

Home School Books –10 November 2016.

Home School Book – Nursery

We hope you had a lovely half term break last week; the children have come back refreshed and full of exciting stories of what they did over the holiday.

Our new topic for this term is ‘Celebrations’ and as many of the children celebrated Diwali or Bonfire night, last weekend, that’s what we have started with.



After much discussion about both events during our group circle time, we discovered the thing that both celebrations have in common is Fireworks. First we talked about firework safety, as it is dangerous for children to handle fireworks, unless it is a sparkler and then a lot of help from mummy or daddy is needed, to hold a sparkler stick safely. Some of the children said they didn’t like the loud noises that the fireworks make because it made them jump! all of the children liked to watch them far away in the sky, exploding like stars or the bubbles in fizzy drinks!

The children then did a fireworks painting, using printing tools made from drinking straws, add a little pinch of glitter and hey presto, sparklers! You can see your little one’s master piece on the page opposite. We also did some creative colouring, of fireworks, bonfires and mehndi patterns. Your child will have a little booklet in their folder, some pages are not finished, so please finish colouring them in at home.

This week is a slightly shorter one, as Friday is the Armistice Day holiday, so we won’t get into the full swing of our new topic until next week. We are then going to discuss birthday celebrations, as we have quite a lot of those in nursery!

Just a quick reminder, that if you wish to bring in a cake to share on your child’s special day, the cake must be plain, with no chocolate or nuts! Please do not bring in mousse cake or any other gooey concoctions. We also do not allow party bags, drinks or any other party items and if they are brought in, we will not be able to distribute them and they will be sent back to you.

Until next week, have a good if not slightly chilly, long weekend and don’t forget to discuss our talk topic with your child, which this week is: ‘How do you celebrate birthdays in your family?’

Thank you

Alison Davies, Ena Tolention

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This has been another slightly shorter, but very full week in Reception. We have continued our topic of weather and the seasons, focussing this week on the weather that we experience in this country. Each child made a daily record of the weather that we then looked back over on Thursday to see how the weather changes day by day. We enjoyed reading different weather poems, especially 'Weather at Work' by Jenny Morris.



As a whole class we have been reading different cvc words using both sounds we know already and the new sounds we have learnt this week, those being /w/, /y/ and /v/. The children have also had to use their knowledge of sounds to try and distinguish between different types of weather by trying to begin blending the weather words.

In maths this week we have been trying to learn how to chant the numbers from one to one hundred! The children enjoyed counting the numbers to one hundred with the help of this exercise video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TgLtF3PMOc> . We also went on to start recognising 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 and 100 by using our knowledge of single digit numbers.

In French with Madame Scharf, we read a story summarising all the colours we have learnt "POP mange de toutes les couleurs" which the children loved very much. We also watched a short story of a witch and her owl.

As our winter show is fast approaching, Thursday 1st December, we have already given the children their roles for the winter show. Suansh, Aradhya, Pranav, Deekshita and Anisha will be snowflakes. Alex, Jasman, Diya, Lucas, Yashika and Vihan will be stars. Marco, Nevaan, Gwenda, Aahid and Mokshith will be gingerbread cookies. If your child is a snowflake they will need to bring in a white top with either white or light grey bottoms. If your child is a star they will need to bring in a yellow or orange top with similarly coloured bottoms. Finally, if your child is a gingerbread cookie they will need to bring in a brown top with similarly coloured bottoms. Please also find the slip in your child's folder. Please feel free to come and find us if you have any queries.

The talk topic for Monday will be answering the question – what do we already know about storms?

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Irakoze and Ivana Julaton

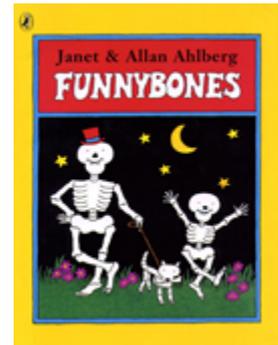
receptionteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

We hope that you all enjoyed the half term break. It's been a short but busy week here in Year 1. Our focus has been a delightful story called 'Funnybones' about three skeletons who live in a dark, dark, cellar in a dark, dark house. We practised retelling the story and we even had a quick look in the cellar to see where they live! As part of this work we have also looked at skeletons and the bones that are inside of us. The children came up with many good responses to our talk topic about the bones inside of us and we practised making and labelling skeletons using the names of the bones we discussed such as skull, rib cage, knee cap, fingers and toes. In our art lesson we constructed skeletons out of art straws and practised drawing the dark, dark house where the skeletons live in the 'Funnybones' story using oil pastels.



In literacy we practised reading and writing words with the /j/, /v/ and /w/ phonemes. We also practised putting these words in sentences using full stops and capital letters. We did our first spelling test of the year and the children did very well, so thank you to everyone who helped their child to practise their spellings at home. There will be a new list to learn every week.

In numeracy this week we learned about tens and ones or units. The children learned to 'pull apart' or partition numbers into tens and ones so for example 25 is made up of 20 and 5. We practised making amounts up to 20 cents using ten and one cent coins and making numbers using towers of tens and ones and arrow cards.

In French with Madame Scharf, we are reaching the end of the story of Tourloulou who is still looking for the colours stolen by "l'oiseau noir". We also revised the prépositions we learnt.

We have started to organise costumes for the Reception, Years 1 and 2 winter show. We have sent out a slip of paper detailing what your child's part is and what they need to bring in. Please check for this paper in your child's reading folder. We have many parts of the costumes in school already so please only bring in what is mentioned on the paper.

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,

Welcome back after the break. We have all been really enjoying our new playground surface.

In Numeracy we have been adding multiples of ten and learning how to add and subtract near multiples such as 11, 21, 31. This is easy for some but more challenging for others. We have also played class bingo and are feeling confident around the multiples of ten.

In Literacy we have revised Red Riding Hood and wrote more of our recount this week. We have done work on the seasons and months of the year as well as weather. Our phonics focus this week has been on - /au/, /au/ and /or/.

We have been given out our words for the play and are expected to know them, plus the class poem, by Monday. Here is a link to the French song which is in our play https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uByvmGN9_Ik for the children to sing along to at home.

When asking for country names during registration this week, I realised that the children were unsure of where certain countries were so we have been doing some map work using google maps to see where countries are in relation to Belgium. We discussed size and location and even found the smallest country in the middle of Rome



In PE we investigated ways to incorporate a twist and a bounce when passing the ball to each other. I admit that we were very inventive and enjoyed showing our moves to the class. The swimming group enjoyed their dip in the pool and the non-swimmers enjoyed learning how to play SuperTmatik.

As usual we have made full use of our tablet time to do coding and a bit of research online.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started practicing “Mon Beau **Sapin**” song for the Christmas concert. We worked on “ Est-ce que tu **aimes jouer au/à la..** We worked on Quel **Jour on est aujourd’hui?** They were divided in 3 groups to **interview each other:**

The talk topic for this week is: Do you think the wolf in Red Riding Hood will have a different story to tell?

If you have any spare buttons at home, could you please send them in as we will be doing some really interesting art soon.

So concludes this short week and I wish you all a happy long weekend.

Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to be greeted by such smiley faces and enthusiasm on Monday morning. The week has flown by and, despite the cold and rain outside, the energy levels have certainly been high in the classroom!

We started with the usual spelling and homework routine. This term we will be trying out 'mini dictation' exercises with our spellings, rather than just a spelling list test. Hopefully this will reinforce other literacy skills such as punctuation and spelling in context. It might be a challenge to start off with, but I'm sure progress will be made quickly.

We had fun writing codes in Roman numerals and tackled a range of games and problems based on times tables. We soon found that it is not enough to be able to recite tables by rote without understanding exactly what we are counting and why! This led to a study of number patterns and sequences, looking for patterns and working out how sequences continue.

In our topic work we are revisiting play scripts with a retelling of the story of Peter and the Wolf. With rehearsals starting on the Christmas play, it is an ideal time to be writing our own scripts, and by using a story that we know well, we can concentrate on the form of the writing and the mechanics of a script. It also gives us the opportunity to create another set of shadow puppets, this time incorporating colour cut-outs and articulated limbs. So far we have several ferocious wolves with legs and tails going in all directions, and some beautiful houses with illuminated interiors. We are experimenting with different light sources to make sure that the shadows are as clear as possible in our puppet theatres.

With autumn well and truly underway, we stood out in the drizzle to experience the sights, sounds and sensations of a misty autumn morning. Those in the Zaventem flightpath will be pleased to know that, in our playground at least, the sound of the leaves rustling in the wind drowned out the noise of the large aeroplane flying overhead! Fingers and toes were already feeling the cold, but this was relieved by running through the huge piles of leaves and enjoying the scrunching noises, which sounded 'like eating chocolate cereals'. The written descriptions that followed were full of imaginative images. We also enjoyed finding and reading a selection of autumn poems.

There was great excitement during the first read-through of ‘The Nightingale’ – it certainly promises to be a fun-filled production with some guaranteed highlights. It was good to see that the Year 3s joined in enthusiastically, taking their roles seriously and understanding that, even though their parts may seem small in comparison to the older children, they all have an important contribution to make.

In French with Madame Scharf, we talked about the holidays and used the passé composé. We wrote what we did in our books. We resumed our food topic.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on the use of Avoir with age, and les fournitures scolaires asking with Quel & Combien. They had a brief test where they had to swap tests and find or circle the errors. We talked and sang the song of : Jours de la semaine. we reviewed Numbers from 0 to 100.

We are looking forward to our trip to Treasure Trove bookshop next week, planning our route and thinking about the sort of story we will be looking for for our next class read.

Charlie and Grandpa Joe are almost at the end of their adventure – just the right time for a new book!!



Our talk topic for this week is: ‘What sort of books do you like reading, and why?’

It looks as though the weather is going to be ideal for staying inside in the warm - with a book! Enjoy your long weekend.

Jane Still, Year 3 teacher

year3teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 4

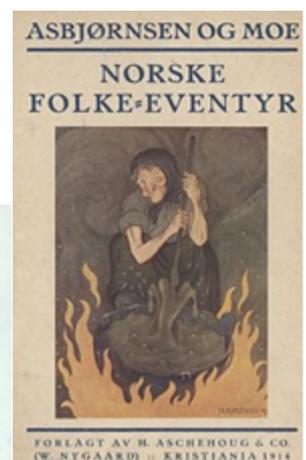
Dear Parents,

Welcome back from a lovely break. The Stedman family had a wonderful time away on the UK’s South Coast and I hope you all had enjoyable rest too.

This week the Junior school had its first read-through of the Christmas Show and Year 4 featured a lot and did themselves proud.

The show must go on and this indeed could be the philosophy of BISB Juniors. The weather wasn’t kind to us on our return to work and not only was it chilly but the rain fell without much respite. It depends on your point of view, but it is a testament to this philosophy that while classes at the European School watched videos during wet play time, our Juniors were outside playing and interacting regardless of the damp.

In the classroom, we warmed up our spirits



and enthusiasm with How to Train your Dragon, pronouns, subtraction, halving and fractions. We also learned about Norway's Peter Asbjornsen – the travelling zoologist, folk-story gatherer and author of Billy Goats Gruff!

These websites will support learning:

<http://www.turtlediary.com/game/singular-and-plural-pronoun-finding-gumballs-in-a-maze.html>

http://pbskids.org/cyberchase/media/games/equivalentfractions/equivalent_fractions.swf)

Beyond that, we discovered all sorts of things about food chains in habitats and found out which of us would be writing which fairy tale for our key topic task.

We have pretty nearly done all the preparation for our Wishful Thinking topic goal and now, we are in a position to start writing and publishing our compendium of fairy-tales.

First, we had to choose the title that each child will write versions of. Once that was done, the class began to research their stories. A lot of (enchanted) work is ahead of us but the first copies of the Y4 folk story anthology should be hitting the shelves by mid-December.

In French with Madame Scharf, we talked about the holidays and used the passé composé. We wrote what we did in our books. We resumed our food topic.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on the use of Avoir with age, and les fournitures scolaires asking with Quel & Combien. They had a brief test where they had to swap tests and find or circle the errors. We talked and sang the song of : Jours de la semaine. we reviewed Numbers from 0 to 100.

Today, we started our 7-week Thursday swimming programme and we should all be fine, safe swimmers by the end. And that was our week.

And that was our week.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman & Inès van Wassenhove

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

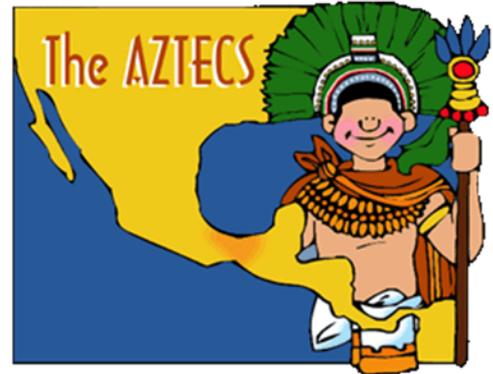
Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

You will be pleased to hear that the children in Year 5 all returned to school reenergized and ready to begin the second half of this term. I hope you all had an enjoyable week. Having spoken to various children throughout the junior department, it sounds as though lots of activities took place to mark Halloween and Diwali and also some birthdays.

We are continuing to read Kensuke's Kingdom and are approaching the end of the story. I have been impressed with how well all the children have been able to follow and discuss the story. We have begun a new literacy unit this week: stories from other cultures. The week started with a discussion about what 'culture' means and we compared different cultures from around the world. The class then read a selection of short stories and identified the features that show that the story is set in a culture different to the one that we are all currently living in. During the grammar lessons, the focus has been identifying different nouns and also turning regular and irregular verbs from the present to the past tense.

The topic in Year 5 is still 'Secret Kingdoms' but we are moving onto a new topic within this unit. This half term, the children will be learning all about the Aztecs. There is a lot to learn about during this topic and history, geography, IT and art and design units will be covered. For the first topic lesson, the children used the iPads to discover who the Aztecs were and where and when they lived. They learnt that there are big cultural differences between us and them!



Now that the Castle Club tennis sessions have finished, we were back to our regular PE lessons this week. The weather has been changeable this week so there was a game of squash played in the basement and the children also took part in some fun balloon games with the Year 6 children and they tried to see how many ways that they could move while carrying a balloon.

With the maths focus this week being money, it gave us the opportunity to do some role play and set up our own 'shop' in the classroom! We have been learning how to give change by counting up (no written methods have been used) and the children were all enthusiastic when selling items to each other. They also continued to review working out the difference between two times and were all solving problems using the same strategy. Please encourage your child to explain this strategy over the weekend!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on the use of **Avoir** with age and **les fournitures scolaires**. They had a brief test where they had to swap tests and find or circle the errors. We reviewed **the Métiers : Qu'est-ce que tu fais dans la vie?** and sang the songs of Jours de la semaine asking : Quel **Jour on est aujourd'hui?**
In French with Madame Scharf, we finished our story "La sorcière du placard aux balais" by Pierre Gripari. The children acted out the story. We also did some writing work in our notebooks telling what we did during the holidays by using the *passé composé*.

Our talk topic next week will be: Why is it important to learn about different cultures other than our own?

Enjoy the long weekend ahead.

Alison Godwin

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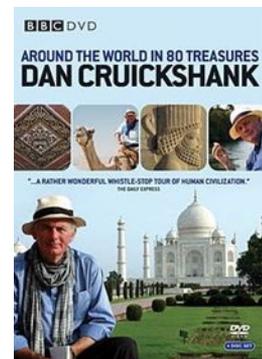
Please click [here](#) for our Year 5 webpage

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

Holidays are great, but I am always delighted to be back in the classroom and to see the students again! Well done to all of them (and to you) for completing the holiday math's homework challenge. After analysing the answers, we have been able to work through those areas of the curriculum, where subject knowledge appears to be weaker, to improve our understanding. Topics included: estimation, factors, BODMAS, logic, and our old foe, long division. This week, our focus has been on negative numbers; understanding the concept and how to add and subtract them.

In our topic project 'Around the World in 80 Treasures' we have studied three treasures; The Nazca Lines, Chan Chan and the Spider necklace of Sipán. The students were allowed to make notes whilst watching a BBC documentary, refine their notes and view the video clips a second time to ensure that they had sufficient information. Their task, was to re-write their notes into five sentences (focusing on using subject-specific vocabulary). Then, transform these sentences into paragraphs. In addition to improving our paragraph construction, students are also learning how to craft sentences that 'group things appropriately before or after a main verb, (e.g. The books, pens and the pencils were on the table.).



It was evident from the pupils work on punctuating direct speech, that a reasonable effort has been made to work through the online exercises at TES Spag. Please note that the content of these three online folders is updated every weekend.

Almost there. In science we revised our final modules: light and sound. In this week's science practical session, we shall begin investigating hydrogels.

Of course, one of the most exciting events of this week was our first read-though of 'The Nightingale'. As soon as we have decided upon our costume requirements, we shall let you know. Thank you, as always, for your help in supplying outfits for our performances. I expect all students to have learnt their lines by Monday 21st November.

I hope that you have peaceful weekend.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on the use of **Avoir** with age and **les fournitures scolaires**. They had a brief test where they had to swap tests and find or circle the errors. We reviewed **the Métiers : Qu'est-ce que tu fais dans la vie?** and sang the songs of Jours de la semaine asking : Quel **Jour on est aujourd'hui?**

In French with Madame Scharf, we finished our story "La sorcière du placard aux balais" by Pierre Gripari. The children acted out the story. We also did some writing work in our notebooks telling what we did during the holidays by using the passé composé.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

year6teacher@telenet.be

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

In EAL this week

Dear Parents,

We have all enjoyed this first shorter week back in school. I have enjoyed hearing from the children a little about what they did during the holiday week. I am pleased to hear that they are increasingly able to use a range of strategies to get their message across, even where they do not have the full vocabulary. This is to be greatly encouraged.

This week, the Reception children listened to the story One Snowy Night , and then made a little drama about it, involving the children using the simple phrases: Who is it? What's the matter? What do you need? Can I ...

The Year one children are making good progress with their recognition of letter sounds, and with blending sounds together when reading simple words and writing them. This week, they labelled a skeleton picture (in connection with the Year One class work on the book "Funnybones"). Year one and year two also worked on comparing, using the language of comparative adjectives (especially bigger, smaller) in simple sentences (eg. An elephant is bigger than a mouse etc.). They created a quiz around this, asking each other "which is bigger?")

Please feel free to contact me at the EAL teacher email address, and to arrange to meet with me if you would like to know more about your child's progress in extra English. I am available between 8:30 and 9 on Monday (in the Junior Department), and on Wednesday or Friday (in the Infant Department). Please contact me through the school office, or through your child's class teacher, or using the email below.

The Year 3 children worked on reading and understanding instructions and question words, as part of a reading comprehension.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read

ealteacher@telenet.be