

Home School Books – 15 December 2017.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

What a fantastic end to a busy and productive term and a particularly busy week!

We started off on Monday with lots of lovely snow, well it looked lovely from the inside anyway but when we went outside to try and catch snowflakes on our tongue we realised just how cold it was! So, instead of building a snow man outside, we brought the snow inside and built snowmen in our tough spot on top of the sandpit. Photographs will be put on the website soon, so watch out for them.



It was a great way of introducing simple science to the children and we pondered the questions, what would happen to the snow as it got warmer, and what would happen if we put the snow in the freezer. Ask your little one and see if they can remember the answers to these questions.

We then watched a lovely short film called the snowman, which is based on a story by Raymond Briggs. It is all about a little boy who builds a snowman, who then by magic comes to life and they both go on an amazing adventure together. Again ask your little one if they can remember the story.

The children also worked very hard on finishing all of their Christmas activities, we hope you liked your Christmas snowmen handprint card and the lovely calendar plus of course the glittering Xmas tree. It will definitely be a shiny time in your house!

Then it was show time! Thank you so much for coming to watch your child perform, weren't they just brilliant! As most of you commented on, it isn't easy to get nursery age children to work together as a team, especially during music when everyone is singing at different times or not singing at all! Thankfully Mrs Mayeur and the teachers have a lot of patience and eventually it all came together, so on the actual day we all did a great job! Photographs will be on the website soon, although there were quite a few taken on the day by parents, so if you have any you would like to share with us, please email them in to the nursery.

Finally there was an exciting visit from Father Christmas himself on Friday and he decided that all of the children in nursery were good boys and girls and everyone got a present. We then remembered our manners and said thank you and sang him a wonderful version of jingle bells!

Last but not least the nursery teachers would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and an even merrier New Year. We will see you all in 2018, the 8th of January to be exact! Have a great Christmas break wherever you are and whatever you are doing!

Just to keep you thinking over the Christmas period, our talk topic is 'Why does Rudolph have a shiny nose?'

Thank you

Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove
nurseryteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This week in Reception we have spent most of the time engaging in festive wintry activities. The children have been very excited with the snow at the beginning of the week, glitter activities throughout, Year 2 coming to help with crafts and then Father Christmas' visit on Friday. The children completed some wonderful crafts this year. To name but a few, they made some wooden snowmen, painted and decorated with their own hands with wood from Mr Tranter's garden, decorated some tea light holders using Christmas colours and lots of glitter, and made some excellent stencil Christmas cards. All the children (and teachers!) will have deserved the next few weeks holiday.



We have revised our phonemes by helping Father Christmas deliver the right presents to the right children by reading their 'letters to Santa' and the children's speech bubbles. On Friday we played a game of pass the parcel with a cvc word at each level that the children had to try and read. The children were also introduced to their first digraph, two letters making one sound. They learnt the sound /ow/ as in snow and made some excellent 'blow the snow' pictures that you can see on display in the classroom.

In maths we have begun to look at 3d shapes. The children are becoming more familiar with the difference between 2d and 3d shapes. We have looked at cubes and cuboids, discussing which 2d shapes are used to make these 3d shapes (six squares make a cube and four rectangles and two squares to make a cuboid).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been talking about Noël and learnt vocabulary related to this traditional celebration. We sang songs and read stories. We also drew beautiful Christmas trees. Joyeux Noël.

Talk topic for Monday 8th January will be answering the question 'What did you do throughout the holidays?'

We wish you a lovely holiday and festive few weeks,

Naomi Irakoze and Patrick Tranter
receptionteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful, busy first term we've had, I can't believe that this is the last home school letter of 2017 already! It's been a fun last week of 2017 where our focus has been on using the theme of Christmas for our learning across the curriculum. We completed some fabulous Christmas art projects which we hope will make your homes sparkle! We discussed our Christmas themed talk topic 'What can you give that is not a present?' and the children came up with some super answers including '31 smiles', 'helping hands' and 'friendship', things that don't cost money and can be given at any time of year.



In literacy this week we've focused on Raymond Briggs's wordless story 'The Snowman.' We discussed the main events and sequenced and illustrated them. We also watched a clip of the snowman's party and described all of the different clothing they were wearing to expand our vocabulary. Some of the things they were wearing included a crown, a party hat, a bow tie, waistcoat and a kilt. We then designed our own snowmen and snowwomen and wrote some sentences to describe them. In phonics we have revised all of the phase 3 sounds we have covered so far but in particular the long vowels of /ai/, /ee/, /igh/, /oa/ and /oo/. We also made some snowman collages in preparation for our big department winter display.

In maths we have revised a range of topics from term 1. We practised solving addition and subtraction problems using a number line and our fingers. We also practised ordering non sequential numbers all the way up to 100. We played pass the parcel with a 3D shape hidden inside each layer and practised naming and describing them. The new maths homework game 'Marching madness' is now available.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been talking about Noël and learnt vocabulary related to this theme by playing a memory game in class and on line. We sang Christmas songs and read stories.

The children have taken their work home from term 1 to make room for the next term's work, so work sent home in their folders can stay at home now.

Happy Holidays and see you in 2018!

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,

The weather has not been kind to us this week. Even though we enjoyed snow on Monday, it was cold and wet so we had just a small chance to play with it. Hopefully the weather will be better in the New Year.

We have been busy making 3D stars and dual pictures this week. The 3D stars are really lovely and the children enjoyed colouring these stars. The dual pictures were very well coloured in and stunning to see how the picture changes when we move it. We have also done a New Year countdown clock which has been sent home today.

On Wednesday we baked cookies. We added and mixed and added and mixed ingredients. Then we rolled it out and each of us cut out a shape. We then cooked these and after snack we began to make the icing. There was the choice of 3 colours and we decorated our biscuits. The proof of how good they were is that the biscuits disappeared very quickly indeed.



We did some word searches and cracking codes exercises in our Christmas activity books. These have been sent home and the children may finish them at their leisure.

On Thursday we politely gave up our classroom for the nursery play and went downstairs to help Reception with Christmas crafts. The children love this interaction with the little ones. It makes them feel good to provide assistance.

Friday saw the arrival of a very special visitor. We were so thrilled to have Father Christmas visit us in our classroom. Thank you so much for our presents.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started getting ready to write a letter to Père Noël. In the letter they get to tell him something about themselves and what they like. They will also get to draw for him many things related to Noël (Christmas) 'le sapin de Noël (the Christmas tree) , les rennes (reindeers) le bonhomme de neige (snowman), les boules de neige, les cadeaux, les biscuits et les bonbons.

The talk topic is: What does Santa do after Christmas? Will he relax or start preparing for next Christmas?

This has been a lovely varied and interesting term and I look forward to the next one. If you are travelling during the break, please stay safe. Happy holidays!

Valeria Vetter

year2teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

What a week! From the huge disappointment of not being able to get to the theatre, to the enormous excitement of SNOW in great quantities – Monday was a real up and down day. I said last week that one of the main learning points of putting on a play is to be able to improvise to cover unexpected events, a skill that the children have clearly taken to heart as, despite their disappointment, they demonstrated a thoroughly positive mindset and put on a fantastic, improvised performance, complete with costumes and props, all for themselves! We now look forward to putting it on again for you on January 22. Many thanks for providing the basic costumes – they look fantastic with the masks and accessories that the children have made.



The rest of the week has been equally eventful, with a department drama workshop based on ‘A Christmas Carol’, by Charles Dickens, in which the children studied the story and then worked in groups to perform certain scenes. This was followed by the first ever BISB Highland Games – featuring a genuine kilt (well done to Alex for his courage in braving the inclement weather in a kilt!), several surprising pieces of sporting equipment, lots of fun and good humoured competition, and the essential accompaniment to a wet afternoon – hot chocolate! On a quieter note we enjoyed an afternoon of stories around the fireside – ranging from well-known Christmas poems to contemporary winter legends and yet another version of Jack and his famous beanstalk. This was followed by Christmas crafts and lots of glue and glitter...



Everyone has chosen a special book to read over the holidays and has a homework folder of different activities. These are optional, apart from the book review, and there is plenty to do on wet days if you are not going away. I hope you all have a lovely holiday and wish you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Enjoy your travels if you are going away; otherwise enjoy having the time to benefit from all there is to do in Brussels. We look forward to seeing everyone back, bright and cheerful, in 2018!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been busy talking about Christmas. We played a memory game and a guessing game where we had to ask questions to guess the hidden word. We also listened to various Christmas songs.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started getting ready to write a letter to Père Noël. In the letter they get to tell him something about themselves and what they like. They will also get to draw for him many things related to Noël (Christmas) ‘le sapin de Noël (the Christmas tree) , les rennes (reindeers) le bonhomme de neige (snowman), les boules de neige, les cadeaux, les biscuits et les bonbons.

Our talk topic is: What have I most enjoyed about the holidays, and why?

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino
year3teacher@telenet.be
Please click [here](#) for our Year 3 webpage

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

This week was a real stinker, both spiritually and physically (I got soaked feet cycling to school nearly every day and most children didn't arrive at school until 8:50). The news that we couldn't get to the theatre and put on the Christmas Show because of the weather left us in pieces. What a lot of hard work, what a lot of excitement we created and what a let-down to be beaten by climate change, Jack Frost and/or maybe the Wicked Witch of the West.



I went to my 2 daughters' European School performance the evening after our show's postponement: 8 Christmas songs sung, of which 4 lines were in German, 5 lines in French with some very quiet explanations of songs in between all wrapped up in 20 minutes. The Junior School extravaganza waiting to entertain you for around an hour will have 7 songs, 4 dances, a complete chanson and dance in French, top quality interpretation, percussion cameos, gags, musical direction of the highest calibre and set and prop design an amateur dramatic company would dream of! Good job then that dank January will be set alight by the show which will rise from the ashes on Monday 22nd January at 17.00.

But the week was still great in other ways. The snow that fell on our show actually led to 3 days of pure joy and outdoor fun. (on behalf of the Junior department, sorry about any wet socks and shoes). Snowmen, snowballs, sleds and even a Smurf ice village (what creative children come to school here) paved the way for our Highland Games on Wednesday afternoon. What fun we had playing those out and the half-time hot chocolate was a bit of a bonus, too!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started getting ready to write a letter to Père Noël. In the letter they get to tell him something about themselves and what they like. They will also get to draw for him many things related to Noël (Christmas) 'le sapin de Noël (the Christmas tree) , les rennes (reindeers) le bonhomme de neige (snowman), les boules de neige, les cadeaux, les biscuits et les bonbons.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we listened to various Christmas songs and had to fill in the missing words for one about Father Christmas. The children also made their own mind map about all the vocabulary/traditions related to Noël and wrote a Christmas card.

Elsewhere, there was a Christmas Carol drama workshop with Mrs Tranter, Tales by the Fireside with storyteller Mrs Still and to put the ice-ing! on the cake, we had 2 remaining maths lessons and a lovely pair of maths tests to chalk up: a silver lining indeed to a miserable, wonderful week.

Have a happy holiday and see you in the New Year.

Tim Stedman and Ena Tolentino

year4teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 5 / 6

Dear Parents,

As you can imagine the postponement of our Christmas production was very disappointing to both pupils and teachers. Nevertheless, we decided to put on our own show with costumes, scenery and props, which cheered us all up immensely. The show will now be performed on Monday 22nd January at 17.00 at the same theatre as originally planned. On Tuesday 23rd, we shall be participating in a musical workshop at Flagey, and then on Thursday, it's off to the theatre to see 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

We have finished reading an abridged version of this play and have studied the three groups of characters: humans, mechanicals and fairies. After having acted out some scenes, we then watched a film version set in the 18th century. Next term, we shall analyse themes and characters more detail. The students are very keen to put on their own production...

Our Christmas Carol drama workshop on Tuesday was great fun. The children listened to different versions of this classic story: radio broadcast, film and book, then, in groups, performed a variety of scenes: the visit to Scrooge of Jacob Marley's ghost and the three Christmas ghosts. We have some extremely talented actors in our department.



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started getting ready to write a letter to Père Noël. In the letter they get to tell him something about themselves and what they like. They will also get to draw for him many things related to Noël (Christmas) 'le sapin de Noël (the Christmas tree) , les rennes (reindeers) le bonhomme de neige (snowman), les boules de neige, les cadeaux, les biscuits et les bonbons.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we listened to various Christmas songs and had to fill in the missing words for one about Father Christmas. The children also made their own mind map about all the vocabulary/traditions related to Noël and wrote a Christmas card.

Highland Games and hot chocolate proved to be a winning combination! What fun we all had; I am convinced that this will become an annual event. The children are looking forward to an afternoon of storytelling and Christmas crafts, after their final swimming session at the Castle Club.

I would like to thank you all for your support this term and wish you a happy and relaxing holiday wherever you may be.

Warm wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

year6teacher@telenet.be

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

English as an Additional Language

Dear Parents,

It has been a great pleasure to teach your children this term, and to see them making very good progress in using English in their learning in class, and in their playing with friends.

I hope you and the children enjoy a wonderful holiday, with plenty of opportunity to talk and listen to each other in your home languages, and perhaps some time to read a book, listen to a story, or watch a film in English.

I look forward to seeing the children again in the New Year.

Have a good holiday.

Kate Read

ealteacher@telenet.be