

Home School Books – 25 November 2016.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

The birthday celebration theme continued this week with food glorious party food! During circle time the children were asked what their favourite birthday party food was. We did this by passing the teddy bear around the circle, whichever child had the teddy had to tell everyone else their answer. The other children were asked to listen carefully and not talk until they were holding the teddy. This is a super game to play to enhance language development and listening, two important skills to progress throughout their time in nursery.



Each child then transferred their answers onto paper and drew their favourite party food, if you look opposite, you will see what your little one enjoys eating the most at a birthday party. Each child draws and uses their creative skills in a unique way, so don't worry if your child is not drawing recognisable objects or figures at this stage. Remember the process is more important than the end product!

The children also did some number work printing and then compared the number of dots they had printed, to those on a dice. We are encouraging the children to use one to one correspondence when counting, to help them to understand the importance of counting accurately. If a child doesn't touch each object or mark carefully with their finger when counting, they get ahead of themselves very quickly!

Our Christmas show is getting closer, so please put the date in your diary, now it is on: **Thursday 8th December at 11.30am in the infant department.** Afternoon children will be invited to come and join the morning children for the performance and then you are welcome to take your child home after the show has finished.

We would also request that you dress your child in a pair of black or white tights or leggings on that day and if your little one is allergic to face paint, please let us know, as we will be using it for the performance.

Our celebrations theme continues next week with 'weddings' and our talk topic is: Have you ever been to a wedding? What did the bride and groom wear? What did you wear?

Wishing you a fabulous weekend.

Thank you

Alison Davies, Ena Tolentino

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

## Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

As the children were so fascinated by storms last week we carried on looking at them this week, in particular tornados. We enjoyed using information books and the internet to answer specific questions children had, one in particular being the difference between a tornado and a hurricane – super question! We read about how a tornado is formed, the different stages it goes through and then watch a storm chaser's video showing the real formation of a tornado.



This week we learnt the sound /q/ and we learnt that the queen never leaves without her umbrella and therefore we always write the sound as /qu/. We continued to practise our blending by playing a collection of blending games, both as a whole class and in small groups. The children have shown very good phonetic knowledge, and the starting of super reading.

In maths this week we have been looking at money. We have looked at sorting different types of money and how they each have a different amount. We focussed on one cent, and how to buy something that costs 4 cents so you need 4 one cent coins. The children enjoyed using this knowledge to play in the toy shop in our role play area. We went on a coin hunt in some slime, where the children had to get their hands messy to try and find all the coins that had fallen in.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we have started a very exciting new topic: Saint-Nicolas. We talked about his clothes, the colours he wears and we drew his picture. We learnt to sing a few songs to sing to him should he come to pay us a visit. We also talked about the things he brings to the children : "bonbons, biscuits, chocolats, speculoos ...." We also practised singing "Mon beau sapin" for the Christmas show.

Many thanks to everyone who has already brought in their child's clothes for the winter production – we have received almost everyone's. If you have still not brought yours in, please could you do so on Monday as we will be having a dress rehearsal during the week.

The Talk topic for Monday will be answering the question 'why do we need to know what the weather will be like?'

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Irakoze and Ivana Julaton

[receptionteacher@telenet.be](mailto:receptionteacher@telenet.be)

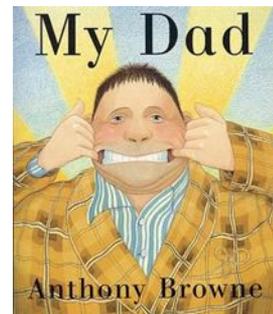
Please click [here](#) for our Reception webpage

## Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

We have had to squeeze two show rehearsals and a trip to Wezembeek Park into our week, so there have been a few changes to our normal routine this week. Nevertheless, we have continued to work hard in all our core subjects.

In Literacy, we have begun Phase 3 of Letters and Sounds, starting with the /ch/ and /sh/ sounds. The children have practised speaking, reading and writing words with these sounds, and have been (educationally) entertained by Geraldine the Giraffe's inimitable teaching style!



([http://mrthorne.com/home/phonics/geraldine-the-giraffe/?bib\\_page\\_offset=10](http://mrthorne.com/home/phonics/geraldine-the-giraffe/?bib_page_offset=10)). The basis for our writing task this week was Anthony Browne's 'My Dad', which we read together and then discussed in pairs. After gathering a few different ideas, each child then had to write about his/her dad. As well as focussing on the topic, the children were also challenged to develop their writing by using the connective 'and' to make longer, more interesting sentences. You can see the results of their efforts in this week's home school book.

In Maths, we had two sessions on expressions of position: above/below/on top/under/ beside/between etc. and, most importantly, left and right. We learned how to make sure we can tell our left from our right, by using our hands held out in front of us – please ask your child to demonstrate. We also had two sessions on measuring length and height, using comparison to establish the concept of longer/longest, shorter/shortest etc.

We had our first Computing lesson on Wednesday: having discussed what computers can be used for; we then talked about whether computers could think. We decided that they couldn't (yet), and that they would only do what we tell them to do. Then, using Reception's grid-pattern carpet, the children took turns at giving simple instructions to a 'human robot' to direct him to his target square. The children's knowledge of left and right will become increasingly important in this area of the curriculum, as we move into programmable toys over the coming weeks.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have started a very exciting new topic : Saint-Nicolas. We talked about his clothes, the colours he wears and we drew his picture. We learnt to sing a few songs to sing to him should he come to pay us a visit. We also talked about the things he brings to the children : "bonbons, biscuits, chocolats, speculoos ...." We also practiced singing "Mon beau sapin" for the Christmas show.

The trip to the park was a great success – everything, including the weather, worked as planned! The children enjoyed picking up various autumnal items on our walk around the lake, but once the climbing frames and slides re-emerged into view, their focus soon switched! They then enjoyed a bonus playtime until the bus returned.

The show practices are going well, and the costumes are nearly complete – we used our Art session this week to work on them. The children have done very well in learning their poem and their dance routines – the show on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, promises to be great!

Kind regards

Patrick Tranter and Aleksandra Hauwaerts

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

## Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

Another busy week is behind us and another full one awaits us. Next week on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> is our show and we are eager to put on an Oscar winning performance for you.

In Literacy we have been learning about plural nouns. We find it easy to add -s and have learnt that with some words we need to add -es to make the plural. We have also done work on the use of 'is' and 'are'. Our play practices are coming along nicely and the children are almost word perfect now. For creative writing we have been retelling our version of the trees story (our play).



In Numeracy we have been measuring. We began by realising that standard measures are more accurate than our pencils (which are of different lengths). We have measured items in the classroom, parts of our bodies and also decided whether to use cm or m to measure items.

We managed to find a little time for computing and had fun playing our games on the Activelearnprimary website.

In Art we completed our Christmas crackers. We added a paper folded frog, a corny joke and a party hat to our crackers. We also read about the history of Christmas crackers. The class had so much fun doing this activity.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, We learned ‘**new verbs in action**’. We used the game **Jacques a dit**: Run! Jump! Sleep! Dance! Sing! Turn around! ... and we practised singing O Grand Saint Nicolas and “Mon Beau **Sapin**” songs for the Christmas concert.

On Tuesday 29th November (next week) the non-swimming group are going to visit the park to investigate the last signs of autumn. You will have a letter in your child’s book bag today with more details.

Our talk topic this week is: who would you like to pull a Christmas cracker with and why?

Have a lovely weekend,

Valeria Vetter

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

### Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

We have had a very productive week, finishing off pieces of work and going back through our books to make sure we are up to date. It has been interesting to look back on work done in September and to see the differences (generally positive!), particularly in creative writing. We have replaced the ‘summer’ leaves on our class tree with autumn leaf poems. We also took advantage of the leaf clearing in the playground to study different types of leaves and to observe the different ways in which they change colour.

In Science we are watching the pumpkin seeds, planted during pumpkin week, as they grow on the classroom window sill. There was great consternation on Monday when we arrived to find that one of the seedlings had turned completely yellow. By the end of the day, with the shutters fully open, the seedling had reverted to green – a perfect demonstration of the way in which light affects plants. We have seen how the seedlings turn towards the sunlight and how they open out during the day and close again overnight. Each plant is being measured and new seeds have been planted this week that will hopefully sprout before the end of term. Where we put the pots once pumpkins start to appear is another question – but that can wait until next year!



In Maths, work continues on times tables, number patterns and sequences and on timetable challenges. We are improving at spotting visual patterns, but finding it more challenging to describe them and to explain how they continue. The timetable

challenges are fun and have led to discussion of different locations and the distances between them, and of the most suitable types of transport for different journeys.

Following our trip last week we have written thank-you letters to Treasure Trove book shop, concentrating on the importance of paragraphs and how to use them. Handwriting skills were also called for as well as artistic talents to decorate the finished letters. The play scripts for our Peter and the Wolf shadow puppet play are coming along well and most of the puppets are now completed. This work has been helped greatly by our rehearsals for 'The Nightingale' – during which the children experience at first hand a real script, stage directions and scenery and props.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have started a very exciting new topic: Saint-Nicolas. We talked about his clothes, his origin and we listened to one of his legends in the form of a song. We also drew his picture and we wrote him a letter. We learnt to sing a few songs to sing to him should he come to pay us a visit. We practised the plural: un bonbon, des bonbons, un cadeau, des cadeaux.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on "new verbs in action". We covered about 22 action verbs in an active way by playing Jacques a dit : Run! Jump!Read! Sleep! Eat!Drink!Dance! Sing! Turn around! ... We used the game to ask general questions with: "Est-ce que tu".. nages? Lis? Cours? Chantes?Manges..? Etc.. We sang and practiced the song of St Nicolas.

Rehearsals for the production are being tackled with great enthusiasm, as are the sessions spent on making props and hats to complete costumes. Many thanks for your support in providing the different elements of your child's costume. Please could you make sure that these are sent to school by the end of next week, in a named plastic bag. The competition for the programme cover is also underway, it would be lovely to see a Year 3 design featuring as part of it, so get out the crayons and have a peaceful weekend being creative!



Our talk topic for this week is: "What makes a design or a picture eye-catching?"

Have a lovely weekend,

Jane Still

[year3teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year3teacher@telenet.be)

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

#### Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

The festive period is soon approaching and the party atmosphere was apparent in Year 4 this week. The girls appeared blurry eyed on Monday after something of a colossal sleepover at the weekend and Bhargav let us celebrate his birthday on Wednesday

with some spectacular Angry Bird cupcakes. The season of goodwill is starting to be felt everywhere and the ongoing rehearsals for the Junior School production are going excellently.

We have contributed with some fine performances both in acting, singing and some (soon to be revealed) acrobatics.

In Literacy, we learnt how to use adverbials and deployed them in a clever plan to destroy a giant dragon. The children also continued writing their fairy tales in Topic. Will we be able to publish our book by the end of term, though?

Topic was a mix of research and art as the children had to read a traditional Russian fairytale, fact file the country Russia and then produce a pictorial map of Fairytale Europe. The children have really grasped our Wishful Thinking theme and produced beautiful work throughout; the map was a classic example.



No fairies in Maths, however, as we multiplied and divided 2-digit numbers by 10 and added pairs of ThHTU (4-digit big ones!).

In Science, meanwhile, we compared mains electricity and battery-source power, and how homes and people are safeguarded from the risks. By the time of reading, our Year 4 guardians of the people will have hopefully produced a Health and Safety video warning about the dangers of electricity. These collaborative productions are always great fun and the simulations re-enacted provide great entertainment.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have started a very exciting new topic: Saint-Nicolas. We talked about his clothes, his origin and we listened to one of his legends in the form of a song. We also drew his picture and we wrote him a letter. We learnt to sing a few songs to sing to him should he come to pay us a visit. We practised the plural: un bonbon, des bonbons, un cadeau, des cadeaux.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on ‘new verbs in action’. We covered about 22 action verbs in an active way by playing Jacques a dit : Run! Jump!Read! Sleep! Eat!Drink!Dance! Sing! Turn around! ... We used the game to ask general questions with: ‘Est-ce que tu’.. nages? Lis? Cours? Chantes?Manges..? Etc..

We sang and practised the song of St Nicolas.In Thursday’s Golden Time, the class played BenchBall which is a new craze which seems to have taken hold of the Junior School. It was great to be outside and dry.

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,

Preparations for the Junior Department show, The Nightingale, are now well under way and well done to all of the children in Year five for learning their lines – they are all doing a great job. They all now have copies of the lyrics for the songs so these now need to be studied too. In between singing, prop making, scenery building and acting rehearsals, we have still been able to fit lots of other activities in.

Topic lessons were extremely interesting as we watched a Horrible Histories episode about the ‘Angry Aztecs’ and we learnt about the many uses of cacti! We discovered that the Aztecs were highly resourceful people and made the most of all of the cactus around them. The children then used the iPads to do some more research about cactus – none of us knew before the lesson that some cacti can live for up to two hundred years! There are a good selection of library books about the Aztecs so these were used as well to continue the mini research projects about daily life – the presentations will take place early next week.

Fractions have continued to be the main focus in Maths this week. The children have been ordering fractions, finding equivalent fractions and reducing fractions to the lowest common denominator. In addition to this, they have also solved word problems involving fractions and wrote one problem for a fellow classmate. In Maths, please try and encourage your child to complete all pieces of Maths homework and to submit them on time.

$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$						
$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$					
$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$				
$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$			
$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$			
$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}$		
$\frac{1}{9}$							
$\frac{1}{10}$							

Excellent pieces of writing have been produced in year five and the children should be proud of the progress that they have all made with using speech marks. They retold a short story in three paragraphs and wrote it from another character’s perspective. It was the first time that the class had done this activity – they all became aware of how many different elements need to be included when using speech! The class have continued to develop their knowledge of verbs and adjectives and during the weekly grammar lesson, they wrote a short advertisement for a house on sale – their ideas were certainly original.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on “**new verbs in action**”. We covered **about 22 action verbs in an active way by playing Jacques a dit** : Run! Jump! Read!Sleep! Eat!Drink!Dance! Sing! Turn around! ... We used the game to ask general questions with: “Est-ce que tu”.. nages? Lis? Cours? Chantes? Manges..? Etc.. **We sang and practised the song of St Nicolas.**

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had a dictée of "mots invariables" and started working on our individual presentations on various subjects like Saint-Nicolas and Argentina among others. In grammar, we worked on possessives which helped us to know how and when to write "son" and "sont".

The weather has continued to be good this week so PE lessons have been outside and the Year five and six children took part in a very energetic game of bench ball – both the defenders and attackers gave it their all.

The talk topic for this week is “Who is Peggy Whitson and why is she famous”?

So that’s the news from our week – wishing you all a nice weekend.

Kind regards

Alison Godwin

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

### Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

A ‘sniffly’ week this week; many of us in Year 6 are suffering with coughs and colds. Hopefully, after a weekend’s rest, we shall all feel much better and re-energized. Nevertheless, we battled on and managed to tackle some tricky topics.

On the menu this week, was the ‘passive and active voice’. This enables the writer to say the same thing in different ways and also hide the ‘doer’ of the action. This is useful when you do not know who it is or when it is not important to identify who is performing the action. This technique should prove particularly useful when writing-up science experiments. In spelling, pupils studied the letter strings ‘ear’ and ‘gh’, the prefixes al, a, ad and be. An excellent effort was made with the two comprehension exercises about the classical poem ‘Keepsake Mill’ and ‘The Hobbit’. There were some particularly challenging questions and most of children answered these correctly. Terrific!

In Latin, Marcellus, the Governor has arrived for a dinner party, but all is not well, Rufus, has been sent to his bedroom after having knocked a roasted peacock off the dinner table! The children managed to conjugate their first verb in the present tense – Amare, and even managed to chant it, with the support of:

<https://youtu.be/fLrXz9XoQqg>

We began our second experiment about hydrogels, however, we immediately encountered difficulties. Extracting granulated hydrogels from nappies was not a roaring success! We tried Pampers premium protection easy up pants and under-jams and only managed to recover about half a teaspoon of hydrogel granules. Disaster! We then decided to try ‘seven colour crystal ball’ bio gels, however, as these are ‘slow absorbing’



we had to adapt our experiment. So, at the moment, there are 5 plastic bottles, each containing a sachet of coloured hydrogels and 500ml of water, waiting for the scientists to return tomorrow morning...

This week in maths, all students studied volume and demonstrated that they can use the formula for calculating volume of cubes and cuboids. Some students progressed onto capacity and converting cubic centimetres to cubic metres; they also looked at how to calculate density.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on “**new verbs in action**”. **We covered about 22 action verbs in an active way by playing Jacques a dit** : Run! Jump! Read!Sleep! Eat!Drink!Dance! Sing! Turn around! ... We used the game to ask general questions with: “Est-ce que tu”.. nages? Lis? Cours? Chantes? Manges..? Etc..  
**We sang and practised the song of St Nicolas.**

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had a dictée of "mots invariables" and started working on our individual presentations on various subjects like Saint-Nicolas and Argentina among others. In grammar, we worked on possessives which helped us to know how and when to write "son" and "sont".

Rehearsals, St Nicolas, Korean Cultural Centre, Christmas Production... We really are very busy!

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

[year6teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year6teacher@telenet.be)

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

In EAL this week

Dear Parents,

This week, the Reception EAL group worked on the language of rainy days. We played a simple vocabulary game, and made a large picture, using collage, to reinforce key words, and we discussed questions including What do we need in the rain? Where does rain come from? Is rain good?



In Year One EAL, we spent our numeracy focus session working on prepositions, which were also the basis of the class work this week. In our writing session, on Wednesday morning, each child said and then wrote a simple sentence about his or her dad. The children’s grasp of letter sounds is developing, and they are beginning to use this knowledge to write with some independence.

The joint Year One and Year Two EAL group also worked on prepositions, combined with revising the vocabulary for places around the school.

The Year Three EAL group this week continued to work on reading comprehension. We practised spotting unfamiliar words in a text, and sounding a mental alert about them. We also looked at ways in which a new word might be defined within the text (using brackets, or with a phrase after a comma, or with the word “called”, as in the sentence Rabbits live in networks of burrows called warrens.)

Please remember to keep talking with and listening to your child, as often as possible, especially in her or his home language.

If you would like to meet with me, to talk about your child’s progress in English, I am available between 8:30 and 9 on Monday (in the Junior Department), and on Wednesday or Friday (in the Infant Department). I can meet at other times (up to 1pm) if needed. Please contact me through the school office, or through your child’s class teacher, or using the email below.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read  
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