

Home School Books –08 September 2017.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to Nursery one and all!

The first week is over already and what a busy week; it has been all about routines over the last few days. Because many of the children are new to the nursery setting they need to be taught how it all works and even the ones who were here last year need a gentle reminder after such a long summer break!



So far we have tried to remember the teachers' names and the names of our friends. We passed the teddy bear around the circle during carpet time each day and told everyone what we were called and how old we thought we were. We then learned how to use the toilet and how to pull our sleeves up and wash our hands afterwards and we are getting better already at remembering to do this! However some children might come home with damp sleeves until they get the hang of it. Everyone is trying hard to use their ears and listen but this is a work in progress! All in all your children are doing very well, so give them lots of positive praise and don't worry if there are still a few tears when you leave them. This is quite normal for this age group.

Our theme in nursery over the next few weeks is 'myself and my family' this is a great topic to begin the term with, as most children can identify with their familiar environment, which normally consists of parents, themselves and sometimes a sibling. It is also a great way to introduce social skills and communication and language skills, which are very important at this stage of your little ones development. As part of our theme we will also introduce a 'talk topic' over the coming weeks, you will be given more information about this soon.

Just a couple of quick reminders: Snack boxes, should contain a healthy snack and not be loaded with biscuits and cakes or crisps. So please be discerning about what you send in your child's snack box. We also do not allow sweets or chocolate and that includes chocolate biscuits.

Next week will go back to normal pick up times for the morning session, which is 12.10pm. Please just wait outside on the pavement and your child will be brought to you by the teacher. It is important that you are on time for two reasons: One, your child will get upset if you are not there and all the other parents are. Two, the teachers need to have lunch before the afternoon session starts and this is not possible if you are late and they have to wait with your child.

Afternoon parents, please be outside the school by 15.20; again if the door opens and you are not there your child will be upset. Please note that if you are late then your little one will go into garderie and you will be charged extra for this.

Last but not least, please remember to bring back all of your completed paper work, these were the forms given to you at the parent teacher meeting, including the language poster for our 'Welcome to our world' wall.

We are looking forward to getting to know you and your child better throughout the next few weeks and remember everything takes time, so don't expect your little one to acquire new skills overnight. If we feel there is anything out of the normal range of development for your child that we need to discuss with you, we will speak to you about it immediately. So relax and help your child to enjoy everything nursery has to offer!

Until next week, have a great weekend.

Thank you

Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove
nurseryteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

We, Mrs Irakoze and Mr Tranter, would like to welcome you and all the children to the Reception Class! We have had a lovely first week of school with the children happily engaging in the different classroom activities. The children have been settling well into life in Reception, eagerly attending French and music classes.



This week has been all about getting to know one another and settling in. We have been completing different curricular based activities to assess where each child is in their learning. The children have been getting used to the more structured and formal style of teaching and learning that occurs in Reception. We will continue with the more formal curriculum, starting from next week on Monday 11th September.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we got to know one another and we learnt to say "bonjour" and "salut". We also practised to ask "Comment t'appelles-tu?" to know everybody's name and we answered the question in French. We also learnt to sing two songs and had great fun.

Next week we will be beginning our first topic of the year all about 'our world/planet'. We will spend the next six weeks looking at different habitats around the world, making comparisons between them, and more.

We would like to invite you all to our curriculum briefing next week on Tuesday, 12th September at 19.00. We will tell you about our phonics programme and give you an idea of how and what the children are going to experience in Reception. Please be

aware that this is not an opportunity to discuss the progress of individual children as there will be a chance to do this in the last week of October. Mrs Read, our EAL teacher, and, Madame Scharf our French teacher are also hoping to make an appearance to brief you on who they are and what they do in the school. It would be good if you could attend but if you aren't able to, we can give you some material to browse through.

Finally, on Monday morning we will be having our first Talk Topic session, this is a short session where we answer different questions or discuss ideas linked with the topics we focus on throughout the Year. Monday our first Talk Topic sessions will be answering the question 'where is your favourite place to visit and why?' For example, the beach, my house, the shops, Paris.

We are all looking forward to a very exciting and rewarding year with your child.

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Irakoze and Patrick Tranter

receptionteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to BISB and in particular to welcome the families of children who are new to BISB this year. We've had a great start to the school year. The children are settling well into their new class, learning new routines and have enjoyed making new friends and seeing old friends again. It's been great to meet everyone and we are available to answer questions in the mornings before school and via the class email address at the bottom of this letter.

This week in Literacy we revisited the s/a/t/p/i/n letter sounds in our phonics lessons. The children practised writing these letters and identifying words that begin with them. In our grammar lesson we also talked about the alphabet and practised writing all of the letters. The children have all started reading again and have begun to take books home. We will normally change reading books on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in Year 1. Please don't forget to sign the reading record when your child has read the book at home so we know it can be changed.



In Numeracy this week we have been revising reading, writing, and ordering numbers to 20. We also practised careful counting of objects to 20. In our other subjects we have started a new topic, called 'water'. This week we began by looking at both calm and rough waves and coming up with words to describe them such as 'crashing', 'spraying' and 'gentle.'

Next week we will begin our PE lessons on Tuesday afternoons. On this day the children can come to school wearing the school PE clothes. Also on Tuesday the 12th of September is the Year 1 curriculum evening. In this meeting I will be outlining the curriculum for the year, discussing how it is different from the Reception class, giving out timetables, explaining about homework and other important information and I will be able to answer any general questions that you may have.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we got to know one another and started to listen to the first of our three stories “Un pays blanc” in which we are going to revise some of the vocabulary we learnt last year and expand new areas as well. We introduced ourselves and learnt the words “fille” and “garçon”. We also learnt to say “Qui est-ce ?” when we want to know who someone is.

We will also begin our talk topic next week. The topic will be ‘Have you been to the beach? What did you see?’ The weekly talk topic is a chance to develop the children’s language and vocabulary skills. The children discuss the topic at home and then later in the week they share their ideas in class. It is a great opportunity to be involved in your child’s language development. Also as part of our science work where we will be talking about how we have changed we would like all children to bring in a photo of themselves when they were a baby so we can compare how they looked like then with now.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Ivana Julaton

Year1teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 2. I am certain we are going to have a great year together and that we are going to learn a lot too.

In Literacy we concentrated on the positioning of full stops and capital letters. We have had some practice with this but will keep up this grammar focus into next week. The class wrote about their holidays and I am impressed at how well they write. Here’s to a great year of creative writing. In phonics we have been revising our phase 4 words using sound buttons to read the words. I have not, as yet, given out spelling. This will happen soon.

In Numeracy we have been counting and estimating. We have counted in 2’s, 5’s and tens. We learnt that numbers in a multiplication table are called multiples and that some numbers can be multiples of more than one number. We had fun estimating and then counting things to see how accurate we were. The latter part of the week has been a focus on ordering numbers from smallest to biggest.

In Topic we looked at life in Tudor times and specifically looked at the buildings. We noted that these were made of wood and that houses were built very close together.

In Science we discussed the differences and similarities of plants and animals. The children are very astute and I was impressed by their observations.

Art took the form of an experiment leading the class to say we were doing science and art. We experimented with small bars of soap and created a soap resist picture. They will be on display outside the classroom soon so you will get to see them on Tuesday evening.

We did some throwing and catching in PE on Monday. The class worked in pairs and we were blessed by some good weather



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on greetings, numbers and farm animals, “Bonjour, tout le monde”. We had an ‘Introduce yourself game’ while using and playing with: Bonjour, je m’appelle.. J’ai un cheval, il s’appelle ‘chocolat’. We learned how to associate ‘un’, the masculine with ‘il s’appelle and ‘une’ the feminine with elle s’appelle.

In Computing we played maths, phonic and coding games. Swimming starts next week as you know from the email that went out this week. I have told the children in the first rotation who they are but a reminder has also been sent out. PE will be on Mondays so please dress accordingly.

The talk topic this week is: What was the best thing about coming back to school?

Kind Regards,

Valeria Vetter

year2teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to welcome Year 3 to the Junior department and to greet the new faces. The week has flown by and work is well underway.

There was much excitement over choosing new reading books and many have already been read and swapped. Books can be exchanged whenever they are finished – please encourage the enthusiasm by talking about the stories and signing the reading record. We were so enthralled by our first class book - ‘The Minpins’, by Roald Dahl, that we finished it today and are looking forward to receiving the new illustrated edition being published this week. We have written our own versions of the



story and created some spectacular paintings of the ‘Terrible, Bloodsuckling, Toothpluckling, Stonechuckling Spittler!’ As a follow-on from the book, we will be spending the morning in Parc Josephat next Wednesday, studying real trees and the woodland environment (without the monster!). Please send the children to school in their PE kit and a warm jacket, as we will be walking. This will also give us the opportunity to look at different natural and man-made rocks and stones, to tie in with this term’s science topic on Rocks and Fossils.

In maths we have worked on place value and number bonds, and our challenge this week was to create a life-size diagram of ourselves, indicating important measurements such as head size, shoe size and hand span. We will be creating different charts using the data we collect. We started our science topic by studying and analysing various rock samples and trying to describe the similarities and differences between them. We also watched some video clips showing how rocks are formed.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have started the new school year by learning a little poem and by learning school material vocabulary to be able to ask for things we need in the classroom in French. We also listened to two songs relating to “la rentrée” (going back to school).

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, taking into consideration the mixture of levels between those who had some French and others who had non, we worked on “Bonjour, tout le monde” Greet and Introduce yourself game while using and playing with: Je Suis, je m’appelle, comment ça va? Je vais bien. We talked about ‘Avoir’ (to have), farm animals and colours. They got to work in groups, prepare a fun and a brief dialogue and to present it to the entire class.

In PE we practised our throwing and catching skills, using balls of varying sizes. The bigger the better, it would seem, so we will be having a go at basketball next week! Starting next Thursday, we will be going swimming. Children need to bring a swimming costume, swimming hat and towel in a swimming bag, please. (Not in their school bag as things get wet!)

Our talk topic for this week is “How does the weather change buildings and our environment?”

Enjoy a peaceful weekend. I look forward to meeting you at the Curriculum meeting on Tuesday 12 Sept. at 19h.

Jane Still

year3teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school and a new year!

We started the new term gently, settling into the new classroom and the habits we keep in Year 4. Teaching new procedures is tricky and even harder for the children on the other end of the teaching to learn, doubly so for pupils who are learning English for the first time like our new classmate, Zuzanna.

We also learnt what kind of learners we are (do we learn with our ears or eyes or hands?) and how we learn best?



Elsewhere, we explored adjectives to give sparkle to our writing, added to hundreds numbers in Numeracy and we started our autumn topic - Property and Buildings. Here, we looked at homes throughout history beginning by drawing a time line. Chronology was a tricky concept to grasp and, given the range of religions represented in the classroom, raised big questions about what actually marks the year 0.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, taking into consideration the mixture of levels between those who had some French and others who had non, we worked on “Bonjour, tout le monde” Greet and Introduce yourself game while using and playing with: Je Suis, je m’appelle, comment ça va? Je vais bien.

We talked about ‘Avoir’ (to have) and we used it in context with farm animals, numbers and colours.

They each, got to work in small groups, prepare a fun and a brief dialogue and to present it to the entire class.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have started the new school year by answering a first questionnaire about ourselves and a second one about our classmates. The second questionnaire gave us the opportunity to revise how we ask questions in French. We also revised the school material vocabulary by listening and working on a song.

And that was our week. This is a great class and I am already a huge fan. Their reading and writing is really impressive and they’re ultra enthusiastic. They literally whooped with joy with the games we played in class and in PE (although I must admit they looked slightly blank-faced with some other activities) and they’ve stuck to tasks all week. The children are already doing really well - this year, we’ll try and make ourselves invincible!

The majority of the children now have opened their accounts for our mathematics scheme online which has been great. They can play the games we’ve done in school plus many more which I will add.

I look forward to seeing you all at Tuesday’s Year 4 Curriculum Meeting. I’ll be giving out the Year 4 timetable and other information and will answer all the questions and doubts you may have about the year.

Until then, best wishes

Tim Stedman

year4teacher@telenet.be

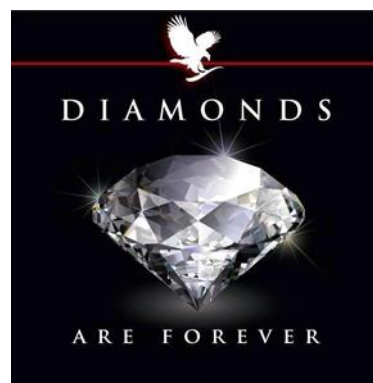
Please click [here](#) for our Year 4 webpage

Home School Book – Year 5 / 6

Dear Parents,

What a great start to the academic year! All the Year 5 & 6 pupils arrived at school on time, which enabled us to start work immediately – we do not want to waste a moment of our valuable learning time in our newly decorated classroom. Also, I am thrilled that so many pupils have joined our online Edmodo class group. In the folders' section, you can find information about homework, spelling, outings and a range of resources. Students have also been given notebooks to write their homework in, should they prefer this method.

Our topic this term is 'Diamonds are Forever', which is linked to the 570th anniversary of Antwerp as the world's diamond centre; we are eagerly awaiting our 'diamond box', which should arrive next week. We have studied how diamonds are formed and transported in Kimberlite pipes to the earth's surface. Students have researched famous people and places associated with diamonds. We are in the process of creating and painting diamonds for our art display.



In maths, we have revised place-value including decimals and multiplying and dividing whole numbers by 10, 100 and 1000. The children have been taught how to multiply whole and decimal numbers by decimal numbers.

Our first reading book is *The Falcon's Malteser – A Diamond Brothers Case* - by Anthony Horowitz featuring Tim Diamond, 'probably the worst detective in the entire world'. In spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) we studied changing nouns from singular to plural and adding the apostrophe to show possession.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, taking into consideration the mixture of levels between those who had some French and others who had non, we worked on "Bonjour, tout le monde" Greet and Introduce yourself game while using and playing with: Je Suis, je m'appelle, comment ça va? Je vais bien.

We talked about 'Avoir' (to have) and we used it in context with farm animals, numbers and colours. They each, got to work in small groups, prepare a fun and a brief dialogue and to present it to the entire class.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have started the new school year by answering a first questionnaire about ourselves and a second one about our classmates. The second questionnaire gave us the opportunity to revise how we ask questions in French. We also revised the school material vocabulary by listening and working on a song.

We enjoyed learning our first few words of Mandarin and the four tones; there is an app should you wish to download this at home.

<https://itunes.apple.com/sn/app/primary-school-chinese-app/id555910187?mt=8>

I am looking forward to meeting with you next week on Tuesday to discuss the exciting academic year ahead.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

year6teacher@telenet.be

Please click [here](#) for our Year 5 / 6 webpage

EAL (English as an Additional Language)

Dear Parents,

I have had a very enjoyable first week of the school year, seeing the children again after the summer, and meeting those who are new to the school. The range of countries, cultures and languages which are represented among the children creates a very rich learning environment.

The main aims of the EAL sessions are for the children to develop their English, and to make sure that the children are able to access their curriculum in class. For those children who are complete beginners, it can feel overwhelming at first to be immersed in an English classroom, but they should be reassured that they will soon make progress in English, that many of their classmates have been through the same experience and that all their teachers understand.



This week, we spent the EAL sessions getting to know each other. The children introduced themselves, through talking and pictures, played games to practise some essential school language, listened to stories and went over some of the letter sounds in English. In the Infant Department, we also sang songs to practise our English vocabulary.

If you would like to meet with me to discuss your child's progress in English, I am free each week on Monday at 12:15 (Infant Department) and on Wednesday at 8:30 (Junior Department).

With best regards,

Kate Read

ealteacher@telenet.be