

Home School Books – 16 December 2016.

### Home School Book – Nursery

Incredibly we have reached the end of the autumn term 2016! We have had such a fun couple of weeks, finishing off our celebrations theme with 'Christmas'. The children have been busy creating several traditional Christmas items. Ask your little one to tell you all about them and how they were made.



Many of the children are progressing well with their acquisition of new English vocabulary, you can help them along during the holiday by taking time to chat with them about each Christmas item, ask them to use their English words to describe the colour, texture, size etc. of each creation. The most important component for conversational language is talking together, asking and answering questions that are connected to the subject you are speaking about.

Ask your child open ended questions to encourage more than one word answers.

- Open-ended questions begin with the following words: why, how, what, describe, tell me about..., or what do you think about...
- Although "tell me about" does not begin a question, the result is the same as asking an open-ended question.
- Closed-ended questions also have a specific language. If you want to avoid closed-ended questions, don't start questions with the following verbs: are/was, did/did, will, won't, didn't, aren't, would, if.

The most important thing of all is just keep talking!

Next term our new topic is 'Fairytale'. We will take a look at some of the most famous Fairytale from around the world. So watch this space for more information.

Until next term and of course next year! Mrs Tolentino and I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a blessed New Year 2017. Thank you for all your support this term and we look forward to watching your children blossom in nursery over the rest of this academic year.

Have a fabulous Christmas break, wherever you are and whatever you are doing.

Thank you

Alison Davies, Ena Tolentino

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

### Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

We've enjoyed a very festive last week of the term, listening to a collection of Christmas stories, engaging with Jacquie Lawson's advent calendar and completing a wide range of Christmas themed activities.



In phonics this week we have spent our phonic sessions practising blending and segmenting rather than learning any new sounds. The children have tried to complete activities as independently as they could to begin their journey to confident independent readers and writers.

In maths we have spent the week reviewing much of the areas we have so far covered, namely ordering numbers, repeating patterns and number formation to name but a few.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we had fun talking about Noël and Père Noël. We learnt several Christmas songs among which one describing how Père Noël is dressed. We opened the Advent calendar of Boowa and Kwala and played a great memory game about Christmas with them. We made a card and learnt to say JOYEUX NOËL !

On Friday we had the exciting arrival of a special visitor – Father Christmas! The children sang him a song to welcome him and Father Christmas was very happy to meet such good boys and girls that he gave each one of them a present!

We wish you a restful and enjoyable Christmas break,

Naomi Irakoze and Ivana Julaton

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

### Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

Christmas fever has been very much in evidence in Year 1 this week, and Santa, Rudolph, trees, crackers and many other Christmas-related items have dominated our lessons.

Our Literacy focus this week was an introduction to letter writing. Having discussed why and when we might send letters (or cards), we then explored what sort of writing we should use. Given the task of writing a letter to Santa, we decided that he would not appreciate impolite demands for more toys, so, as a class, we came up with a guaranteed winning formula – lots of ‘please’ and ‘thank you’, all written in a friendly tone. The children produced excellent letters – Santa will be unable to refuse! You can see your child's letter in his/her Home School Book. In Phonics, we continued

with our Phase 3 sounds, this week concentrating on the /oa/ and /oo/ sounds (the latter comes in ‘long oo’ (as in ‘boot’) and ‘short oo’ (as in ‘look’) forms).

In Maths, having completed the term’s formal programme, we diversified a little, taking in some (Christmas-related) activities concerning the meaning and use of the < and > signs, some problem-solving challenges and an introduction to Sudoku (using pictures instead of numbers). I am very pleased with the class’ progress in maths, and have been pleasantly surprised (again) by the ease with which they grasped the concepts of greater than/less than and Sudoku. Another success was the ‘Christmas Jokes’ activity, whereby the children had to perform a series of sums, convert the answers into letters (using a special grid) and thus make the words of the joke’s punch-line – good all-round maths practice, with a bit of Literacy thrown in for good measure!

We resumed our Computing lessons with a recap of ‘instructions’, and how we write them down for instructing an object or person to move around a simple grid. Then the ever-popular bee-bots were unveiled, which, on top of already high Christmas fever, was almost too much excitement to bear! Bee-bots are programmable toys, which, when programmed, move from a start point to a destination in a sequence of simple moves and turns. As the children (very quickly) become adept at programming the toys, obstacles are added to the grid, to make the required sequences more complex. We took some photos of the children during this lesson, which you can see at <http://www.bisb.org/project/year-1-at-work/>



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had fun talking about Noël and Père Noël. We learnt several Christmas songs amongst which was one describing how Père Noël is dressed. We opened the Advent calendar of Boowa and Kwala and played a great memory game about Christmas with them. We read a story about a reindeer. We made a card and learnt to say JOYEUX NOËL ! Finally, although we do not give formal homework for the holidays, I have placed a number of Literacy, Maths and Computing activities in my TES iboard folders, which the children might like to use (<http://www.iboard.co.uk/teacher/mrtranter> - Flash Player required).

Merry Christmas to you all, and we look forward to seeing you again on 4th January.

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

### Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

This week has been all about celebrating the end of year festivities. We have done many crafts and interesting activities.

We wrote letters to Santa asking after the reindeer and Mrs Claus. Unsurprisingly the topic was about baking cookies. These letters were magically whisked out of the window during the night. I hope Santa manages to deliver the presents that were requested.



We did a bit of sewing and made a really lovely star ornament. I am so proud of how the children managed this activity.

On Wednesday we had a lot of fun making our cookies and even more fun decorating them with coloured icing and sprinkles. I hope you all enjoyed tasting our treats.

In PE we experimented with rackets and balls. We had fun outside playing our games and interacting with each other. Our pop up cards are wonderful and this was a good exercise in listening and following instructions. This week we have had to say sad farewells to Min-Jae and Mahee. We are going to miss you both but we wish you well for your new adventures.

On Friday morning we had a wonderful visit from a special person who took time out of his busy schedule to pop in to BISB. Thank you Santa!

The talk topic for the holiday is: What do you think Santa and the reindeer do in January?

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about Les vêtements (clothing) du Père Noël. We played a guessing game: L'as-tu vu? Qu'est-ce qu'il/elle porte..? What is he/she wearing? We sang Christmas songs and we started crafting a Christmas greeting card.

It has been a busy and fun filled term and I wish you all the best for the holidays. If you are travelling, stay safe and see you next year.

Valeria Vetter

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

### Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

This last week of term began on a spectacular note with the children's fantastic performance of 'The Nightingale' on Monday. We were very proud to see the way in

which they all rose to the occasion and put such a huge effort into the final show. The flexibility and teamwork needed to go from rehearsing in a relatively small space at school, without costumes and generally without props, to performing on a big stage for the first time is enormous. With only one afternoon in which to put the entire play together, all the children showed remarkable maturity, self-discipline and concentration, resulting in a tremendous achievement. We hope that you all enjoyed the play and appreciated the way in which every individual contribution was essential to the overall success of the performance.



We got back into the school routine by donning our detective hats and tackling ‘The Mystery of the Christmas Puddings’ – this was a set of maths and language challenges in which clues had to be solved to find out who stole the Christmas pudding! A useful and enjoyable way of revising several key learning points, whilst playing the detective. We also carried on with our dictation exercises, looking at word patterns and checking grammar points.

We put our library skills to good use by reorganizing our classroom reading books and sorting the reading scheme boxes. This gave everyone a good chance to look at the range of series available, and to choose a selection of books to read over the holiday. There is no homework folder for the break, but reading is essential. The children have therefore chosen several reading scheme books as well as library books. They also have a guided reading book that we will be studying on our return to school in January. This does therefore need to be read and thought about. Now that they are all confident readers, we will be looking in detail at different authors and new series that they might like to try.

Our coding hour this week was a free choice from a range of different programs. It was good to see children sharing their expertise with each other as they progressed through the levels and tried out different strategies. This was also evident in the Golden time session, when several games of chess were set up, with the more experienced players helping others to work out the various moves. With a major Lego battle being played out on the other side of the classroom and classroom drawers being tidied out by the more organized amongst us, the room was a hive of concentrated activity. It is now wonderfully tidy and ready for the challenges of the new term. We have some very capable organisers – maybe they can help out at home over the holiday!



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed 12 verbs in an interactive and fun game. We talked about Les vêtements (clothing) du Père Noël. We played a guessing game: L’as-tu vu? Qu’est-ce qu’il/’elle porte..? What is he/she wearing? We sang Christmas songs and we started crafting a Christmas greeting card. In French with Mrs. Scharf, we focussed on learning vocabulary pertaining to Christmas. We watched a story called "Le Père Noël a perdu ses rennes". We did many word searches and other vocabulary games. We also read several stories. JOYEUX NOËL !

In preparation for the Christmas quiz we watched a presentation of Christmas traditions around the world, and devised our own questions based on the information. It was a hard-fought quiz, ending in a well-deserved draw.

I hope you all have a peaceful, enjoyable festive season, wherever you may be over the holiday. The children have worked hard this term and will benefit from the break. I look forward to seeing them all again in January, ready to tackle the new challenges ahead!

Jane Still

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

### Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

What a show The Nightingale was on Monday! At the start of rehearsals, who could imagine that a seemingly light, straightforward musical could be such a tricky, technical but astounding success? All the Year 4's played a huge part and did their very, very best –we're proud of all of them.

There is no official Star of the Week but no week is without a star and although everyone tinkled in the BISB galaxy, Zaid and Deepesh need a mention. Zaid had a colossal role to learn and, despite his doubts, Mrs Tranter put all her faith in him – he delivered in kind. Deepesh, meanwhile, brought a good helping of Deepesh magic to the Magician!

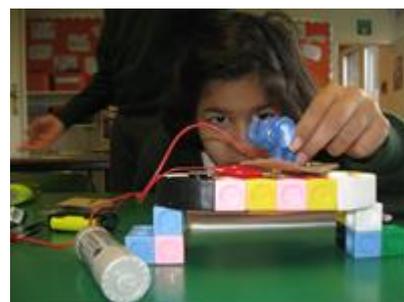
Once the euphoria and adrenaline of the show had faded away, in class we kept very busy. We finished off our Fairytale Compendiums. We watched a video of how books were once bound and the children bound their own. They had to sew 19 pages with needle and thread using a running stitch. This was my cunning plan.

Paper is thick and by the end a few fingers had got pricked, the children were cursing me, helping Mrs Van Wassenhove was cursing me and I was quite firmly cursing myself. But, they are finished and wonderful they look. The children should read the book over the holiday to appreciate what they've achieved and because the stories are amazingly entertaining.

In maths, we had to learn some key written method multiplication and division skills to allow the children to do their end of term tests. Results are looking good.

In Science, the children had great fun testing out various switch designs. The background was the bridge that the Three Billy Goats Gruff had to trip-trap across in the fairytale. The children built it. Then, the task was to make switches for an alarm for the Troll underneath. A goat would walk across, activate the switch, make a loud buzz and the Troll would get his dinner. Great fun!

(See the photo; more on the Y4 website page shortly)



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed 12 verbs in an interactive and fun game. We talked about Les vêtements (clothing) du Père Noël. We played a guessing game: L'as-tu vu? Qu'est-ce qu'il/elle porte..? What is he/she wearing? We sang Christmas songs and we started crafting a Christmas greeting card. In French with Mrs. Scharf, we focussed on learning vocabulary pertaining to Christmas. We watched a story called "Le Père Noël a perdu ses rennes". We did many word searches and other vocabulary games. We also read several stories. JOYEUX NOËL !

The rest of our time was celebrating the end of term and Christmas in some way or another.

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,

The winter break has arrived and while all of the children have all still had a smile on their faces throughout the week, they are ready to have a rest!

Of course, the main event from the week was the junior department's show, The Nightingale. The afternoon of show day was spent at the theatre in Kraainem for one final rehearsal and then after weeks of preparation, the children put on a fantastic performance. It was definitely a team effort and well done to everyone who was involved with the show – the children should be so proud of themselves for all their hard work – they really gave it their all. We hope that you enjoyed the show. Many thanks in particular to the year 5 and 6 children who helped to sort out all of the costumes, props and scenery that were returned to school the following day!



As a treat on Tuesday, the children watched the James Bond film, Octopussy which they all very much enjoyed. For many of them, it was their first time watching a James Bond film and it sparked various interesting discussions once the film had finished.

The topic for this half term was the Aztecs and the final lessons focused on how the Aztec rule came to an end. The children learnt how and why the Spanish travelled to Mexico and what the key events were that led to the end of an era in Mexico. The class put their knowledge to the test by completing a quick quiz using the iPads – the results were good! The lesson concluded by going to the playground and attempting a

game of Ullamaliztli – the aim of the game was to get a ball through a hoop using only your head, shoulders, hips or knees...challenging it most certainly was!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we did some mind mapping around Noël; what it means to us, how it is celebrated in various countries around the world, what we eat, etc. We also watched the real story of Christmas. JOYEUX NOËL !

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed 12 verbs in an interactive and fun game. We talked about Les vêtements (clothing) du Père Noël. We played a guessing game: L'as-tu vu? Qu'est-ce qu'il/elle porte ...? What is he/she wearing? We also sang Christmas songs and we started crafting a Christmas greeting card.

There was time for one final P.E lesson before the term came to an end and the children continued to develop their hockey skills. They practised ball control and worked with a partner to try and dribble the ball whilst attempting to pass a defender. There was then a match and it was another close game – I continue to be impressed with the attitudes that they demonstrate during matches; determination, enthusiasm and then most importantly, it is clear that they are enjoying themselves.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that I have very much enjoyed my time at BISB and it has been a pleasure to work with the children in Year 5. I wish them all the best for the future either here in Brussels or at a new location around the world.

Wishing you all a wonderful winter break.

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,

What a magical performance of 'The Nightingale' by the Junior Department pupils on Monday afternoon. I am sure that you are all aware of the tremendous amount of work involved in putting on a production like this; an amazing team effort, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. The benefits of participating in theatre productions are profound.



Public speaking is a key skill which requires nurturing from an early age. Watching the naturally nervous younger pupils take those first steps on the stage, delivering their lines with confidence, and the older pupils, with increased self-confidence performing their roles, is a moving and rewarding experience. Added to this, is the fact that the children have only one opportunity to practise the play on a 'real' stage before you watch it. I thought the BISB ukulele band was awesome, and I would like to thank Mr Edward Prescott for teaching the students.

Needless to say, on Tuesday, we all felt rather tired, so we enjoyed a quiet day writing thank-you letters to the staff at the Korean Cultural Centre.

As part of our Spying Project, we watched 'Octopussy', a James Bond film set in India, starring Roger Moore as 007. We have a selection of original photographs, on display in the Year 6 classroom, of the train scenes which were shot on location in the UK. Our discussion of the film included the Cold War and who should be the next James Bond....

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we did some mind mapping around Noël; what it means to us, how it is celebrated in various countries around the world, what we eat, etc. We also watched the real story of Christmas. JOYEUX NOËL !

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed 12 verbs in an interactive and fun game. We talked about Les vêtements (clothing) du Père Noël. We played a guessing game: L'as-tu vu? Qu'est-ce qu'il/elle porte ...? What is he/she wearing? We also sang Christmas songs and we started crafting a Christmas greeting card.

We have another action-packed term ahead of us. I do hope that all the students will complete their holiday homework so that we can launch straight into our studies in January. All information is in the homework folder on Edmodo.

Well done to you all for surviving your first term as Year 6 parents!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Beverley Tranter

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

### In EAL this week

Dear Parents,

It has been a great pleasure to work with the children over this term. The children who started the term as beginners in English are now able to use English to play with their friends, to talk about their needs and to join in with the class curriculum.

This development has been hugely supported by the warm, encouraging and positive environment that prevails in all the classrooms. Our small group sessions have also supported the children's language development, by giving the opportunity to hear, copy and practise specific phrases, vocabulary and grammar structures. We have used games, practical activities which involve the children working together, and conversation to practise these language elements.



The children whose English language skills are more advanced have also made good continued progress. Their focus has been on understanding more complex texts, by looking carefully at grammar structures and using strategies to work out the meanings

of new words. They have also practised using these structures and vocabulary in speaking and in writing their own texts.

I look forward to more fun and learning with the children in January.

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

Kate Read