-talk to get back in the game! Well done to you both!

Incidentally, in this tournament, the U12 girls team scored their FIRST ever tournament goal and won their FIRST ever competitive match since they formed at the start of the year. Even more impressive is that they were narrowly beaten to a place in the final play-offs by goal difference! Well done to our super striker Eve F. for netting most of our goals.

Our boys were simply amazing and lost in the final to a sudden death penalty shoot out. Not only are our boys physically tough, they showed they had mental toughness too and a resilience beyond their years. Impressive stuff all around!

Michael will play next week in our U14 BISA Football event but this week he has been given special mention due to his increased work rate in the eAthlete classroom, completing his first objective of the year and assisting Mr Pilcher in early years PE lessons.

Local Football League

We are very happy to have started competing in Gavà's local football league organised by the Consell Esportiú del Baix Llobregat. BCG has entered a mixed team of girls and boys from Year 4 to Year 7. Matches will be held every two weeks on a Friday evening.

Last Friday, 11th November, was our first match and we drew 3-3!!! This is a super result!

Our parents were very supportive and the children had a great time! Thank you to Caroline and Ruben for organising this initiative and good luck to the team this season!

Secondary Sports Clubs During the School Day

This week, we relaunch our day time clubs. Please be reminded that these are:

Monday & Wednesday, Basketball for years 10 - 13 Friday, Volleyball for years 7 - 9 at break time Friday, Volleyball for year 10 - 13 at lunch time Monday to Thursday, Fitness Suite for years 10 - 13

As always, we encourage staff to join too!



LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT NEWS

From the Department of Languages we once again congratulate the students who have excelled in any of the 3 languages (Spanish, French and Catalan) as the best linguists of the week.

LINGUISTS OF THE WEEK

EYFS and Primary

Reception: Arlet (Spanish)

Y1: Telmo (Spanish)

Y2: Kiara -A y Lola - B (Catalan)Y3: Marc y Hendrix (Spanish)Y4: Hugo y Lucía (Catalan)

Secondary and Sixth Form

KS3: Katirina (Y8) KS4: Martina (Y10)

KS5: Julio (Y13)

UPDATES

Consell Municipal d'Infants de Gavà

On November 21st, our 4 representatives from Y6 and Y7, along with the rest of the councillors from other schools participated in the first Plenary Session of the Infants Municipal Council, in the Gavà Town Hall. The Mayoress, Ms. Gemma Badia, officially gave them a commission on a concrete improvement project for the city of Gavà, on which the representatives of the Consell must start working. Two representatives of the school, as well as the relatives of our 4 counselors, have been invited to attend the Plenary.





EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

On November 9th, Year 13 students who follow the IB Spanish A: Language and Literature curriculum, attended the theatrical performance of the drama, La casa de Bernarda Alba by Federico García Lorca at the Barradas Auditorium in I 'Hospitalet de Llobregat, after having read and analyzed this work in class. At the end, there was a discussion with the theater company, and the students had the opportunity to talk with the actors.



Later we took a 1-hour guided tour of the air raid shelter from the Spanish Civil War, located on Rambla de Gavà. The students were able to ask many questions about the historical context and about the origin and creation of this refuge. A visit that was well worth it!



VISIT OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF CATALONIA (UIC) FOR YEAR 12 AND YEAR 13

On November 10, a representative of the UIC visited our school to present to the Y12 and Y13 students the university degrees, both scientific (dentistry, medicine, psychology, etc.) and humanities (journalism, teaching, law, etc.) that this modern university offers on its two campuses, one located in Sarriá, Barcelona, and the

other, in Sant Cugat.



Ester Pou ester.pou@bcgava.com Head of Languages





Barcelona



30 NOV 2022 10:00 - 15:15

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY FAIR



300+ PROGRAMS



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FRANCE

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Lancaster University Leipzig

ITALY

Bocconi University

John Cabot University

MULTICAMPUS

Hult International Business School

IED Istituto Europeo di Design

Schiller University

SPAIN

ESCP Europe

EU Business School

IE University

UCJC Universidad Camilo José Cela

THE NETHERLANDS

Hotelschool the Hague

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UNITED KINGDOM

Coventry University

Falmouth University

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The University of Exeter

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GAMES

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FOOD AND DRINKS

GET YOUR BCG MONEY TOKENS TO SPEND! 1 BCG BILL = 1€.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 2ND, 2022
FROM 3 PM TO 6 PM
AT THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF GAVA

*FOOD AND DRINK WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
TICKETS FOR THE RAFFLE COST 1€ AND WILL BE AVAILABLE AT RECEPTION

