

Nursery

Dear Parents,

The week seems to have flown by, but we have managed to fill it to the brim with interesting and exciting activities. Our topic work is well under way and, during small group discussion time, the teacher has talked with the children about where they live and who lives in a house or an apartment. Many of the children do not have sufficient English language yet to use speak fluently and constructively but they are able to understand and follow the visuals along with the spoken words.

A number of parents have asked when their little one will start using English to make conversation and have a discussion. This very much depends on the developmental stage of each individual child, their understanding of the language, their concentration levels, mother tongue fluency etc. All children are unique in their abilities, so do not worry, we have a whole academic year to hone our skills in this area. If the teacher is concerned about any area of your child's development, she will make an appointment with you and then discuss it on a one-to-one basis. As explained in the parent teacher meeting in August, everything takes time when you are only 3 or 4! This includes new language acquisition; it doesn't happen instantly!

If you look in your child's home school book for this week, you will see a wonderful piece of art work to show who else is in their immediate family. The children put this together using shapes and then added the relevant features for each family member. Again, all of the children are at different stages for drawing, painting etc, so just smile and ask your little one if they would like to tell you about their piece of work, you might be amazed at what they describe.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in their child's baby photo so far, if you haven't done so yet, please get it to [nurseryteacher@telenet.be](mailto:nurseryteacher@telenet.be) before the end of next week.

We are also still waiting for some people to return the 'All about me' booklets you were given at the parent teacher meeting and the language poster with an attached photograph. Please bring these into school before next Wednesday or they will not be part of the activity we will be doing.

There are lots of coughs and colds doing the rounds at the moment, if your little one is not feeling well or feverish, please keep them at home until they recover completely.

Our talk topic this week is; Talk about all of the different shapes you see on your way to and from nursery, try and name them in English.

Have a fabulous weekend and see you on Monday for another fun packed week.

Kind regards

Alison Davies, Anna Nagy and Vanessa define  
[nurseryteacher@telenet.be](mailto:nurseryteacher@telenet.be)



## Reception



Dear Parents,

We are very pleased to see how the children are coping with everything that goes on in Reception. Another week has gone by and it has indeed been very busy.

Our P.E. sessions are a hit! The children really like going outdoors and trying out the sports material we keep in the shed. This week we had a throwing competition in which they had to throw balls into buckets and throw bean bags into hoops with the aim of scoring the highest number of points. It was very exciting, and we had a winner! Ask your child if they remember which penguin group scored the most.

In Phonics we did a good revision of s, a, t, p sounds playing games such as listening to the sound and finding the right letter, finding pictures beginning with one specific letter and we even had an attempt at writing each of them. We also introduced two new letter sounds, i and n.

In Maths we continued working with numbers from 1 to 10, shuffling them and putting them back in the right order and finding the numbers missing in the number line. We also had an attempt at writing numbers and paying attention to the right formation of each one.

In our topic we have been talking about houses and the children told us all about their homes. As it seems, the most exciting part of living in an apartment building is going up and down in the lift. We've found out the number each house or building has at the front door, discussed ideas about its usefulness and were very impressed to know that some of the children know the number at their own front door. Well done!

Also, as part of our topic we read 'The Three Little Pigs' story, pointed out the differences in the materials each piggy used to build their own house and talked about which of these makes a house weaker or stronger. You will find a sequencing activity in the children's home school book about this story in which the children had to put the different parts in order. Ask them about it and see how much they can recall, and please ask them to put on a big scary voice for the Big Bad Wolf because that was the part they all liked the most.

Our talk topic for next week is: *'What do you think makes a good friend?'*

A quick reminder, please work hard on not feeding the children and allowing them to eat independently. Lunchtime is very slow as they are waiting for us to feed them. As you can understand, this is just not possible in the school environment. Thank you for your comprehension.

Have a wonderful weekend and enjoy the sun!

Mrs. van Wassenhove and Mrs. Julaton

[receptionteacher@telenet.be](mailto:receptionteacher@telenet.be)

## Languages

In the Reception language focus sessions with Ms Read and Mme Scharf, we worked with the language needed to talk about our homes. We read the stories *The Tiger who Came to Tea* and *Peace at Last*, and we played games, remembering what we can see in the different rooms in the house. We also practised listening out for different question words: *what, who, where*.

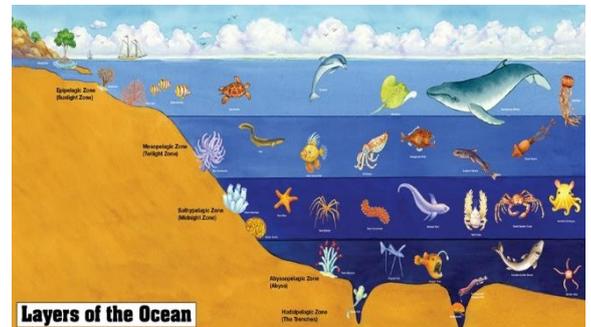
## Year 1

Dear Parents,

We continued our recap of the Phase 2 phonics sounds this week, by looking at the e, u, r, h and b sounds, and practising reading and writing sentences containing these letters. We have now covered all the short vowel sounds, and from now on we will be trying hard to make sure we pronounce the correct one when reading and use the correct one when writing. We also did our first word-search puzzle, looking for words containing the /ck/ sound in a jumbled grid of letters - these puzzles are an excellent way of improving recognition, reading and general focus, so we will be doing more of them during the year. Our writing session this week was based on a 'picture prompt' - a picture of the sun and some clouds displayed on the screen, from which the children had to write what they saw (or knew).

In Maths this week, we began by practising doubles from 1-5. As many of the children found this rather easy, we extended it a little to include doubles 6-10 - you can see an example of your child's work in this week's Home School Book. We then moved on to addition, and the concept of '1 more', followed by 2, 3 and 4 more - the focus here is not on instant knowledge of e.g. 15+4, but on how to work it out, by knowing that we start at 15, then count on 4 more. We ended the week by having our first look at subtraction, using the idea of '1 less', and learning that this means we have to count back to find the answer.

In our topic work, we learnt about the different 'layers' of the ocean, their characteristics and what types of creatures live in each one. The children did a labelling activity on Tuesday, to make sure they know the correct order, then on Thursday they started individual pictures, which will show the different colour of each layer and some of its inhabitants. Also on our oceans theme, the children have been busy making 3-D jellyfish, which will be on display in the classroom very soon.



Finally, Maths homework for next week (to be allocated on Sunday) is entitled 'Reel It In 1.4' - all about 2-D shapes - and the Talk Topic for Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September will be "Think of some things that might happen to a raindrop after it falls from a cloud".

Wishing you a pleasant weekend,

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru

[year1teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year1teacher@telenet.be)

## Year 1 French

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still following Tourloubanc to the country of colours which gave us the opportunity to go on revising all colours and the names of many animals. We continue to sing songs and play games around these themes and we also read many stories about animals.

## Year 2

Dear Parents,

Thank you all for the curriculum evening this week. It was nice to see you all and I hope you now have a clearer idea of what year two is all about.



This week our first group started their swimming sessions which caused much joy and excitement. However, the big hit of the week was probably our art session where the children made their very own optical illusion. They all did a super good job and were very excited to take their illusion home at the end of the day to show to you.

In maths this week we were working with big and complicated number bonds. The children are starting to understand how we can take big number bonds and break them into small number bonds to make them easier. We also continued working on our times-tables. This week we practised our 3-times table and all realized that in order to do the 3-times table from 0-10 we just have practise counting in threes! We also practiced our worked on doubling, even with some big numbers!

In literacy we focused a lot on poems and imagination. We learnt that poems are often short, they often rhyme, and they often have a special rhythm to them. Now that we have learned this, we also read some stories that are a little bit like poems, such as Dr. Seuss's books. The children did a lot of writing and currently we are learning about how we prepare our story writing by building a *skeleton*. The skeleton helps them to organize their thoughts so that the story has a beginning, middle and an end. The whole concept of a skeleton for a story is still a bit confusing to them but they are still improving in their story writing skills. In grammar we learnt about the past and the present tenses, and discovered that the verbs change when we talk about what's happening now and what happened before.

The talk topic for the weekend is "Which 10 impossible things can I imagine before breakfast?" Finally, the stars of the week go to Anwitha for her beautiful optical illusion art work and for endless amounts of enthusiasm, and to Kecia for brilliant story writing this week and excellent progress in reading!

We wish you all a nice weekend,

Elin Hafstein and Ena Tolentino

[year2teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year2teacher@telenet.be)

## Year 2 French

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on the "**Bonjour, tout le monde**" greet and introduce yourself game while using and playing with: **je m'appelle, il s'appelle, elle s'appelle...**

We introduced some members of "**Ma Famille**" using the possessive adjectives **mon & ma**.

### Year 3

This week we became royalty in year 3! We learned about the Anglo-Saxon King 'Alfred the Great' and we found out exactly what made him so great. We discovered that he was brave and never gave up, even when the Vikings were invading his kingdom. Then in our art lesson we found some drawings of old Anglo-Saxon crowns. We created our own Anglo-Saxon crowns inspired by the colours and designs from the Anglo-Saxon era.



In Mathematics we learned facts for the 4, 5- and 10-times tables. We also learned related division facts and how it is the inverse of multiplication, so  $2 \times 5 = 10$  and  $10 \div 2 = 5$ . The children practised halving and doubling numbers to 50 and beyond. We talked about partitioning numbers into tens and ones to make the process easier.

In Literacy we did our first spelling test. Most children were very successful at learning the first set of words, well done to them! We also learned about the next set of spelling words on the week 2 list, words with the long /ai/ spelt with /ey/. In our grammar lesson we explored adjectives and how they can be used to add information and description to nouns. We did our second guided reading session where we read and discussed the same text in a group. The children did really well with taking it in turns to read and to share their options of the texts in discussion. We also read a story called 'Viking Vik and the Trolls'. From this we explored the character of trolls. The children drew their own troll and chose adjectives to describe them.

In PE we did our first lesson on striking and fielding, on the topic of careful catching. We played some catching team games, learning the skill of tracking the ball and working with others.

Next week we are looking forward to going to the 'Science is Wonderful' exhibition. We are still seeking a parent helper to come along with us on this trip. If you are available to come, please let us know.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Camilla Rutayisire

[year3teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year3teacher@telenet.be)

### Year 4

Dear Parents,

The class have been busy and are giving their best. The mini challenges I have been setting have engaged the children and they have responded very positively.



The children have already put in some 'miles' in Literacy too and the results have been really pleasing; the work, excellent! Again, we looked at settings and creating descriptive and vivid imagery. We visited 'Where the Wild Things Are' by Maurice Sendak and we manipulated google images to then describe in words.

A similar activity was started in Topic and the children are eagerly creating dream sequence story boards which they will later photo shoot. Also, in Topic, we looked at inventories in Tudor homes.

In Science, we learnt of the dangers of electricity and the Y4's then produced public safety videos. Recording their ideas was fun and giggles on film never got edited out but neither did the serious messages!

In Maths, meanwhile we expanded on place value, comparing numbers using greater than and less than. Apart from adding sets of 2-digit numbers we also placed numbers on a number line. This fundamentally important process caused a few headaches for some so practice will be put on ActiveLearn and you can also try this at home:

<https://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/rubberBand/index.html>

and drag the red flag on:

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/37/placing-numbers-on-a-number-line>

plus two related ones for luck:

<https://www.ictgames.com/rangeArranger/index.html>

[https://www.mathplayground.com/hundreds\\_chart\\_patterns.html](https://www.mathplayground.com/hundreds_chart_patterns.html)

The children got their first Golden Time and we joyously played what may be the last cricket match of the year as this glorious weather can't last.....can it?

That was our week. Have a great weekend!

**Our Talk Topic for this week is: What are the benefits of wearing a school uniform?**

Best wishes,

Tim Stedman & Mrs Irakoze

[year4teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year4teacher@telenet.be)

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

### **Years 3 &4 French**

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed the conjugation of **Avoir**, we role-played an interviewing game to ask and answer questions with **Avoir**, and we had a team quiz . We talked about 'le matériel scolaire'(school stationery) and we were able to set up an interview with five questions and answers using **Avoir**.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, while revising the vocabulary pertaining to school material and which the articles un/une/des and le/la/l'/les, we seized the opportunity to study the verb "avoir" in the present tense. We then constructed sentences and learnt expressions using this verb.

### **Year 5**

Dear Parents,

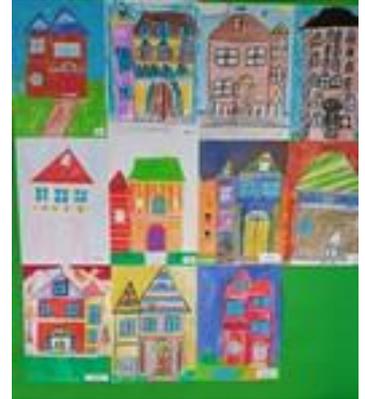
We have really enjoyed seeing the sun so much this week. In the following weeks it is most likely going to be wetter so please make sure your child has a rainproof coat in their bag.

In Literacy our grammar focus was on direct and indirect speech. We discovered how to punctuate sentences with direct speech and began a look at indirect or reported speech. Our comprehension was a newspaper article about a seal saving a drowning dog. There was a lot of new vocabulary to discover, eg. mudflats, and we enjoyed answering the questions. We also revised the pronunciation of the word 'the'. We spoke about how it changes after words beginning with a vowel. In the class reader, Mill Girl, we have discovered the

harsh realities of losing jobs and what it meant to the families concerned. We also found out that children could work in mills from the age of 9, but that it came with a lot of risks.

In Numeracy we are looking at place value of decimals as well as the multiplication and division of these. Later in the week we took a look at adding and subtracting them. Victorian workhouses captured our attention this week. What horrifying places they were! Families entering these places were split up and rarely saw each other again. They wore uncomfortable clothes, ate broth, cheese, bread and gruel and had to work hard. Once in a workhouse, one never left. Using our iPad skills, we created a page about the workhouses, edited it, added pictures and finally printed it. These are now on our classroom wall.

In Art we looked at the Victorian artists, William Morris and John Constable, to name a couple. Our focus was on Morris and how he designed patterned curtains and wallpaper. We then looked at Victorian houses and drew our own, using pastels, crayons and watercolours to finish them off. They adorn our classroom wall now.



In PE we finally got to go to tennis and had a marvellous time.

The talk topic this week is: Do you find our school uniform attractive and appealing? Discuss any changes you would make.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Vetter

[year5teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year5teacher@telenet.be)

### **Years 5 & 6 French**

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about 'Le matériel scolaire' (school stationery) and we followed up with a game. Then we talked about 'Les quatre saisons et la Météo' (the weather forecast). We came up with questions and answers to combine both: Quel temps fait-il 'en automne'...? (what's the weather like in 'autumn'..?). We also reviewed the conjugation of Avoir and had a team quiz.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we read and learnt a poem about a schoolgirl who has work to do but still wants to play. This poem also gave us the opportunity to revise school subject vocabulary. We also discussed how we come to school (en tram, à pied, à vélo etc) and learnt the verb "aller" in the present tense.

### **Year 6**



Dear Parents,

In science this week the students learnt about osmosis. They measured changes in the water content of two slices of cucumber, as they were left in two different liquids; distilled water and salty water. With the help of the Amoeba Sisters, their knowledge was extended to understanding the terms:

hypotonic, isotonic and hypertonic.

In SPaG, we looked at different types of adverbs, focusing on adverbs of intention – not to be confused with modal verbs! Some students have not yet grasped that spellings and their meanings must be learnt.

Also, in some cases, attitude towards homework needs to be improved; care and time should be taken and 150% effort is expected from all students.

The pupils worked through a comprehension exercise focusing on summarising, next week, we shall be working with Arlo the Author to improve our ability to spot ambitious vocabulary, figurative language and explain how these words or phrases add to the meaning of text.

We concluded our work on place value and associated word problems and are now attacking fractions, decimals and percentages.

Alex Rider has now been equipped with a range of gadgets for his mission to Port Talon. Pupils are tasked with designing a gadget for which they will produce a blueprint with technical specification, as well as a detailed description of how to deploy the gadget.

We love swimming at the NATO pool and, this week, the children took a lot less time to change, which means more time in the pool!

Talk Topic: Should children not wearing the correct school uniform be sent home?

Happy Weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

[year6teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year6teacher@telenet.be)

### **English as an Additional Language (EAL)**

Dear Parents,

This week, in the Junior Department EAL small group, we have been focusing on the past tense of common (and some less common) verbs. This involved understanding the concept of a verb, as well as the concept of the past. It enabled us to talk about Year 3's class topic, The Vikings. We will work again with verb tenses in a few weeks' time. We also read *Finding Things*, a non-fiction book from the Planet X series, relating our reading to last week's book (*The Silver Box*). We played a very exciting vocabulary duel game, to help remember last week's vocabulary.

In the Year One and Two EAL small group, we are focusing at the moment on gaining confidence to speak in longer phrases and sentences. We talked about the story *The Toys' Party*, using *because* to explain Kipper's feelings and actions. We also practised using the vocabulary relating to Year 1's topic, Oceans. We described some ocean creatures, using *it has legs/it has no tail* etc, and we talked about how the creatures survive in the ocean (*they live.., they need.., they eat* etc.)



If you would like to meet with me, I am usually available each Thursday at 8:30 in the Junior Department, and Friday at 8:30 in the Infant Department. Please contact me via the school office, or at the email address below.

I wish you a happy weekend.

Kate Read

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