

Home School Books – 13 January 2017.

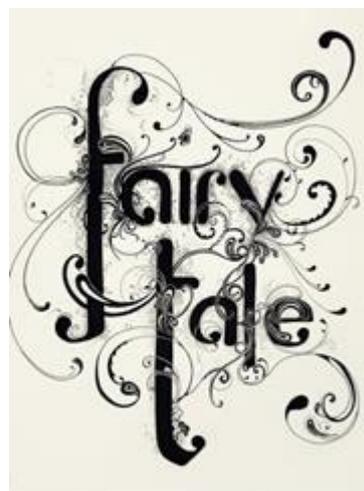
Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

This is our first home school book of 2017, so a big welcome back and a Happy New Year to all! To start the New Year off with a sense of awe and wonder, our new theme in nursery for this term is 'Fairy Tales'. Throughout the next few weeks we will be taking a look at all manner of fairy tales from the traditional to the modern. One of the definitions of a fairy tale is 'a story in which improbable events lead to a happy ending'. Children and adults alike, love happy endings but most of all children love to use their imaginations to make up all sorts of stories, so fairy tales are a good place to start.

Our first fairy tale is 'Sleeping Beauty'. If you are not familiar with the story take a look at the following link for a simplified version of this tale.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-v_GcMOraw



We also used our imaginations in circle time, to describe what our prince or princess would look like if we had written the story, it is important at this age not to stereotype children's use of descriptive language. After much discussion amongst themselves, the children decided that sleeping beauty would indeed be able to carry a sword to chop down the forest that grew around the castle, just the same as the prince!

If you look opposite, you will see a matching by size activity from the sleeping beauty story. Will the big bed fit into the small castle? The children had great fun playing the game before sticking it onto the paper and a wealth of mathematic language and just new vocabulary in general was acquired throughout this process. Please remember it's the process that is important not the end result! Ask your child to talk you through the worksheet.

The children also learned a new song about something that happened long, long, ago, ask your little one if they can remember it and sing it to you. It starts with there was a princess long ago, long ago.....

We are all very excited to discover many other fairy tales from around the world, throughout this term. If you have a favourite fairy tale book you read together, maybe you could bring it in for one of our story sessions. Of course stories are not just read out of books, many traditional stories are passed on word of mouth throughout the generations, If you are happy to come in and tell us one of those, please let us know. The nursery group also started their 'letter and sounds' session this week with Mrs Davies who started with the 'sing it bag' - a great tool to use for language development and visual recognition of illustrations as conversation prompts. Just a quick reminder, if your child comes to nursery in big boots or wellingtons then please send in a pair of slippers or indoor shoes for them to change into. Children of

this age are very active indoors as well as out and big boots during carpet time games are not suitable, for safety reasons.

The Talk Topic for this coming week is “What do you think Sleeping Beauty was dreaming about when she was asleep?”

Have a great weekend and keep a weather eye on those snow clouds!

Thank you

Alison Davies, Ena Tolentino

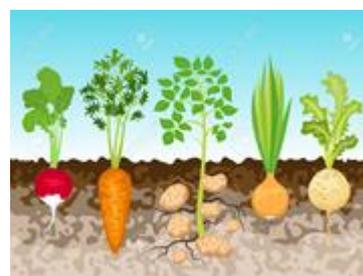
nurseryteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

We hope you all had very nice breaks, whether you travelled somewhere or stayed at home. This week we started our new ‘food and healthy living’ topic. We have enjoyed Vivian French’s ‘Oliver’s vegetables’ as our focus story, as we have looked at different vegetables throughout the week.



In phonics this week we learnt the digraphs /ay/ as in play and /ee/ as in bee. We have practised reading words containing digraphs alongside more basic cvc words. We have also started independently listening to children read as an introduction to reading books.

In maths last week we began to look at teen numbers and how they are ten plus a single digit. We practised finishing number statements, for example, ‘ten and four make...fourteen’ which we continued into this week. The children can very confidently orally complete each number statement with an answer from eleven to twenty. The end of this week we used numicons (number patterns) as an introduction to odd and even numbers. Rather than learning by memory which numbers are odd and even, we learnt by the patterns that each number makes with the numicons.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we have been talking about winter, the cold weather and the snow. We sang a song about a bonhomme de neige (snowman) and we described the clothes we wear when it's really cold. We also watched a cartoon in which Trotro builds a snowman.

In topic work this week we planted some French bean seeds. We briefly talked about what we need to do to help our plants to grow. We watched a time lapsed video of some beans from seed to plant which got us very excited to watch out for any changes to our seeds.

Talk topic for Monday will be answering the question ‘Why is it important to eat fruits and vegetables?’

With the change of timetable due to swimming next week, this was probably our last whole-class outdoor PE lesson for a while, so we dug out the ever-popular parachute – a guaranteed crowd-pleaser! Tuesday will continue to be ‘sport day’, but half the class will go swimming, and the other half will do indoor PE while the swimmers are away.

Next week also sees the start of ‘Show and Tell’. Each Tuesday and Thursday, two children will have the opportunity to bring something to school to talk about and show to the class. I suggest that, to fit in with our topic, they bring in one of their toys. However, please do not send valuable items, or, for example, beautifully crafted Lego models, as they are likely to be poked and prodded, and the owner may become quite upset! You could also email a photo (no videos, please) of something for your child to talk about, if you prefer. The schedule for ‘Show and Tell’ is displayed on the classroom door.

Finally, after a few initial technical problems, our online maths homework is now under way, and initial reaction has been very favourable. As the homework packages accompany our normal maths lessons, there will be one activity each week, focussing on that week’s topic.

Wishing you a very good weekend

Patrick Tranter and Aleksandra Hauwaerts

Year1teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

Finally we have a bit of snow! What fun it is for some of the children to experience this for the first time.

In Literacy this week we have been working very hard on producing winter work. We wrote a small poem as well as a passage explaining what we think about winter. This gave us the opportunity to use an online thesaurus and brainstorm adjectives. It is so interesting to see how a simple word can be transformed using a thesaurus. In phonics we have been looking at tricky words and how we can remember them when writing.



In Numeracy we have spent most of the week adding and subtracting 9 and 11 with 2 digit numbers. We have now moved on to bonds of 10 and 20. We are now revising how we can use these bonds to add and subtract. We also played a game of ‘Fire!’, which consolidates the bonds of 10 in a fun way.

We began looking at castles this week and will be learning a lot about these buildings this term. The most interesting part seemed to be the sanitary provisions in a castle. In Science we began to take note of the objects around us and have been discovering the materials they are made of. We focused on wood, plastic, metal and fabric and searched the classroom looking for examples of these materials. We noted that a lot of objects are made of a mixture of materials.

In Art, remaining in our winter theme, we drew a picture of ourselves skating and another of us sledding. This was our contribution to the winter display on the wall of the stairway in the Infant department.

In PE we began experimenting with obstacle courses so we will carry this on next week. Our swimming has now come to an end. I would like to say a big thank you to all the moms who have helped with the swimming groups. Your support is indispensable and necessary to keep the children safe. I will give the class an extra PE lesson on Tuesdays so please dress your child accordingly.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we introduced: Ma garde-robe (my wardrobe) et mes vêtements (clothing). We played the thief game: Who took my gloves, scarf, hat and shoes? We also danced and sang : Nous sommes les musiciens to talk about the use of jouer au (play) sports and jouer du (play instruments).

The talk topic for this week is: How would you explain snow to someone who had never experienced it before?

The snow is expected to return this evening so have a super snowy weekend.

Valeria Vetter

year2teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

Year 3 got off to a flying start with our new topic on healthy eating and food around the world. We began by making bread, experimenting with different types of yeast and flour. The resulting rolls were definitely crunchy and a good test for our teeth, but the insides were soft and delicious, so we obviously got the kneading part right!

We then looked at how to write instructions clearly – studying recipe formats and deciding which ingredients and utensils we had used. We sequenced each step to make sure that the recipe would actually work, and that we hadn't missed anything out.



In maths we have been measuring both mass and capacity, and looking at the differences in the way weights and volumes can be shown. This is the ideal opportunity to scale recipes up and down, doubling, halving and calculating to work out the amounts needed to feed a family or a whole class.

We also measured length and height and found out who has the longest fingers, the biggest feet, and the biggest shoes. We are now looking at body ratios. Did you know that the measurement from fingertip to fingertip with your arms stretched out is often very similar to your height? Or that your nose is often as long as your ear?

In science, we did an experiment to demonstrate how yeast works and why it is therefore often used to make bread. This involved setting up bottles containing a mixture of yeast, sugar and water, and putting a balloon over the neck of the bottle. We then waited ... and it certainly wasn't long before the balloons began to inflate, one after the other, to the great excitement of all! With the lid flying off the demonstration bottle, we quickly got out the towels to mop up any major explosions, but the liquid fortunately remained safely in the bottles and we were able to observe and record the increasing balloon sizes. (The photos should be on the bisb.org website over the weekend). We used our instruction writing skills again to write up the experiment, including diagrams, hypotheses and observations.

We tested our resting pulse rates and will be looking at how this changes when we exercise. We also planned some healthy meals and have started to classify food into the different food groups, deciding which foods we should be eating, and why. In art and literacy, we are looking at nature in winter. We made preliminary black and white pastel sketches of tree and plant silhouettes and went on a nature ramble in the park (miraculously avoiding the rain!), to observe the colours and shapes at first hand. We started 'word trees' using a thesaurus to find new, interesting vocabulary, and will be adding to our watercolour winter landscapes with descriptions of nature. We also read different wintery passages from books and poems to see how language is used to create a picture.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we started the year by revising the months of the year, the days of the weeks and other vocabulary pertaining to time. We also resumed working in our French books.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed 20 action verbs in an interactive game. We formed groups of 4, and students had to come up with 6 interviewing questions, using these action verbs. We talked about Ma garde-robe (my wardrobe) et mes vêtements (clothing). We played the thief game: Who took my gloves, scarf, hat and shoes?

It sounds as though this weekend might just add a touch of snow and frost to the landscape, so our talk topic for this weekend is "What happens to the animals and birds when the winter weather is very severe?"

I hope you enjoy the cold and keep safe. I think I might be staying in the warm with a good book!

Jane Still

year3teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

We were back to full strength in Year 4 this week with everyone present by Wednesday. We started afresh in lots of areas with a new science topic - Properties of Materials, environmental areas in topic and of course, sessions with the tennis coach at the Castle Club.

The children were very excited about tennis and the children who are taking the turn to stay at school with Mrs Read know they can look forward to their share of the sessions when it gets a little warmer. They will do some PE and tutorial sessions in school.

Literacy was all about Rainforests and getting the message out there to preserve them. This was through research and some persuasive writing in the form of an awareness poster. The class were very motivated and worked gripped to the task throughout a long session. This week, we also played with prepositions and adjectives.



Numeracy finished off a unit on place value and the number system. We added (and subtracted) multiples of 10 and 100 to 4-digit numbers [e.g. 6257 - 490] but the real challenge for the children was found in counting up in 10s, 100s, 25s, and 50s. Straightforward standing alone but when you must start at random and large numbers and count on and back, it gets much more complicated [e.g. 3004, 2979, 2954...]

Topic was interesting as we found out about the plight of the Uru Chipaya Indians of the Bolivian altiplano. Climate change is literally sucking the life out of the river these river people depend on.

The class later had to research how humans are affecting water sources all around the planet. They enjoyed this and learnt a lot - for many, just learning that there is a river (in English) called the Ganges.

The work done on ecological issues this term will help the children when it comes to creating their eco-warrior superheroes and the disaster they will try to avert and the gadget they will use to do it.

The topic is already right 'up the street' of many of the class so we expect great things.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we started the year by revising the months of the year, the days of the weeks and other vocabulary pertaining to time. We also resumed working in our French books.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed 20 action verbs in an interactive game. We formed groups of 4, and students had to come up with 6 interviewing questions, using these action verbs.

We talked about Ma garde-robe (my wardrobe) et mes vêtements (clothing) .
We played the thief game: Who took my gloves, scarf, hat and shoes?

And that was our week.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman & Inès van Wassenhove

year4teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 5/6

Dear Parents,

What a great start to the term and new year – swimming at the Castle Club. I am pleased that we have so many confident swimmers, and the less confident amongst us were splashing about, trying their best to push me off a mat at the end of the session!

It has been a testing time since our return. The students have completed maths and Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) tests. These tests are formative and helpful in highlighting any misconceptions that the students may have; the SPaG homework is compiled from these tests.

In maths this week, we studied a number patterns and sequences, including finding the nth term. Also, we took our first steps into the world of algebra by looking at formulae, collecting like terms and linear equations.

If your child asks you for a slice of onion, please say yes! Our first science topic this term is ‘Plant and Animal Cells’. In preparation for this, they have learnt about the function of microscope parts, and investigated how to prepare a wet mount slide of epidermal onion bulb cells. As I had prepared a slide for them, all students were given the opportunity to view onion cells under a microscope.

This term our new topic is ‘Oriental Studies’. Our first objective was to explore the geographical features of China and to label a map with these. As an introduction to China, the students were given a bank of statements and photographs about China which they had sort into being either true or false – there were a few surprises.

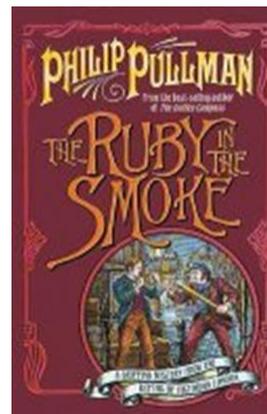
In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed 20 action verbs in an interactive game. We formed groups of 2 where students had to come up with 6 interviewing questions, using these action verbs.

We talked about Ma garde-robe (my wardrobe) et mes vêtements (clothing) .

We played the thief game: Who took my gloves, scarf, hat and shoes?

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we did a listening comprehension and listened to three short stories and then read them out loud. We revised the vocabulary pertaining to clothing with Mrs. Halvorsen and the négation "pas de" e.g. "Je ne porte pas de bottes". We also resumed working hard on verb conjugations.

Our class reading book is Philip Pullman's 'Ruby in the Smoke'; the schooner Lavinia sinks in the South China Sea, a letter from Singapore and a priceless ruby... In addition to this, all students have been given individual reading books, either: One Thousand and One Arabian Nights or Tales of Ancient Egypt.



I would like to thank the Prime Minister's father for producing a superb video of our wonderful production 'The Nightingale'.
<http://www.bisb.org/project/junior-department-christmas-production-the-nightingale/>

It is terrific that the majority of Year 6 pupils are participating in the drama club – roll on the summer production!

Enjoy the snow this weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

year6teacher@telenet.be

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

In EAL this week

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all. It has been a pleasure to hear about the interesting things the children did in their holiday.

This term, during our EAL sessions, we will again be working on the language that the children are hearing in their classes, particularly in their topic areas: Food and Health for Reception, Toys for Year One, Castles for Year Two.

A particular emphasis for the first few weeks of term, in the Infant department, is on listening skills, and we will practice both listening and speaking skills through activities that require communication (eg. working together on a simple project or playing a game).



We will continue to consolidate the reading and writing skills that the children are working on in their classes, especially by revising the full range of phonics, and the skill of putting sounds together to read and write words.

In the Junior Department, I am working with individual students on conversation skills and literacy skills, as well as specific subject-related language as the needs arise.

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
EALteacher@telenet.be