

Home School Books – 02 December 2016.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

What a fantastic week we have had, looking at and talking about all different kinds of weddings. If you look on the opposite page, you will see your little one's nursery wedding book. Each page has a different scene from a wedding to colour, this is not homework but we thought it was a lovely activity for your child to do at home with you. See if they can tell you what sort of wedding or character at a wedding is depicted in each illustration.

We also had a wedding cake feast and during the wedding clothes dressing up day on Thursday the children tasted a chocolate and vanilla flavoured wedding cake and a lemon flavoured wedding cake! We then had a dancing party wearing our wonderful wedding clothes; very energetic and the children showed Mrs Davies and Mrs Tolentino a few of their dance moves! Great fun all round and hopefully the photographs will be on the website before Christmas.



Talking about dance moves! Just to remind you once again, that the nursery Christmas show takes place in the infant department, next Thursday 8 December at 11.30am. Please do not worry, if you have not got a pair of white or black leggings for your child; you can also use white or black tights or a pair of white or black trouser bottoms. We will provide the rest of the costume, so this is the only thing you need to bring to nursery. Please send them in a named carrier bag on the day of the show. Or let your child wear them to school if it is warm enough.

Afternoon children need to join us for the morning session on the day of the show, but not until 9.30am. This time covers what would be their pm session which will be cancelled on that day. If you have any difficulties regarding the timings, please speak to Mrs. Davies.

If your child is normally full time, you are welcome to take them home after the show, as it can be hard for some children to stay when mummy and daddy leave after the performance.

If your child will not attend the show, please let us know. Similarly, if you do not intend to come and watch your child in the show, please inform us.

Our talk topic for discussion is: Who is Saint Nicholas? Why do we leave a shoe out on the 5th December?

Have a lovely weekend  
Thank you

Alison Davies, Ena Tolentino  
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Please click [here](#) for our Nursery webpage

## Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

What a week! Well done to all Reception for the hard work they put into learning their dances and the words to the songs for the winter production. Thank you parents for providing the children with their costumes, we hope you enjoyed their performance.



This week was the last week of our ‘seasons and the weather’ topic. We focussed on the water cycle and the children are beginning to be able to use vocabulary such as evaporation, condensation and precipitation. We listened to the water cycle song and learnt actions to help our understanding of the different stages ( <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWb4KIM2vts> ). The children enjoyed completing the ‘rain in a jar’ experiment where we filled a jar with hot water, placed a plate of ice cubes on top and watched ‘clouds’ form then the ‘rain’ start to fall down the sides of the jar.

In maths this week we have looked at 3d shapes, we started to learn the names of a cube, cuboid, sphere, cone and pyramid. The children enjoyed listening to the 3d shapes song, and played different games around this song (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2cg-Uc556-Q> ). The children also chose a 3d shape net to decorate and turn into a Christmas tree decoration.

In phonics this week we learnt the sounds /ch/ and /th/. We looked at distinguishing between /sh/, /ch/ and /th/ and how /th/ is different from /f/. The children are progressing well in their reading adventure and showing an ever growing confidence in their blending.

In French with Mrs Scharf, Saint-Nicolas is still the star of the week. 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 learnt to ask nicely: "Je voudrais .... ". We also practiced singing "Mon beau sapin" for the Christmas show.

The talk topic for Monday will be answering the question ‘What was your favourite part of the winter production?’

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,

The highlight of the week was undoubtedly the wonderful Christmas Show on Thursday. I hope you all enjoyed seeing the children in their lovingly created costumes. Despite the inevitable build-up of excitement, we have tried to maintain the children's focus on their normal classroom activities.



In Literacy, we learned the /th/ and /ng/ sounds, practised reading and writing them, and played some phonics games which challenge the children by including not only these two sounds but also those we learned last week. For our writing task this week, and in the interest of balance, we read 'My Mum', also by Anthony Browne. After discussing with talk partners, the children then wrote about their mum, remembering to use capital letters, full stops and a connective to make more complex sentences.

In Maths, we have been working on addition and subtraction of 1, 2 and 3 by counting on and back respectively. The children are becoming quite proficient at both these operations, and are able to make the distinction between the signs '+' and '-'. We did a number of different activities to reinforce this concept, including forming a human number line. In our longer Thursday session, we moved on to addition of 3 single-digit numbers. This is a significant step, because it requires the application of prior knowledge, such as doubles to 6 and number bonds to 10 (which we teach intensively early in the year), and it encapsulates the concept that you can add numbers together in any order – the answer will be the same. I was extremely pleased with the children's efforts, and their worksheets on this area in this week's home school book. Please ask them to explain the method.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, Saint-Nicolas is still the star of the week. 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 learnt to ask nicely "Je voudrais.... " We also practiced singing "Mon beau sapin" for the Christmas show.

We used our Art session this week to make decorations for the classroom – we produced sufficient streamers and bunting to go many times round the classroom! On Friday, as a reward for a great show performance, we spent some time putting them on display.

PE also gets a mention this week – we focussed on jumping skills. The new playground surface is excellent for PE: the children ran, jumped and tumbled for about 35 minutes, and the more cushioned surface meant that we had no bumps for the children. You can see some action shots at <http://www.bisb.org/project/pe-jumping-skills/> (their coats are off, as by the time of the sack race finale, the children were well and truly warm!)

Kind regards

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

## Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

Phew! This has been a very busy week.

We visited the park to investigate the last signs of autumn and found frosty leaves and thin ice on the lake. We saw water hens and ducks. We were privileged to see a red squirrel climbing trees and jumping from tree to tree. No doubt he was taking advantage of the sunny weather to fill his winter coffers.

In Literacy we have been consolidating our knowledge of plurals and have learnt 3 rules so far. We will touch another rule next week. Our reading is improving and we are enjoying our trips to the library where we are trying to borrow both fiction and non-fiction books. This week we changed our reading books on Friday due to a very busy Thursday. We have done a lot of handwriting this week and we are learning to join up our writing now. The children have enjoyed this writing focus.

Our play went off really well and I was proud of how the class behaved and rendered their lines. They gave it their all and sang their hearts out. I hope you enjoyed it as much as your children did!

In Numeracy we have been adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers using a hundred chart. The children have had a lot of practice this week and are quite adept at it now.

We made a paper chain Christmas tree to decorate our classroom door and the children had fun making the paper chains. We have also begun making our button star ornaments.



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we've dedicated the week to St Nicolas. We started a bricolage : coloring and cutting **La Mitre de St Nicolas**. We read and discussed **Qui est St Nicolas?** We also practiced singing for this week's concert.

The talk topic for this week is: What is your favourite festival? Why?

Have a wonderful weekend.

Valeria Vetter

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

### Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

This week has flown by and excitement is mounting as we get nearer to our winter production. Thank you to everyone for sending in costumes on time, the hats have all been finished and the finishing touches are being added – there will be a transformation when everything is put together and the Junior Department turns into the Emperor's court! Rehearsals have gone well this week and it is good to see that the Year 3s have learned their lines, are singing the songs enthusiastically (and know the words!) and are making a very positive contribution in all of their scenes. The acrobats and clowns have shared their expertise with the rest of us and we have been learning to juggle and create sequences on the trampoline. I have a feeling that there are far more balls than usual in the neighbouring gardens...



Balls also fly at great speed around the tennis court during our time at the Castle Club. Everyone has made progress and most of the balls are now coming over the net, rather than into it. The sessions also involve ball-catching skills, extremely energetic running exercises and general ball awareness – the journey back to school is very quiet as everyone recovers! The children who will do tennis later in the year are making the most of the space in their extra sport session at school, and are working hard with Mrs. Reid on literacy.

In Maths, we have been looking at coordinates, plotting locations on maps and identifying points on charts. We enjoyed putting this into practice by playing Battleships with the Year 5s. We also created shapes by plotting positions, and practised measuring by learning about perimeters. We are continuing to measure our seedlings – several of which have grown hugely this week and have developed their next set of leaves. Of the new seeds planted last week only one has shown its tip so far, but they do seem to grow very fast, so hopefully more will follow.

In Literacy, we have continued to work from the new dictations that we added to our spelling session at the beginning of term. These are proving to be a very effective way of looking at words and word patterns, and of analysing how we can work out how to spell words that we think we don't know. The results so far are excellent.

I am pleased to see the wide range of books that are being borrowed from the library every week. We have an excellent selection of both fiction and non-fiction, and it is important that the children try out books that they are attracted to, even if they find that they are too hard (at the moment), or not to their liking. This is the ideal way to develop skills in selecting books and of increasing their awareness of what they do like and why. We are also working on classifying books into subject areas and in alphabetical order.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, Saint-Nicolas is still the star of the week. 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've dedicated the week to St Nicolas. We started a bricolage : coloring and cutting **La Mitre de St Nicolas**. We read and discussed **Qui est St Nicolas?** We sang and practiced the song of St Nicolas.

We celebrated the start of the festive season by making spicy biscuits – a sticky business, with the carefully measured ingredients finding themselves glued to most of the surfaces and fingers. However, great fun was had by all and the warm smell of cinnamon and nutmeg wafting down the stairs added to the Christmas feel. Needless to say, the biscuits themselves were a great success!



The talk topic for this week is: “What foods do we eat for special celebrations, and what do I like most of all?”

I wish you a peaceful weekend – and, if you have a special recipe to share, please do send it in for us to try.

Jane Still

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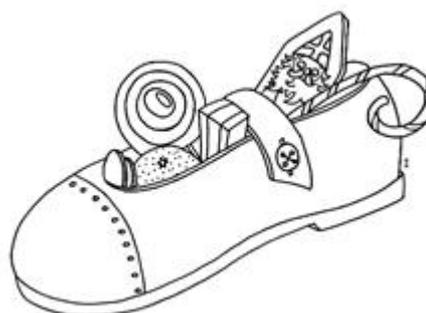
Please click [here](#) for our Year 3 webpage

## Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

This week, Christmas really started to enter our imaginations. The Junior School Christmas Tree was erected and we helped decorate it; the children designed their St. Nicholas shoes for lying underneath it; and we opened the first doors on the class interactive advent calendar.

The Christmas Show is in full swing too and that always signals that the yuletide is truly upon us.



Another highlight were the Braztecs on sale for charity courtesy of Year 5. All classes eagerly awaited the chocolate brownies and were tempted from midday by the baked beauties' beautiful aromas wafting up the Junior Department staircase. And it didn't stop there! The class also met Piggio (pronounced Piggoo), the hand puppet friend of Aarika's, which we all decided was one of the best 'Show and Tells' ever.

In Literacy, we created characters, both human and good; and dragon and evil. This led us nicely to making a start on the writing of a story: How to rescue a friend from a

dragon. This will draw to a close our focus on Hiccup, Toothless and how he trained his dragon and we will miss him when it's over. We also compared the book and the film and the children were shocked by the way text had been changed so much in the film's portrayal.

Maths, meanwhile, made us consider different strategies for adding and saw us using scales to weigh things. We were good at converting grams into kilograms and vice versa. The children were also hit with 2 speed tests in 3 days and despite the shock to the system this caused, nearly every child improved their personal best significantly. The speed test was actually given as a piece of homework earlier in the term so the children can show you the task in their homework folders.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, Saint-Nicolas is still the star of the week. 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 learned 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've dedicated the week to St Nicolas. We started a bricolage : coloring and cutting **La Mitre de St Nicolas**. We read and discussed **Qui est St Nicolas?** We sang and practised the song of St Nicolas.

In Science, we compared conductors and insulators and in Topic we worked hard composing more fairytale magic on the ipads. And that was our week.

Best wishes

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

### Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

Winter has now arrived and there has been a definite chill in the air this week. The children have all been wrapped up during break and lunchtimes though so they have been able to enjoy the beautiful blue sky days that have been present all week.

Preparations for the school production have continued to keep us all extremely busy. This week, we have been painting, prop making and practicing the scenes for the show. The Year 5 children have been particularly involved with the scenery preparation which has involved writing in Chinese, cutting out cardboard and a lot of painting amongst other things. Thank you for helping us to organize the costumes, they can be sent in to school as soon as they are ready.

The class did a fantastic job of baking chocolate brownies this week – 'Braztecs' was the creative name they gave the project. In class, the children have been learning about the many uses of cocoa beans during Aztec times and that the Aztec people apparently loved hot chocolate! So on Wednesday, we baked enough brownies for

every child in the junior department and asked them for a small donation to support our school charity, Banunule School in Uganda. We raised €46.60 so thank you to everyone who contributed. The general consensus across the school was that they were delicious!



The brownie baking activity also gave the children the opportunity to do some maths too. The recipe made brownies for eight people, so they used their mental multiplication skills to multiply all of the ingredient quantities by five. Written methods for multiplication were also studied this week – the children looked at two different methods and decided which worked best for them. Finally, they played ‘Equivalent Fractions Snap’ using the cards that they made at home.

In literacy, the class used the mind maps that they had written as part of their homework. The children all planned a short story, first thinking about the characters and then what the main events would be. The stories were started in class and then they have been asked to complete them at home. I look forward to seeing the completed versions!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we’ve dedicated the week to St Nicolas. We started a bricolage : coloring and cutting **La Mitre de St Nicolas**. We read and discussed **Qui est St Nicolas?** We sang and practiced the song of St Nicolas. In French with Mrs. Scharf, we worked hard on our individual presentations in order to be able to present then before the very busy Christmas activities period. The Talk Topic for next week is: What is your favourite thing about the month of December and why?

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Alison Godwin

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

### Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

No doubt about it, the festive season is here! It was a real treat welcoming the children to school today; watching their expressions as they saw the Christmas tree was heart-warming. However, I am not sure how long we, the teachers, will be able to cope with the ‘singing’ and ‘dancing’ Father Christmas and reindeer!! We have an exciting week ahead, with our first ‘French Christmas’ Assembly’ on Monday, a visit by St Nicolas and our annual outing to the Korean Cultural Centre on Tuesday.

In literacy, we continued reading the novel ‘Point Blanc’; Alex is preparing to go (undercover) to an expensive boarding school in the French Alps... We have revised the rules of adding ‘ed’ and ‘ing’, using the suffixes ‘al, ic, able and ive’ to make

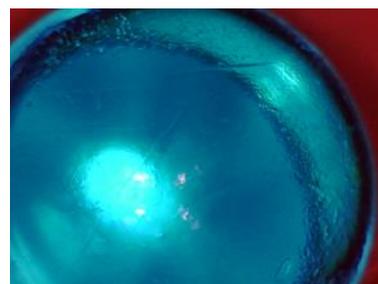
words into adjectives, and 'ise, ify, ate and en' to make words into verbs. Also, we have studied the '2 pairs sentence' structure – dramatic in its succinctness, a 2 pairs sentence begins with two pairs of related adjectives: 'Exhausted and worried, cold and hungry, they did not know how much further they had to go.'

In maths, we began our module on data handling. We started by learning about: mode, median, mean and range. Some students investigated the rainfall over a 2-day period in the UK, others tackled: qualitative, quantitative, continuous and discrete data.

Our research about Easter Island produced some excellent thoughts, explanations and observations. Using photographs, data and a BBC article, the pupils answered a range of questions about the settlers, the challenges they faced and the subsequent population decline. In January, each student will be 'teaching' a specific treasure. They will be required to plan and deliver a lesson, which must include an activity; the teaching schedule can be found on Edmodo.

In Mandarin we learnt about members of the family and four different 'o' sounds. The children studied the character for 'person' which looks like the profile of a man walking: <http://www.chineasy.com/basics> .

The Belgium representative for 'World Space Week' visited the Year 6 classroom in the early hours of Thursday morning. She was most impressed with the students 'Science Log' books and all the 'Space' art on display. Today, we enjoyed studying our hydrogels using the digital microscope, as well as attempting the 'Loop Launch' challenge.



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we've dedicated the week to St Nicolas. We started a bricolage : coloring and cutting **La Mitre de St Nicolas**. We read and discussed **Qui est St Nicolas?** We sang and practised the song of St Nicolas. In French with Mrs. Scharf, we worked hard on our individual presentations in order to be able to present them before the very busy Christmas activities period. A terrific week!

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

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

Reception

In EAL this week

Dear Parents,

The EAL page on the school website is beginning to take shape. Please have a look, to see some photographs of the children at work, and some links to helpful websites for developing English language skills. I will also publish a list of key vocabulary for the areas that we have been working on, on the web page.

This week, the Reception group continued to talk about the weather, completing their big rainy day picture, and practising the vocabulary, by asking and answering questions (Can you see umbrellas? Where are the green boots?) . They also listened to the story of the Gingerbread man, and retold the key parts of the story, with help.

In Year One, we spent our numeracy focus session working on adding by counting on, and subtracting by counting back, using numbers up to 20. In our writing focus, we talked about, and then wrote, simple sentences about our mums. The children completed their spelling tests. We will spend some time in our EAL sessions looking at the language used in the children's reading books.

The joint Year One and Year Two group worked on vocabulary for our local environment. We also worked on essential phonics, practising hearing phonemes within words, and breaking them up to write the words.

The Year Three group this week continued to work on reading comprehension. We revised ways of working out the meanings of new words in a text. We also revised connective words (especially but, because, if, so, although).

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