

Home School Books – 27 January 2017.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Have you noticed anything strange growing around the nursery? Have you heard a very loud voice or have you seen a pair of huge thundering boots? The children have! There was great excitement this week when we read Jack and the Beanstalk, with the children shouting at Jack to chop the beanstalk down quickly before the giant found him! and gobble him up for his tea! Of course this is one of our Fairy tale stories and it has all of the elements young children love, magic, adventure and a little bit of scary stuff ! Plus of course, everyone lives happily ever after, when the adventure is over.



If you look opposite, you will see your little ones artistic interpretation of a scene from the story. Chat to your child about the scene, ask them to retell the story for you in their own words, see what they can remember. We acted out the story in nursery with some of the more confident children playing the different character parts. The quieter children were the audience but had to join in with all of the repetitive phrases and refrains in the story. Everyone had great fun, especially running away from the giant!

We have also started painting our individual beanstalks, so please don't forget to bring your kitchen roll tube in and any extras you may have; we need lots of them!

Friday is the start of Chinese New Year and it is the year of the Rooster. So as part of our, understanding of the world curriculum area, we took a peak at some popular ways in which this event is celebrated not only in China but around the world. We learned that Happy New Year in Chinese is: "XINNIAN KUAILE" pronounced "sshin-nyen, kwhy-luh '.

There are some horrid viruses going around at the moment, so if your child is not well, or complains of feeling unwell, even without a fever, please keep them at home. School is not the place for sick children. It is your responsibility to make the decision whether they are well enough to be here, not your child's. We do have a health and sickness policy, which sets out the rules and regulations for sick leave. Remember if you bring your child to school and we feel they are not well enough to stay, you will be asked to take them home again.

Again, the rule regarding outdoor playtimes is if your child is well enough to be here, they are well enough to go outside. We do not allow children to stay indoors at the request of parents because the weather is too cold etc. We do not allow you to stay indoors with your child either, once you bring them to nursery; they must join the other children on the playground and you can then wave goodbye and leave promptly. Otherwise the school corridors and communal spaces become overcrowded and unsafe. Thank you for your understanding.

Our talk topic for discussion time next week is, 'who would you most like to meet at the top, if you climbed a magic beanstalk?'

Enjoy the weekend, see you all soon

Thank you

Alison Davies, Ena Tolentino

nurseryteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

We have got to know the character 'Oliver' very well as the third week of our food and healthy eating topic takes us to his third book 'Oliver's Milkshake'. In this story we learn where milk, eggs and wool come from and so this week we have focussed on where food, other than fruits and vegetables, come from.

We started off the week making our own butter from whipped cream. The children loved all the shaking it involved and hearing the marble rattle less and less as the cream slowly got thicker turning into butter. The children enjoyed watching the changes the cream went through, especially when the cream started to separating resulting in yellow butter and buttermilk. You can see some photos of the children on the website. In Topic work we also looked at honey and the different stages the bee has to go through to create the honey. They loved learning about the bee dance and how it is a way they communicate to one another about where the good flowers are. We finished off the week by making our own delicious banana milkshakes, similar to the one found in our focus story.



In maths this week we have started our journey towards skip counting or counting in twos. We completed many different activities where the children had to practise counting in twos, and we discussed how we count in twos for speed when we have a large number of objects. The children also practised their number formation, paying attention to the correct direction of the numbers.

In phonics this week the children have continued to look at rhyming words, and how to recognise them in their written form – the same endings. The children are becoming very quick at this! We also learnt the sound /oy/ as in boy. The children completed their second piece of unaided writing this year, showing progression with their decoding of sounds in different words.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we are continuing to talk about winter and what we wear. Our new topic is indeed clothing. We are learning a new song "Promenons-nous dans les bois ..." in which a wolf gets dressed and mentions all the pieces of clothing he puts on.

Talk topic for Monday will be answering the question 'If you were only allowed to eat one food for a year what would it be?'

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Irakoze and Ivana Julaton

receptionteacher@telenet.be

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

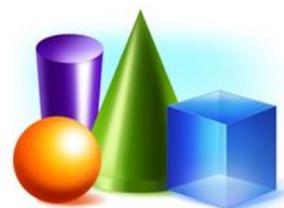
Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

It has been another hectic week in the Year 1 classroom ...

This week in Literacy, we began our work on 'Mr Gumpy's Outing', by John Burningham. We started by reading it together then established the sequence of animals that boarded the boat. We followed this with a whole-class acting performance, using a large cardboard box as a makeshift boat, and finished by collecting the children's ideas for other animals who might want to join the trip. It is important that the children become familiar with this story, as we will use it as the basis of our creative Literacy lessons over the next 3-4 weeks. Our Phonics sounds of the week were /ear/ and /air/, as in 'beard' and 'chair'. At this stage, we do not try to teach similar sounds (e.g. steer, weird, bear, care etc.), which might only confuse: instead, we focus solely on the words we know which have the sound being studied, so your child should be able to give you a number of words which have the /ear/ and /air/ sounds.

Three-dimensional shapes have been the main focus in Maths this week: cubes, cuboids, cylinders, spheres, cones and pyramids, large and small, have all been used extensively in a number of games and activities to help the children learn about their properties. We have concentrated on the number of faces each has, whether the faces are flat, curved, round, square or triangular, and whether the shape will roll and/or slide. We have also practised putting the days of the week and the months of the year into the correct order, and played some games to reinforce the ideas of before and after (e.g. which day comes before Thursday?)



In our topic work this week we talked some more about old toys, and set up two toy shops - one for old toys and one for new toys. The children took turns in the shops, and compared the items they found. The old toys we used are now on display in the classroom. We have also managed to fit in a few items for Chinese New Year: in Art this week, the children made Chinese lanterns, which are also currently on display. They have also each made a dragon mask, in preparation for the Year 1 dragon dance...

In Science, we conducted an experiment to find the best material to repair Winnie the Pooh's umbrella. This involved systematic testing of five different materials (tissue paper, kitchen roll, cardboard, fabric and plastic bags) under quite extreme rainfall conditions created by the children with a watering can! Happily, consensus was achieved on which material was the best to solve Pooh's problem, and the understanding of 'waterproof' is now secure in Year 1.

Our first Computing lesson on coding was over rather quickly, as the children whizzed through it in double quick time and were desperate to move on to Lesson 2. 'Block coding' is the method we use, and is an extension of the bee-bot activity, but with the transfer of the 'code' from a physical toy with buttons to a screen with icons and symbols.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still working on our new story "Une maison de musiciens". We have been learning the parts of the body with the help of songs, books, poems and various activities.

Finally, the Maths homework package for next week, on counting in 2s and 5s, is entitled 'Clam Collector 1.15'. I will activate it on Monday ('Clam Collector 1.6' is already in your child's allocations - I will remove that one to avoid confusion).

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,

The weather has been very cold this week but we have still enjoyed the sunshine and playground.

In Literacy this week we have looked at story openers and how to make them more readable. We looked at various types and then tried to think of a good one for our castle story which we wrote on Friday. In our story we have tried to include adjectives and taken special care about our punctuation. We also began our guided reading this week and the class loved to opportunity to read a book together and discuss it with each other. In phonics we have looked at the /au/ sound and all its different variations.

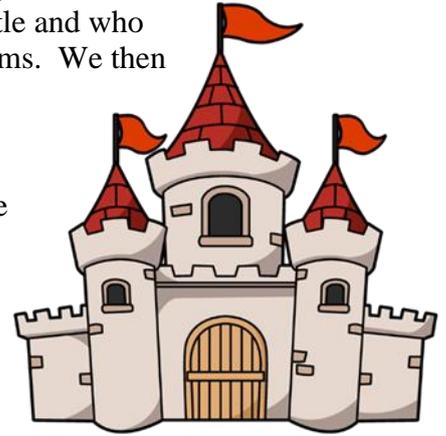
The children are discovering that there are so many ways to write the same sound. In Numeracy we finished our section on addition and subtracting using the frog method (on a number line) and have moved on to 3D shapes. We took a look at these shapes and then we built our own. We have been counting the faces, edges and corners of these shapes. A very good game which helps us to practise our bonds to ten in a fun way can be found on

http://www.mathplayground.com/mobile/mathlinesAddition_fullscreen.htm

In Topic we looked more deeply into the world of castles using the quicklinks in one of our books. We looked at the parts of a castle and who lived there. We looked at jousting competitions and coats of arms. We then drew our own castles and decorated them for Art.

In PE we had fun using hoops, beanbags and ropes to invent a game. It is so lovely to see the creativity in these games and the children enjoyed working in small groups to pool their ideas.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we're doing a presentation project: Mon drôle de Passeport (my funny passport) . They'll get to imagine, draw and describe themselves in five or six sentences in French. The objective is focused on combining their written and oral skills in a light-fun way.



In assembly we learnt all about the Chinese New Year and have discovered that this is the year of the Rooster.

Our talk topic is: What is your favourite festival or celebration and why?

It is set to get much warmer next week.

Have a lovely restful weekend.

Valeria Vetter

year2teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

Year 3 have been busy doing more research on bodies and food. The challenge this week was to produce a poster showing how the body works and the food that we eat, or should be eating, to provide the body with what it needs. This involved establishing what we already know, and then deciding what else we needed to find out in order to design a poster that would be interesting and informative. We studied different information sources – books, fact sheets and websites, to find the answers to our own questions, and then decided how to present the information.



Some people chose to work in pairs, with each person concentrating on a different aspect of the subject, others worked individually. We discussed the importance of writing legibly, drawing accurate diagrams, and presenting information in blocks with clear headings and sub-headings. We also tried to find ways of making the posters interactive, possibly by using flaps and by asking questions to make people think. We discovered lots more fascinating facts about the body – do you know, for example,

which bone is the most frequently broken, or the location of the smallest bone in the body? Come and take a look at our display to find out!

In maths we looked for number patterns in the 8x table, continued our work on measuring by reading and recording temperatures (with perfectly timed negative temperatures illustrating minus readings!) and working out temperature ranges. We also got our cardboard pizzas out again and took another look at equivalent fractions and ordering fractions – I'm not sure that I would be happy to share a pizza with everyone yet, but we are getting there!

In literacy we concentrated on establishing the storyline, characters and setting for our winter stories, and studied time connectives in order to make the writing more varied. We also looked at poetry, choosing poems we liked from a wide range of poetry books and reading these to the class. Having a 'Lamda' entrant amongst us gave us useful input on how best to read poetry aloud. We discussed why we each chose our poem and looked at how poetry can portray characters and feelings in very few words.

Our paintings of winter landscapes are nearly finished and will be used to illustrate our winter story display. It has been quite difficult using fine brushes to paint in the details, but the finished works are very evocative. We ended the week in dramatic fashion by designing and constructing a Chinese dragon to decorate the entrance hall – last week the classroom floor was covered in ice cubes and salt after our (very successful) ice-cream making session, this week it looks more like a red and yellow abstract canvas...



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been working on the weather. The children have all been weathermen or ladies. We can do "la météo" and describe what the weather is like.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we introduced La Nourriture (food):

J'aime bien manger (I like to eat well) : Every student gets to design, draw, write and present his/her own menu. The objective is focused on combining their written and oral skills in a creative and active way.

Our talk topic for this week is "What sort of celebrations do we enjoy, and why?"

Have a peaceful, relaxing weekend. If you prepare some special food this weekend, do send in the recipe, we are trying to decide what to cook next!

Jane Still

year3teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

A week of decimation was wrought on Year 4. On Tuesday, we had lost nearly half the class and by Wednesday, we had lost another 2. Flu! Swathes of it. (Quite how I escaped, I don't know - I haven't done very well previously). We looked at Year 4 records and traced it back to one of our classmates - it seems that the virus crossed some borders (well, it is an international school after all) - the culprit probably an air cabin.

Medical matters filled our thoughts elsewhere. Continuing our pursuit of superpower stories, we got a closer insight into how Peter Parker's transformation into Spider-Man came about through radiation and changes to his DNA. This led to discussions about our genes and how it shapes us and can help the police. The children were full of questions!!!



Once the children were 'au fait' on how each hero became super and what they can do, the class had to produce some Top Trump cards. This led to some really useful maths thinking. If Superman flies faster than a speeding bullet, how fast is he himself? And if Flash is even faster than him, how fast is he??? And if Spider-Man could swing from Emeraude Juniors to the apartments diagonally opposite in Emile Max in 10 seconds, how fast is he?

Batman is human and can only go fast with help of a gadget - how fast is that compared to a car? How fast is a car?

Maths itself was about long (ladder) multiplication and using strategies when multiplying and dividing. Great practice for all!

The children loved literacy as we used similes to perfection (as skilled as poets) and created expanded noun phrases (Ooooo!) to improve our writing.

Elsewhere, the class continued writing their persuasive magazine articles unaided - a piece which will be assessed. A second reading test will be coming soon, too; this to help with the writing of the children's spring reports - also coming soon.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been working on the weather. The children have all been weathermen or ladies. We can do "la météo" and describe what the weather is like.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we introduced La Nourriture (food):

J'aime bien manger (I like to eat well) : Every student gets to design, draw, write and present his/her own menu. The objective is focused on combining their written and oral skills in a creative and active way.

Golden Time was enjoyed as usual but as teacher it continues to baffle me, as this class which likes to talk about everything, tends to spend 6 or more minutes discussing what the Golden Time will be, followed possibly by a period of discussion about the philosophy and concept of Golden Time before it actually even begins.

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,

Sickness has finally taken hold of Year 6 and Junior Department students; by Thursday our class numbers were dwindling. Let us hope that all children will have fully recovered by Monday.



The highlight of this week was our visit to the 'Ice-Cream Museum'. The guided tour and cookery workshop were conducted in French; it was a delight to hear the pupils speaking so fluently. Those pupils who are beginners, understood most of what was said by our guides. Everyone could follow the instructions for making ice-cream muffins. On our return, we enjoyed the added treat of tasting our own home-made Junior Department ice-cream (made by the pupils last Friday). Scrummy!

In Maths, we revised the properties of 2D and 3D shapes; some students progressed to calculating interior and exterior angles for different regular polygons. This topic forms part of homework, as well as revision of facts about circles, coordinates and symmetry. In addition to this, we met our old friends: long division and multiplication and discussed some of the most common errors when using these calculation methods. During the next few weeks, students will be tested on: maths, SPaG, PIRA (reading comprehension) and writing. Edmodo files contain resources to support independent revision and TESSPaG folders have been updated to include understanding 'noun phrases' and 'extended noun phrases' which caused confusion. We revised 'relative clauses' and the use of 'signposting' to interweave implicit and explicit links between paragraphs.

Thank you to our new teacher this week, who delivered a great lesson about Palenque in Southern Mexico. I am pleased with the level of preparation that trainee teachers are devoting to their lessons, which is necessary, because Year 6 pupils are an inquisitive bunch, and if your subject knowledge is lacking – good luck!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we introduced La Nourriture (food):

J'aime bien manger (I like to eat well) : Every student gets to design, draw, write and present his/her own menu. The objective is focused on combining their written and oral skills in a creative and an active way.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we played games and we have been working hard on conjugating old and new verbs. In vocabulary, we talked about health.

We have two excellent basketball players in our class, so eager to learn from our experts, we began an intensive training programme. After having watched a tutorial on basic shooting skills, it was outside to try these out. What a result! Learning the technique of 'flicking' the fingers down proved to a resounding success. Despite the outside temperature, we enjoyed our swimming session at the Castle Club.

A chilly week in so many ways!

Have a great weekend.

Beverley Tranter

year6teacher@telenet.be

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

In EAL this week

Dear Parents,

This week, in our Reception EAL group, the children practised vocabulary useful for their class topic of Food and healthy eating. We focused specifically on different kinds of food that are made with milk. We played games, and talked about which flavours we would all like for a milkshake.



The Year One and Two EAL group spent a session working on the story of Mr Gumpy's Outing, reading and retelling it, in preparation for Year One reading and dramatising the story with their class. A first language focus was on different ways of asking to do something. Included in the story, for example, are Can I ... May I... Would you have room... ? A second language focus was using the word don't ..., in sentences such as You can come, but don't chase around.

In connection with the Year Two topic on castles, this group also spent a session planning a castle story, developing the vocabulary to describe who might live in a castle, what jobs need to be done in a castle, and what dangers might face the people.

I am trying to ensure that, in addition to using language to name and describe things, the children are getting some practise in using some higher order language functions. The Reception group, for example, were making predictions and comparisons. The Year One and Two group were expressing opinions and making suggestions.

Many thanks for continuing to support your child's English language development by taking time to listen and talk with her/him.

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.

Kate Read
ealteacher@telenet.be