

Home School Books –09 September 2016.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

First of all, welcome back to all of our Pre-Nursery children from last year and their families, who are now in our Nursery group and of course a warm welcome to all of the children and their families who are new to the Nursery. We guarantee that this academic year will be full of interesting, informative and fun, learning experiences, for one and all!



This week has been a busy one indeed and your children are starting to get to know each other and the teachers. Please don't worry at all if your child is taking a little while to settle in; this is perfectly normal for the beginning of term. Just think how you feel as an adult meeting new people and venturing into situations that are not familiar to you. It can be quite nerve wracking to say the least!

Each child is unique and therefore will be at different stages and ages of development not only in actual age but also emotionally and socially as well. So to help your child settle comfortably into the nursery environment, our first theme of the year is '**all about me' and 'my family'**'. This is something every Nursery and pre-Nursery child can identify with to some degree.

We will concentrate very much on, social, emotional, communication and language development this term. We have started this off by taking and looking at a photograph of ourselves, which you can see on the page opposite. Photographs are always a great way of getting rich descriptive language going with your child. Take a look together and ask them to describe to you what they see.

If you have always spoken to your child in your mother tongue, please continue to do this, as switching to English completely at home, will just cause them a lot of confusion. Your children will be fully immersed in the English language during their time in school, but an additional language takes time to understand and converse in, so do not expect full conversation for a little while yet! The same goes for any new skill your child needs to acquire; it all takes time and patience!

We have a number of important reminders for you for next week:

1. Please initial the bottom of this newsletter, so we can be sure you have read it.
2. Please bring back your completed information forms for the office and your child's language poster to put on our 'Welcome to our World' wall, if you haven't already done so.
3. Please do not send in too many biscuits in your child's snack box. Fruit or a yoghurt is a much better option. Absolutely NO CHOCOLATE, SWEETS or NUTS should be included; these will be returned to you if we find them in your child's lunch or snack box.

4. Please label all clothing items clearly, with your child's name and class. If you have not purchased a uniform for your child yet, you must do so next week. The uniform in nursery is obligatory.

5. Last but not least, nursery children should not be sent into the classroom or playground alone, you must accompany them and make sure the teacher knows that they are there. You must always say goodbye to your child, even if they cry when you leave, if you try to sneak out your child will only become more distressed when they realise you have suddenly disappeared!

Phew! That's all for this week, we are looking forward to getting to know you all over the coming weeks.

Until next week, have a great weekend and enjoy getting out and about in the sunshine.

Thank you

Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove

nurseryteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome you and all the children to the Reception Class! We have had a lovely first week of school with the children happily engaging in the different classroom activities. We have started our first topic 'people who help us' which has been kick-started looking at postal workers and the story 'Katie Morag delivers the mail'.



The children have started their reading adventure this week learning the sounds /s/, /a/, /t/ and /p/, alongside their correct letter formation. We teach the children how to form these letters in small case as you will notice with the sheets sent home in their folder.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we got to know each other and learnt to introduce ourselves by asking "Comment t'appelles-tu ?" and by answering "Je m'appelle Et toi ?" We also sang songs on the same subject and we counted up to ten. We also met Boowa and Kwala.

We would like to invite you all to our curriculum briefing on Tuesday, 13th September at 19.00. We will tell you about our phonics programme and give you an idea of how and what the children are going to experience in Reception.

We would also like to point out that nuts of any kind are not encouraged for snack or lunch due to allergies. Therefore, please avoid putting nuts in their food boxes.

Finally, due to the warmer weather forecast for next week we ask that you avoid dressing the children in layers as the classrooms can become very warm.

We are all looking forward to a very exciting and rewarding year with your child.

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Irakoze and Ivana Julaton

receptionteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to BISB and in particular to welcome the families of children who are new to BISB this year. We've had a great start to the school year. The children are settling well, learning new routines and have enjoyed making new friends and seeing old friends again.

This week in Literacy we revisited the s/a/t/p/i/n letters. The children practised writing these letters and identifying words that begin with them. They have also practised reading and writing CVC or consonant-vowel-consonant words such as sip, sat, sit, pan, pin and pat. The children have all started reading again and have begun to take books home. We will normally change reading books on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in Year 1. Please don't forget to sign the reading record when your child has read the book at home so we know it can be changed. Also we read the story 'On the Sand' together and many of the children sequenced and retold the story which you can see in their home school books this week.



In Numeracy this week we have been revising reading, writing, and ordering numbers to 20. We also practised careful counting of objects to 20. In our other subjects we have started a new topic, called 'ourselves and our school'. As part of this topic we will be looking at our bodies, our lives including our families, where we live and what we like and don't like to do. This week the children painted some lovely flowers using their hands and fingers which will decorate our classroom.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we started by introducing ourselves to welcome the new children. We then started our first story "Un pays blanc" in which we have learnt so far "file / garçon", "Comment tu t'appelles ?" and "Qui est-ce ?" and the answers of course.

Next week we will begin our PE lessons on Tuesday afternoons. On this day the children can come to school wearing the school PE kit. Also Tuesday the 13th of September at 19.00 is the Year 1 curriculum evening. In this meeting I will be outlining the curriculum for the year, discussing how it is different from the

foundation stage, giving out timetables and other important information and I will be able to answer any general questions you may have about our curriculum or class routines.

We will also begin our talk topic next week. The topic will be ‘Describe your house/apartment.’ The weekly talk topic is a chance to develop the children’s language and vocabulary skills. The children discuss the topic at home and then later in the week they share their ideas in class. It is a great opportunity to be involved in your child’s language development. Also as part of our topic work on ‘ourselves’ we would like all children to bring in a photo of themselves when they were a baby so we can compare how they looked like then with now.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Patrick Tranter

Year1teacher@telenet.be

Please click [here](#) for our Year 1 webpage

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 2! I hope you all had a good break and that you are looking forward to a very exciting year. We got stuck into work the minute school started.

In Literacy we revised our phonics. We did a counting phonemes exercise and the children were happy to show me what they knew. We have also done work on capital letters and full stops as well as revising nouns. We spoke about common and proper nouns. We are also learning how to join up our handwriting, always an exciting thing in Year 2. I will change reading books on Mondays and Thursdays but I would like the children to have their book bags with them at all times. Library is on a Wednesday so be sure to send library books in then.

In Numeracy we have been estimating and counting. We have also been doing work on 1 more/less and 10 more/less. We have been ordering numbers from smallest to biggest as well. We are now revising our bonds of 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 20.

In Science and Topic we have been looking at the world of animals. We spoke about their eating habits and are able to categorize animals into carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. In reading a class book we also became aware of detritivores which we assume means those who eat decaying things.



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on “**Bonjour, tout le monde**” Greet and Introduce yourself game while using and playing with: **Je Suis, je m’appelle, comment ça va? Je vais bien.**

We introduced “Ma Famille” using the possessive adjectives **mon & ma**.

In PE, which is on Mondays, we discovered ways to pass balls around and had a pleasant afternoon working in pairs to put these ways into practice.

In Art we completed our monsters which we started on orientation day last year and made some really lovely tigers. We also wrote our names and used patterns to brighten them up. The art is up on our walls already and the classroom is bright and cheery.

The talk topic for this week is: Which animal would you like to be and why?

I have posted a few photos of the class from the first day at school for you to see.

<http://www.bisb.org/project/first-day-in-year-2/>

Have a wonderful, relaxing weekend,

Valeria Vetter

year2teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

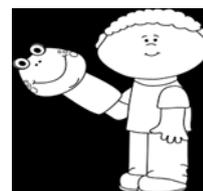
Year 3 have been working on the theme of ‘Just around the corner’ – looking at the geography of our neighbourhood and describing our journeys to school. We went on a detective trip around the block, to identify what we could see, hear, and smell. Have you ever noticed that all of the trees along the streets are numbered, or that many of the buildings have the name of their architect engraved on their façade? We decided that the smells of coffee and pizza on Square Plasky were delicious, and were surprised at how many different bird sounds we could hear.

We started reading ‘Fortunately the milk’ by Neil Gaiman, which tells the tale of a Dad who goes out to the corner shop to buy some milk. So far he has been abducted by aliens and fallen into the hands of pirates. We don’t think he lives in Schaerbeek

...

In Numeracy we found out how other people come to school and went to each of the classes to gather information using tally charts. The data was converted into bar charts, which we have analysed and compared. We hoped that someone might come on a skateboard, but had to make do with a scooter!

Our puppet topic has got off to a great start with the creation of all kinds of imaginative hand puppet characters. We used origami to fold and stick our paper accurately and in the correct sequence. We are working in groups to develop collaborative short stories around these characters. Scripts, backdrops and stage directions are well underway.



In our guided reading session we read three of Rudyard Kipling's short animal stories. These will be used as the basis for short plays once we have looked at the stories in detail.

In Science we did an experiment with black boxes to find out how much we can see in the dark. We used a torch to illuminate objects in the box and talked about light and shadows.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we started with a poem about "school" and we revised the vocabulary related to school. In grammar, we worked on "il y a". We also listened to two songs about school material.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, taking in consideration the mixture of levels between those who had some French and others who had none, we worked on "**Bonjour, tout le monde**" Greet and Introduce yourself game while using and playing with: **Je Suis, je m'appelle, comment ça va? Je vais bien.**

We introduced fun Jobs- **Les Métiers** while imitating the sounds and actions of "le pompier, le policier, le chauffeur de bus..."

We made our initial splash at the swimming pool and, despite some trepidation everyone made a fantastic effort and succeeded in getting across the big pool, with some also managing several lengths. The 'I can do this' spirit is alive and kicking!

Please continue the discussion of 'A walk in the city' for our Talk Topic this week, encouraging the children to look around and to spot the things that we don't always take the time to notice.

I hope the sun stays out for you, but if it rains the children will show you how raindrops can create rainbows!

Enjoy the weekend,

Jane Still

year3teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and bonne rentrée! It was a bright start to the term both in terms of weather and ideas. The class burst with energy and the injection of several new recruits has pleasingly raised the dynamism of the group a notch higher. It was a warm week, though, and the fans were on in the classroom. So hot, at times it felt like the last week of the final term in June rather than the first. Week 1 in Year 4 was nonetheless successfully executed.

Beginning our new topic, we did a bit of everything including drama, dance, painting and history alongside the everyday Literacy and Numeracy. We started our Fairy tale

focus with the Princess and the Pea and wrote dialogue for it remembering to use the necessary punctuation. Each week, a child will also read us such a story and Rose entertained us with Hansel and Gretel on Monday. The children also learnt a little about the big fairy-tale authors and we plotted their publications on a History timeline.



In maths we did some tricky addition to 100s ($245 + ? = 300$) and used the Shopkeeper's/frog method to subtract. Meanwhile in PE we followed up last week's volleyball with a game of BISB Fifteen15 cricket. Juliana had never played before and was a little suspicious of the new game but by the end of the lesson we had seen quite a useful wicketkeeper.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we started with a poem about "school" and we revised the vocabulary related to school. In grammar, we worked on "il y a". We also listened to two songs about school material.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, taking in consideration the mixture of levels between those who had some French and others who had non, we worked on "**Bonjour, tout le monde**" Greet and Introduce yourself game while using and playing with: **Je Suis, je m'appelle, comment ça va? Je vais bien.**

We introduced fun Jobs- **Les Métiers** while imitating the sounds and actions of "le pompier, le policier, le chauffeur de bus..."

And that was our week. I look forward to seeing you all at Tuesday's Year 4 Curriculum Meeting at 19.00. I'll be giving out the timetable and other information and will answer all the questions and queries you may have.

Until then, best wishes

Tim Stedman

year4teacher@telenet.be

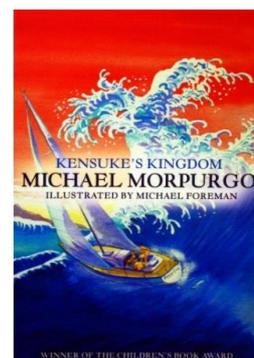
Please click [here](#) for our Year 4 webpage

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

The year has begun very smoothly and I have enjoyed getting to know the children in Year 5. I have been impressed with the attitude that they have come into school with each day for this new academic year. They have certainly been helpful when I have asked them a question about life at BISB!

The first literacy unit is recounts and so far, the children have read a selection of recounts and have highlighted key features of the text as well as identify the 5 w's (who, what, when, where and why). The children all like to read and have been well engaged during the reading and discussion activities. They are all able to identify the



key features of a recount and can explain why a piece of writing could be classed as a recount. The unit was selected because it connects well to our topic for the term which is 'Secret Kingdoms'. For the first part of the term, the topic will be based around the novel, 'Kensuke's Kingdom' and we have already started reading it. I was pleased to discover that none of the children in the class had read it so hopefully there will be a couple of surprises along the way for them all as we read on!

Without giving much away, the story follows a family who experience some difficulties at home and so decide to sail around the world. So this week, we have looked at a world map (it was blank!) because I was interested to know how many countries the children could label. They did well and were all able to label five countries. As the unit progresses, the aim is for them to develop their knowledge of where we are in the world and where it is in relation to other countries in the world.

In maths, we have created a maths glossary at the back of our maths books. This will be used throughout the year so that when we learn new maths vocabulary, the children can record their meanings using their own words and keep a record of it. The children have been partitioning and ordering four and five digit numbers as well as using partitioning strategies when mentally adding and subtracting numbers. I am keen to encourage the children to think about the methods they use so that they are able to explain in both written and oral form how they reached their answers. The children have been conducting experiments to make mini-rockets using magnesium and calcium effervescent tablets and water. They are learning how to make detailed observations, ask scientific questions and predict results.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, children at different levels of experience worked on "**Bonjour, tout le monde**", a Greet and Introduce yourself game while also using and playing with: **Je suis, je m'appelle, comment ça va? Je vais bien.**

We introduced fun Jobs- **Les Métiers** while imitating the sounds and actions of "le pompier, le policier, le chauffeur de bus..."

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked about our holidays which gave us the opportunity to already revise le passé composé. We also filled in a questionnaire about ourselves and worked on describing ourselves. In grammar we worked on "aller au (Portugal), en (Allemagne), aux (Pays-Bas), à (Paris)."

In Chinese, pupils are learning about the four 'tones' and some children can already say a few words in Chinese. Each student has a personal login (inside cover of their exercise book) for online homework and 'Kung-Fu Kingdom'; please check that your child is able to access the site.

The pupils have been introduced to a real family that lived at Vindolanda and completed a test in Latin. For homework this week, they have been tasked with making a Birthday card in Latin.

The ukulele rock band stars were thrilled to receive their instruments last week and they managed to strum a few chords by the end of the session.

Children have been looking at news items and will be learning how to use Powerpoint to prepare their individual news presentations as part of a current affair project.

The first P.E. unit of the year is invasion games and the children have started a unit of basketball with the year six children. It was very hot on the playground so we had lots of water breaks, but the children practised their dribbling and passing skills. They also took part in a short game of 'hoopball' where their target was a hoop on the floor – the high net will be introduced next week!

I look forward to meeting you at the curriculum evening next Tuesday, 13th September 2016 at 19.00.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Kind regards

Alison Godwin

year5teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

As always, it is great to be back in Year 6. We have launched straight into this academic year with an action-packed curriculum, which I hope will be stimulating, challenging, diverse and rewarding.

On Thursdays, rockets, Newton's Third Law of Motion and individual science journals are our foci at the moment. We are investigating, designing and recording a range of experiments based on the reaction of magnesium and calcium effervescent tablets with water. We have already observed (and heard) some spectacular results.

We enjoyed our first discussion about 'current affairs' looking at a variety of news webpages. Each week, a student will present a weekly news report using Powerpoint and then answer questions from the audience.

In Maths we have revised place-value and are now working on addition, subtraction and multiplication of numbers including decimals. Long multiplication, particularly with decimals is proving to be a challenge, however, by learning the tried and trusted 'Year 6' method, mastery, of this particular calculation, is within reach.

Our first topic is Espionage. The students have been practising their 'skimming' and 'note-taking' skills by looking at books about spying including: famous and wartime spies, secret services, spy technology and codes and codebreaking. They have calculated their spy identity barcodes. Next week, Year Six Spy School recruits will be photographed wearing disguises, before they commence training. We began reading 'Stormbreaker'; Alex Rider (a fourteen-year-old James Bond), knows that his Uncle's death was not an accident...

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, children at different levels of experience worked on “**Bonjour, tout le monde**”, a Greet and Introduce yourself game while also using and playing with: **Je suis, je m’appelle, comment ça va? Je vais bien.**

We introduced fun Jobs- **Les Métiers** while imitating the sounds and actions of “le pompier, le policier, le chauffeur de bus...

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked about our holidays which gave us the opportunity to already revise le passé composé. We also filled in a questionnaire about ourselves and worked on describing ourselves. In grammar we worked on "aller au (Portugal), en (Allemagne), aux (Pays-Bas), à (Paris)."

We are delighted that our new Primary Chinese text books have arrived and that each student has a personal login for online homework and ‘Kung-Fu Kingdom’. Students are learning about the four ‘tones’ and some children can already say a few words in Chinese.

The pupils have been introduced to a real family that lived at Vindolanda and completed a test in Latin. For homework this week, they have been tasked with making Birthday card in Latin.

The ukulele rock band stars were thrilled to receive their instruments last week and they managed to strum a few chords by the end of the session.

I look forward to meeting you all next week to discuss ‘life in the fast lane’ in Year 6!

Have a relaxing weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

year6teacher@telenet.be

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

Mrs Kate Read is delighted to be this year’s EAL teacher, and to be working with the children who will benefit from the extra support with their English.

Reception

I am beginning to get to know the children, who have joined in with great enthusiasm with our songs, games and stories. This week, we spent some sessions practising the names of colours and animals, and counting up to 10.

Years One and Two

This week, we have taken some sessions to get to know each other. We revised some essential English phrases and vocabulary, as well as the letter sounds and counting to 20. Over the year, the children will have time to reinforce and develop the English that they need to join in with the curriculum they follow within the main class.

Years Three and Four

We have spent some time this week getting to know each other, as well as working on the vocabulary of our journey to school through our local environment, and on using adverbial phrases to give order to what we are saying. We also talked about the difference between real and imaginary elements in a story. Over the year, we will work to make sure that the children have the English they need to join in with the class curriculum.