

Home School Books – 09 December 2016.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

We hope you enjoyed your little ones singing and dancing their socks off on Thursday; we think you will agree that they were amazing! Look how much they have grown in confidence since the beginning of term and of course some children only joined us a few weeks ago! Can we wish a huge thank you to them and you, for a great and spectacular finale, to our topic on celebrations?



Over the last few weeks we have looked at the same and different, celebrations from different angles around the globe. It has been an interesting and fun project and the children have created all manner of things out of paper, paint, glue and for this last session a lot of glitter!

An important lesson everyone has learned is that we don't actually need to be the same to appreciate each other's celebrations, beliefs or festivals. We can just be happy and mindful of each other's unique way of celebrating.

The photographs for some of the events that took place over the last few weeks have now been uploaded to the school website under nursery class

<http://www.bisb.org/classes/nursery/>. Take a look when you have a moment.

Next week is our last one before the Christmas holiday so we will continue with our glitter and sparkle creations. We will keep hoping for snow even though the forecast shows that the weather will be warm and dry! Just in case the snow doesn't come and we can't build a real snowman, you will see on the opposite page, three of our tubby snowmen from one of our songs. Try and help your little one create a face, hat and scarf and bring them back for us to see next week.

Please take note, that school closes at 12.15pm next Friday and there will be NO garderie, so don't forget to pick your little one up promptly.

Until then, have a great weekend and keep doing the snow dance!

Alison Davies, Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

Run, run as fast as you can, Reception children have learnt about the gingerbread man! This has been a week full of gingerbread fun, focussing on the gingerbread man story in response to questions that arose about the gingerbread cookies that were in our winter production last week.



In phonics this week we learnt the sound /ow/ as in snow. The children used glittery puff paint to make snowflakes for them to 'blow'. We also did build-a-word activities where the children had to choose the correct sounds to build cvc and ccvc words. You can see our build-a-word Christmas trees on the door between Reception and Year one.

As many of you may have seen we also made gingerbread cookies in class. Although they weren't true gingerbreads, we made sure to add some ginger and they tasted delicious – well done Reception for making super cookies. We then went on to put in order the different steps that we took to make the cookies.

In French with Mrs Scharf, Saint-Nicolas came to school and brought us goodies. We sang all our songs and he chatted with each one of us. He asked us "Comment t'appelles-tu ?" and "Quel âge as-tu ?" and "Es-tu sage?".

Please could we ask that everyone continues make an effort to arrive by 9 o'clock every morning. We have frequently had several children arriving after this time and this causes both a disruption for the other children, and means they are missing out on important introductions to work being done throughout the day.

Talk topic for Monday will be answering the question 'What do you like most about Christmas?'

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Irakoze and Ivana Julaton

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

### Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

Having no show to practise for this week, we have been able to return to our normal routine, which has made for a very busy, and very productive week.

Our main Literacy task this week was to produce a collaborative rhyming story, resulting from our first look at the concept of poems – in particular the idea of 'rhyme'. Working in pairs, the children had to create an animal-based rhyming couplet for the story "One night after dark, I went to the park..." We then put them all together and produced the masterpiece of debutant poetry you can see in their

Home School Books this week. In Phonics, we learned the /ai/, /ee/ and /igh/ long vowel sounds, and practised them by making up some sentences with words containing these sounds.

This week's Maths focus has been on money. Practical activities have enabled the children to become accustomed to handling real money, whilst also reinforcing other concepts such as teen numbers, place value, larger/smaller numbers etc. The main learning point at this stage is the restriction by coin denomination (i.e. 1c, 2c, 5c 10c etc.), so to make 7c, we can use only the sum  $5c+2c$ . Having started off the week by using any combination of coins to make an amount (e.g. 16c using one 10c and six 1c coins), by the end we were focussing on using the fewest possible coins (i.e.  $10c+5c+1c$ ). All the children did very well at all these activities, and no-one at all tried to use a 3c or 4c coin!



We resumed our topic work with a look at our school, starting off high above the Earth and zooming right in to Avenue Emile Max (using Google Earth) and also having a look through our own classroom window from the outside (using Google Street View). The objective was to compare the two views of our school – one from above and one from ground level. The children then drew the two views side-by-side, which you can also see in the Home School Book.

We used our talk topic as an introduction to our Science lesson about plant life. We learned to label the basic parts of a plant, the correct sequence to follow when planting seeds, and had a very messy practical session when each child planted his/her own bulb in a pot. Please let them all flower in the Spring!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, Saint-Nicolas came to school and brought us goodies. We sang all our songs and he chatted with each one of us. He asked us "Comment t'appelles-tu ?" and "Quel âge as-tu ?" and "Es-tu sage ?".

Finally, the classroom is looking very festive, with Christmas displays, fairy lights, our own friendly reindeer and all the decorations the children have made. If you haven't yet seen it, please do try to pop in before the end of term.

Kind regards

Patrick Tranter and Aleksandra Hauwaerts  
[Year1teacher@telenet.be](mailto:Year1teacher@telenet.be)

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

We have had a very interesting week in which we have been creative and produced lovely work.

On Monday we had a surprise visit from St Nicholas who brought us all goodies. We had been wondering why our shoes were empty but the visit was better! We were then given a special task. Santa wanted to choose a new reindeer for his sleigh so we had to write persuasive letters detailing why we should be chosen. The results are stunning and on display in the hall. As you know, Santa often gets stuck in the chimney so we have also devised ways to help him get unstuck!

In Numeracy we have revised the term's maths in preparation for our tests which have all been done. This is a way in which the children can put their knowledge to the test. It also helps see where the class needs extra work.

We managed to get outside to do some PE. This week we had to combine a jump, a throw and a hoop. Amidst the fun were some very inventive ideas.

In Art we made pine cone snowmen using cotton wool and paper. Some even made a scarf! We also finished our button snowflakes. These have taken about a week to make as we had to use a lot of glue. Some of our snowflakes are hanging in the stairwell. Again the children were very creative and produced individual and clever items. We also made reindeer for our letters and a Santa stuck in a chimney for our project.



This has been the international hour of code which has seen us coding every day with Frozen, Wayfarer, Star wars and Minecraft, to name a few of the activities to be found on <https://code.org/learn> This is designed to bring awareness of the importance of coding in our world today and to make it accessible to children. Our school does this anyway but we have really loved the challenges this week.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we've dedicated the week to St Nicolas. We were so happy to meet him, to answer his questions in French and to receive nice gifts that we had already discussed.

Next week on Wednesday we are baking and the children all need an empty container to take their cookies home in. Please could you put one in their bags therefore?

The talk topic this week is: What would you ask Santa if you met him?

See you at the winter craft evening tonight.

Have a super weekend.

Valeria Vetter

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

Dear Parents,

It is fair to say that we have been in good voice this week, working hard on the songs for the show. It is great to see everyone joining in enthusiastically, in tune and in the right places. Perfecting songs requires huge concentration – the children have experimented with using different dynamics and phrasing to really tell a story through the music. Diction needs to be clear and everyone has to be perfectly in time. Some of the songs are complicated and involve the children being able to synchronise their choral parts with the soloist passages. Let's hope that nerves don't get the better of us on Monday and that you all go home with the songs ringing in your ears – I think we can guarantee that you will have some of the tunes going around and around in your head for several days!

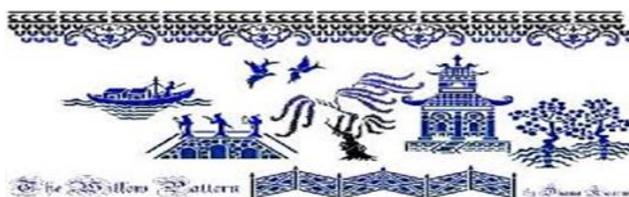
We enjoyed making our own decorations for the Christmas tree, cutting out accurate circles of coloured foil and sticking them together to make a sphere that sparkles in the Christmas lights. Then, of course, we also had to decorate our shoes to put under the tree for St. Nicolas. The French assembly on Monday was a real treat, with everyone participating and demonstrating their increasing command of French. It was extremely impressive to hear the children asking questions and putting sentences together confidently and fluently. St. Nicolas himself was greeted with great excitement on Tuesday morning and bombarded with questions ranging from the name of his parents to whether he has a GPS on his donkey – he was horrified at the idea, but the children thought it was perfectly logical, if not essential, to ensure that he visited every house!



In Maths we have been looking over work covered this term and checking what we need to look at further and what we have mastered well. We made (cardboard) pizzas and experimented with cutting them into different sizes to understand what fractions are and how equivalent fractions work. Maybe you could all eat pizza this weekend and continue the exercise! This was a fun, practical way to make a potentially complicated concept easier to understand.

In Science we continue to monitor our seedlings. There is great consternation over the health of the first plant to grow, which has wilted and does not look as if it will survive. We have looked at the roots to see whether we have over-watered the plant, and will now be measuring the water that we give to the other seedlings to ensure that we don't lose any more. We may also plant some of them outside to see if they grow any better in an outside environment.

In Literacy we have continued the Chinese theme of the show and read the legend of the Willow pattern plate. We also studied two real plates to see how the design has been adapted to tell variations of the story based on different locations. We decided that the story would be an ideal subject for another puppet play – so maybe we can create a Brussels variation featuring local landmarks. Watch this space!



In French with Mrs. Scharf, Saint-Nicolas came to school and brought us goodies. We asked him all sorts of questions and we learnt many interesting fact about his story. We have started talking about Christmas and the food we eat for this occasion around the world.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started our week with our first French Assembly. It was about the theme **of St Nicolas**. We had a play where there was a great exchange of questions and answers from so many students of all levels. It was fun and engaging. They got to wear the **Mitre** they made. We also got to meet St Nicolas, answer his questions, talk to him in French and sing all the songs we practised during the last two weeks.

The talk topic for this week is: “What is my favourite myth or legend, and why?” I hope you have a festive weekend enjoying some of the beautiful decorations and lights that are brightening up the city streets.

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 children have almost finished writing their fairy tales and there was a real sense in the air at school that the term is coming to an end. What the children have produced has been quality stuff across the class and especially from some of the children who aren't always the authors of the group. The only bug bear from a personal point of view is that a lot of the stories are heavily influenced by modern feature-length animations and not necessarily the original texts. Dragon stories were also merrily written.

Every single Guided Reading Group enjoyed reading The Snowman by Raymond Briggs. This was a wonderful exercise in creativity, expression and ‘thinking on one’s feet’ and we will do more of this next term if we can find enough books like it.

In Maths, we made frequency tables and then plotted the data onto bar charts. Visualising the bars wasn't difficult for the children but using appropriate scales for the axis and drawing the bars on the graph accurately was very challenging.

St. Nicholas visited us on Tuesday and the children were eager to ask him questions and tell him they had been good all year. One or two were honest and fronted up that they might not always have been but everyone received a well-earned goody-bag cadeau.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, Saint-Nicolas came to school and brought us goodies. We asked him all sorts of questions and we learnt many interesting fact about his story.

We have started talking about Christmas and the food we eat for this occasion around the world.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started our week with our first French Assembly. It was about the theme of **St Nicolas**. We had a play where there was a great exchange of questions and answers from so many students of all levels. It was fun and engaging. They got to wear the **Mitre** they made. We also got to meet St Nicolas, answer his questions, talk to him in French and sing all the songs we practised during the last two weeks.

The real highlight of the week, however, was the French Assembly on Monday. It's very rare for class teachers to witness the children speak French and see their level of enthusiasm towards it or their proficiency and it really was a joy to see all this for an hour. Hands went up, French was practised and ears listened attentively when Madame Sharfe and Madame Amira did their role play as St. Nicholas and Père Fouttard.

And that was our week.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman & Inès van Wassenhove  
[year4teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year4teacher@telenet.be)

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

### Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

The lovely BISB Christmas tree is now in place in the reception area of the junior department and the twinkling lights and decorations have definitely given the school a festive feel! The week began with the children making their own mini shoes that were placed under the Christmas tree and St. Nicholas visited the school on Tuesday and gave them all a bag of treats. During the French assembly on Monday afternoon, the children shared lots of facts that they have learned about St. Nicholas and his travels – many of them spoke only in French so they did very well.

How lucky the Year 5 and 6 children were to be able to visit the Korean Cultural Centre this week – we all had a brilliant morning. The morning started with an introduction into different aspects of Korean culture – clothing, food and language amongst other things. We were then shown around the exhibition and saw examples of traditional Korean clothing as well as some musical instruments. The children each made a bowl that have all hopefully made it home in one piece; this was made using a special type of Korean paper and glue. While the bowls were drying, Korean snacks were provided and the children did some colouring. The members of staff at the centre were all so kind and helpful towards us and hopefully we will get the opportunity to return at a later date.



Preparations have continued for the Nightingale this week and the children have been working hard during the performance rehearsals. The finishing touches are being added this week and we are confident that it will be an excellent show! The children have also been working on the background scenery and worked in pairs to try and make cardboard trees stand up independently. So they were required to use their problem solving skills during this particular design technology activity. By the end of the lesson, all trees were free standing and ready for the show on Monday!

In Maths this week, the children reviewed the topics covered throughout the term so far and identified the areas that they would benefit from revisiting. They completed some short activities and some worked together to solve problems. The children also completed the Abacus end of term assessments – mental arithmetic and problem solving and reasoning.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started our week with our first **French Assembly**. It was about the theme of **St Nicolas**. We had a play where there was a great exchange of questions and answers from so many students of all levels. It was fun and engaging. They got to wear the **Mitre** they made. We also got to meet St Nicolas, answer his questions, talk to him in French and sing all the songs we practiced during the last two weeks.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we worked on the verb "faire" and had a dictée of homonyms like a / à, on / ont, son / sont. We also watched the beginning of a Christmas story.

For sport this week, the Year 5 and 6 children played hockey. They practised making passes as well as bringing a ball under control when receiving it. After the skills practice, the children played a short match and it was a close game. Next week, we will be focusing on remembering to always look around to see where team mates are – the children are no doubt looking forward to the rematch...

With the show approaching, the children will not be sent home with homework this weekend, apart from spellings to learn, which will be a revision of words learnt throughout this autumn term.

This week's talk topic is: what aspects of preparing The Nightingale show have you most enjoyed and why? Is there anything you have learned from the process?

Wishing you a good weekend.

Kind regards

Alison Godwin

[year5teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year5teacher@telenet.be)

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

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

The last few weeks of the Autumn term are always festive, exciting and extremely busy! My morning treats are putting on the Christmas tree lights and choosing the seasonal background music. Tuesday was a particularly special day because of a visit from St Nicolas. I would like to thank the Year 5 pupils who made a St Nicolas shoe for our neighbour, Sebastien, who was thrilled to receive the gift.



We had to wait for our presents, because on Tuesday, we went on an outing to the Korean Cultural Centre. As always, these visits are educational, enjoyable and relaxing. We began with a presentation about Korea, and knowing the students interest in current affairs, it came as no surprise to me, that some of their questions were ‘politically sensitive’.



However, the presenter, impressed with their inquisitiveness, skilfully responded to their ‘thirst for knowledge’. Our first workshop involved making a paper bowl; I trust that these are now on display in your homes; this was followed by Korean snacks and drinks. Afterwards, we enjoyed a ‘mindfulness’ colouring activity of a picture containing many Korean symbols. We are in the process of writing thank you letters to the delightful staff at the centre.

I would like to thank the French teachers for organizing our first assembly in French. All the children were given the opportunity to use their French language skills. In fact, it was so successful and motivational that we have decided to continue with this initiative. Next term, the topic will be ‘Carnival’.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started our week with our first **French Assembly**. It was about the theme **of St Nicolas**. We had a play where there was a great exchange of questions and answers from so many students of all levels. It was fun and engaging. They got to wear the **Mitre** they made. We also got to meet St Nicolas, answer his questions, talk to him in French and sing all the songs we practiced during the last two weeks.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we worked on the verb "faire" and had a dictée of homonyms like a / à, on / ont, son / sont. We also watched the beginning of a Christmas story.

Notwithstanding rehearsals, extra singing practices and an outing, we managed to find time to complete our termly Abacus mathematics’ test, a dictation exercise and our weekly current affairs discussion. By the end of the term, each student will have researched items of news, produced a PowerPoint presentation, gained confidence in speaking in front of an audience and learnt how to ‘manage’ answering questions. Fantastic effort and results!

I look forward to seeing you all at the theatre on Monday afternoon, for what promises to be another exquisite performance by the children of the Junior Department.

Happy 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 in the Junior department, through our reading comprehension activities and some games, the Year 3 group learned about antonyms (opposites). We revised compound words, and we practised the tricky structure: he should have told/watched/called etc. In our oral work, we are paying close attention to using the correct form of verbs, and to pronouncing the final consonants of words.



Our Reception group practised speaking skills, practising the simple structures: he/she is/ was; and we/I went, and also spending some time in conversation sharing our thoughts about the Infant show. We practised listening skills, hearing rhymes in words, and listening to descriptions to identify everyday objects. I am pleased that the children are developing confidence in expressing themselves in English. We are continuing to work on using correct grammar and careful pronunciation.

In our numeracy session, Year One this week looked at ordering 3 numbers, and saying which is the biggest, which is the smallest, and which come between the two other numbers. In our writing sessions, Year One and Year Two worked on the letter sounds ai, ee, igh, and we worked with rhyming words, using them to write our contribution to the Year One class poem. We practised our speaking and listening skills by asking and answering descriptive questions, in our 'Guess the Animal' game.

Please keep checking the EAL page on the school website, and encouraging your child to play some of the linked games on the British Council website.

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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