

Home School Books –8 January 2016.

Home School Book – Nursery

Welcome back after the Christmas break and a HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

It has been a slightly shorter week this week, but the children are certainly full of energy and happy to be back in Nursery. We also have, a new little person, who has joined our class this week. Please join us in saying hello and welcome to Manasv, and his family.



Our new theme in nursery for this term is 'buildings'; we have started talking about this project with the children and they were given building bricks and blocks of different sizes and asked to use their imagination and build creatively.

We had some great structures, from fairy tale castles to temples and apartments! The new theme, will start fully next week, when everyone is back and settled in after the holiday break.

In our home school books this week, we asked the children to tell us what they did in the Christmas break and draw a picture of whatever it was. Take a look opposite and you will see what your little one told us and drew.

Can I please remind you, to send in an empty shoe box with your child, as one of our projects will be making shoe box houses. If you have any spares, we would be grateful if you sent those in too.

We would also like you to keep saving containers and boxes of different sizes and send them in to nursery. We intend to do a lot of construction/junk modelling, in our art sessions, so will need plenty of resources. We need all sorts of things, like empty yoghurt pots (not glass) toilet roll or kitchen roll middles, food, cereal boxes / packets etc.

One last reminder, winter is on its way, so please send in a pair of indoor soft shoes for your child. So after playing outside in boots or wellington or even sturdy outdoor shoes, they can change into something suitable for the carpet area in nursery.

Our talk topic this week is: 'What is your favourite room in your house/apartment?' Why is it your favourite?

Until next week, put on your Wellies and go and have a splash around in some puddles!

Thank you

Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove
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Please click [here](#) for our Nursery webpage

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This week we have enjoyed our last week focussing on winter. We have been looking at different winter stories both fiction and non-fiction, learning the difference between these two different types of book.

This week in phonics we have been reviewing all the sounds we learnt last term and have briefly gone back over the tricky words we have looked at so far. The children have completed different writing activities that focused on them using their phonetic knowledge to order sounds to make words and to label cold climate animals.

In maths we have spent this week playing a few winter themed number games, roll-a-snowman being one of their favourite. We have also continued working on addition, understanding that there are different ways of solving addition number sentences.

In knowledge and understanding about the world we have been discussing the differences between cold climate animals and warmer climate animals. We have also looked at ways that animals adapt to the changing seasons here in Belgium, starting to use specific vocabulary such as hibernation and migration. The children also completed a scientific experiment using ice cold water and rubber gloves to understand the importance of the Polar Bears thick, protective skin and fur.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we wished each other a happy new year (bonne année) and we talked about the three kings and the way we celebrate them in France and Belgium by eating a special cake called "la galette des Rois" containing a little toy (fève). The person who gets it is crowned king and gets the crown. We also sang the famous song "J'aime la galette".

Finally, you should have all received a slip explaining what your child will be in the upcoming winter production, and therefore, what outfit they will need to bring to school. Please do not go out and buy something specific for the production if you do not have it at home, rather, come and speak to us before or after school and we will sort something out. Please could you make sure the clothes are clearly named in a bag and in school by next week, Friday 15th January.

Talk topic for Monday will be discussing whether we'd rather live in a cold climate, a hot climate or a seasonal climate like here in Belgium.

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Gill and Ivana Julaton

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Please click [here](#) for our Reception webpage

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

The children enjoyed telling me all about what they have done in the holidays, it sounded like everyone was busy. We have had a super week getting ready for our winter show which is coming up soon on the 21st of January. The children have all been given a part to play in the show; you should have received a slip with what they are going to be and details of clothes to brought in for them to wear. Please bring in your child's clothes for the show in a plastic bag with their name on it by next Friday, the 15th of January. Note that the snowmen only have to bring in trousers or leggings because we have the tops for them to wear in school already.

The first group of Year 1 swimmers also went for their first swimming lesson this week. Mrs Prescott was extremely pleased with the good listening and participation of all the children who went. The children who stayed behind in school also enjoyed starting some gymnastics work on different types of jumps. Please can you avoid dressing your child in tights on a Tuesday because it makes it slow for them to change during swimming and they are not safe to wear for gymnastics either because it is easier for the child wearing them to slip. Thank you so much to all the mums that have signed up or agreed to help us with changing the children for swimming, it really does make the trip run more smoothly.

In literacy we learned the story of the Three Little Pigs and then wrote the story. The children wrote very well showing me all that they have learned including sounding out, knowledge of high frequency words, spaces between words, capital letters and full stops. In numeracy this week we worked with numbers all the way to 100. The children practised counting on in 1s and 10s on a 100 square and they practised finding missing numbers. They also found numbers 1 more or less than any number to 100 using a 100 square.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we wished each other a happy new year (bonne année) and we talked about the three kings and the way we celebrate them in France and Belgium by eating a special cake called "la galette des Rois" containing a little toy (fève). The person who gets it is crowned king and gets the crown. We also sang the famous song "J'aime la galette". We also started listening to our new story "une maison de musiciens".

In Art we have made some cute robins for the infant department winter display. The children also painted snowdrops, beautiful white winter flowers by carefully observing their shape. I was very pleased with the children's concentration and observation skills; they are growing into very good painters. And that was our week!



Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Patrick Tranter
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 1 webpage

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all.

It is lovely to see the children again. I can see that they had stimulating and happy holidays. We have had a very enjoyable week back at school. The main event on our minds at the moment is the upcoming show, which will be at 5pm on Thursday January 21st at the Lijsterbees theatre. Each of the Year 2 children has a short line to say and a short dance to perform, and along with Year 1 and Reception they will be singing songs. It would be great if you could encourage them to sing the songs at home, and to make sure that they know their line. They are doing very well already.



This term, I will give out homework each Tuesday, and will ask for it to be returned the following Tuesday. The spelling test will also be on Tuesday mornings. We will change reading books each Monday and Thursday. For this week's homework, I have asked the children to read through their work on dinosaurs, and to fill in a reflection sheet (i.e. a sheet asking them to reflect on what they have learned and how they learned it).

In Maths this week, we have revised the topic of place value, and of using our knowledge of place value to make calculations with 2-digit numbers. The children should be able to say quickly that $46 - 40 = 6$, for example. We also looked at adding and subtracting 9 and 11 quickly, using our knowledge of adding 10. The children should be able to explain that to work out $64 - 9$, we can quickly work out $64 - 10$, then add 1.

In Literacy, having talked about the changes we can see around us in winter, and about other things that happen in winter, we began to write poems about winter. You will be able to read these poems when they are displayed on the wall next to the stairs, as part of the big winter display.

Before Christmas, we enjoyed using this website:
<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/dino-directory/name/a/gallery.html> from the Natural History Museum in London, to find out about dinosaurs. The children have asked me to give them the link to use, if you allow it, at home.

In French, we started the unit "Qu'est-ce que tu aimes?" (What do you like?) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We also had the opportunity on Wednesday to share a delicious "Galette des Rois", which is the tradition in Belgium on the 6th of January.

This week's talk topic is 'What is wonderful about our world?' We had an extremely interesting discussion about this, in which the children had some very profound thoughts. Please find time to talk about this with your child at home.

I wish you a happy weekend.

Yours,

Kate Read and Tina Keogh

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Please click [here](#) for our Year 2 webpage

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a good break. It is now time for us to knuckle down and work hard, which is what we have been doing this week.

In Literacy we began by doing a comprehension exercise on the Pirates of Chesapeake Bay. This led us on to our first discussion on Pirates. We spoke about books written about pirates and touched on a few famous ones. We then looked at fact files and produced one about the most famous pirate of all: Edward Teach aka Blackbeard. During guided reading, we looked at a book called Pirate, which we thoroughly enjoyed reading together. It also gave us an opportunity to focus on reading aloud skills.

In Numeracy we are measuring. We spoke about measurements and which ones we need to use for length, capacity and mass. We know, for example, that 1cm is equal to 10mm and that 100cm is equal to a metre. We estimated various objects around the classroom and then carefully measured these. We also measured how tall we were using the chart downstairs. This is a really fun part of numeracy and the children are enjoying it.

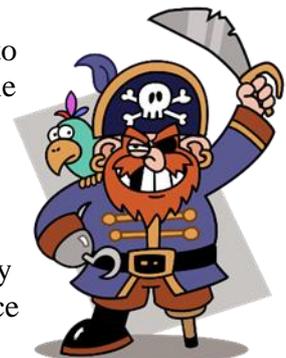
Of course, our topic is Pirates and we have touched on a few of these dastardly villains and will continue to do so in the forthcoming weeks.

In Science, we have looked at materials. We thought of things that are made from various materials and also why.

In Art we are making our first pirate sloop. We are using papier maché techniques to strengthen the structure of our boats.

In Music we are learning a lot of dances in preparation for our trip to the Bozar in a few weeks time. I am so impressed at how quickly the children have learnt these dances.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we wished each other a Happy New Year (bonne année) and we talked about the three kings and the way we celebrate them in many countries but more particularly in France and Belgium by eating a special cake called "la galette des Rois"



which we went to buy at the pâtisserie. The cake contains a little toy (fève). The person who gets it is crowned king and gets the crown. We also sang the famous song "J'aime la galette".

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started the New Year by talking about the traditional celebration in Belgium on January 6th. For that reason, we visited the bakery on Place Plasky and bought the traditional cake "Galette des Rois" (King's cake) that we shared in class.

Our talk topic this week is: What is a pirate? What makes a pirate a pirate?
Have a wonderful weekend.

Valeria Vetter

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Please click [here](#) for our Year 3 webpage

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

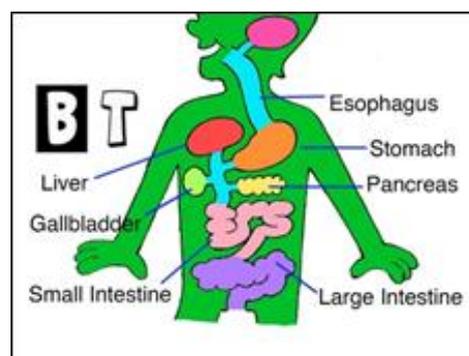
Welcome back to school. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas holiday, relaxing with your loved ones. I would like to wish you a Happy New Year 2016!

In Literacy this week we looked at the comprehension "Life as an Evacuee" The children had the opportunity to think about how hard it would be if they had to evacuate and move to another country. The children had a turn to discuss and share with their fellow peers the sentimental object they would take with them if they had to be evacuated. The children realised how fortunate they are and had admitted that they would not like to be in this situation. The children then worked independently by answering the questions about the text. In our writing lesson, the children had the opportunity to make their very own evacuee card. They were so excited to wear their labelled card and act like an evacuee.

In Grammar we looked at pronouns. We looked at all the different pronouns that can be used in sentences. We worked in our grammar notebooks on different pronoun activities.

In maths this week we revised rounding off numbers as well as adding and subtracting 3 digit numbers. The children also had a chance to add and subtract slightly larger numbers. Please do remember to continue revising the times tables with your child. It is important that they keep revising them.

The digestive system is our new topic in Science for this term. Our first Science lesson this term was terrific and very interesting too. We had an enlightening discussion on how the human digestive system works and the importance of all



the different organs in our bodies. The children had the opportunity to watch an educational video clip showing the children how the digestive system works. The children then worked in their science notebooks labelling the different parts of the human digestive system as well as completing a worksheet by using words to fill in the blanks.

In art this week the children did their first pop art, art work. As the children have begun their new topic on Sports this week, the children designed a pop art picture using different types of balls used in sports. The children had the opportunity to work with oil pastels once again. The children were very creative and put in their very best effort.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we wished each other a Happy New Year (bonne année) and we talked about the three kings and the way we celebrate them in many countries but more particularly in France and Belgium by eating a special cake called "la galette des Rois" which we went to buy at the pâtisserie. The cake contains a little toy (fève). The person who gets it is crowned king and gets the crown. We also sang the famous song "J'aime la galette".

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started the New Year by talking about the traditional celebration in Belgium on January 6th. For that reason, we visited the bakery on Place Plasky and bought the traditional cake "Galette des Rois" (King's cake) that we shared in class.

This week's talk topic is to discuss with your child is: "What is the digestive system? And why is it important to have a good digestive system?"

Have a lovely weekend,

Despina Kafouris

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Please click [here](#) for our Year 4 webpage

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

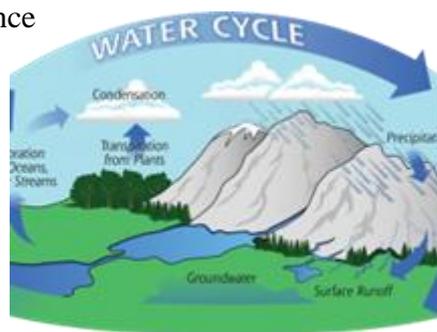
Happy New Year and welcome back!

The children in Year 5 enjoyed and took full advantage of working in a small group and we talked and conversed through each lesson. After reading together, we learnt about the Thames, doing map work based on Henley on the English river.

The children really loved interpreting and unlocking the information on the map and aerial photograph. And there's more map work to come!

After lunch we honed in on the mistakes the children had made in the Christmas maths test. It was a wonderful opportunity to really focus on weaknesses that needed coaching.

Later in the afternoon, we learnt about the Water Cycle and the changes of state which occur in it. This not only drew an end to a short science unit of the same name but also opened the way to our new topic - Rivers and The Wind in the Willows.



On Wednesday, we began to explore non-fiction reports. We examined what features such texts have and used a piece on iPads and iPhones to do it. These children are pretty clued up on this subject already but not so much on the text features of a report. So, enormously valuably, we learnt what the passive tense is; clarified the 3rd person; and were introduced to formal language, colons/semi colons and acknowledging sources (references).

Can't wait to see the reports about famous Rivers in the next couple of weeks then! That afternoon, PE with Year 6 was football and trying to improve our 'first touch'. The children really enjoyed it.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we celebrated the Epiphany by making a galette des Rois ourselves. This gave us the opportunity to write the recipe in the imperative form but also noticed that some recipes are written in the infinitive form.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started the New Year with a general vocabulary and grammar revision. We also had the opportunity to taste a delicious "Galette des Rois" (King's cake), which is the custom in Belgium on the 6th of January.

Finally, we started swimming at the Castle Club and again the children benefitted from the guidance of the coach. We have no beginners in Year 5 so I didn't need to submerge myself as is usually the case but I am here writing to you in the tropical conditions of the pool while the rain pours down clattering on the roof. We could be in the Amazon!

Have a good weekend.
Best wishes

Tim Stedman
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 5 webpage

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all. It was a delight to see the children return to school on Tuesday. I do hope that you all enjoyed a restful holiday. There, as usual, is much going on in Year 6 and the Junior Department, so please make sure that you check your emails, read the newsletters and ask your child about any important letters!

We began the week with a maths test which focused on multi-step word problems; as expected this proved challenging, but our focus this term will be on improving how to

answer these types of questions. In addition to this, some pupils will be revisiting those areas of the KS2 syllabus which are difficult, and for others, the focus will be on extending their skill base.

In Forensic Science, the students learnt about different types of fingerprint patterns and how to take fingerprints and handprints. They are also making individual identity prints out of clay. Much to the disgust of the boys, who had to apply lipstick, we also investigated lip prints. I do apologise if you have had hair plucked from your head, as next week, we shall be investigating hair!

Our literacy topic is Romeo and Juliet; we shall be going to the theatre on Wednesday, 20th January to see a modern day interpretation of this play. The director has invited us, to a question and answer workshop before the curtain goes up, so we are all very excited about this. We finished our study of old, middle and modern-day English; all the children were surprised to discover that Shakespeare's works belong to early modern-day English.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we celebrated the Epiphany by making a galette des Rois ourselves. This gave us the opportunity to write the recipe in the imperative form but also noticed that some recipes are written in the infinitive form.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started the New Year with a general vocabulary and grammar revision. We also had the opportunity to taste a delicious "Galette des Rois" (King's cake), which is the custom in Belgium on the 6th of January.

On the 19th January, we shall be participating in an orchestral workshop at Bozar. In music this week, we began to prepare for this event which involves a range of movements, interpreting works from a variety of composers including Stravinsky and Bartok. This promises to be a thrilling activity and this is the first opportunity that we have had to work with a 'real' orchestra.

Today we have a visit from Ms Hsiao, a journalist from the United Daily News who is keen to observe how we learn Chinese as well as interviewing the pupils. The students are very excited about this visit.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

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Please click [here](#) for our Year 6 webpage

In EAL this week

Reception

We discussed the holidays and worked really hard on listening to the other group members and recounting what they did. We also played an oral game called I went to the shop and I bought... it allowed us to be very precise and repeat phrases using the irregular past tense.

Year One

We talked about our holidays, using the past tense (simple and continuous). Then we discussed New Year's resolutions, in terms of what the concept means and what resolutions we might have. They ranged from- not biting nails, to going to bed earlier and eating less sweets. The second two certainly apply to me as well for 2016!

Years Three, Five and Six

We also discussed our holidays but focused on writing about them whilst maintaining our tenses correctly as well as expressing our thoughts in an interesting and engaging way. We then discussed each other's work in a positive and constructive way. One member of the group opened with a very catchy rhyming sentence which we were all very impressed by!