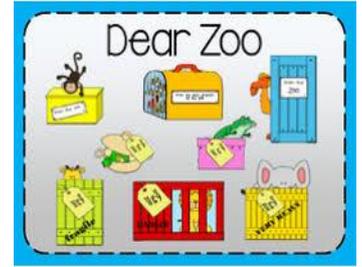


Nursery

Dear Parents,

The weeks are whizzing by and we are now incredibly into October! Signs of autumn are beginning to envelop the countryside and the weather is certainly getting a little cooler over these last few days. Please remember to bring your child to nursery wearing a suitable jacket and shoes for the increasingly wet and damp weather. However, it's still not quite Antarctic explorer clothes or gloves and scarf season, so please try and find a happy balance. Thank you to everyone who remembered to look in their child's home school book last week and had a go at helping them do the pattern-making game, great effort all round!



We went back to our theme of 'Myself and my family' this week and decided to take a look at 'Pets' to find out if anyone had a pet living in their house or, if not, what would they like to have as a pet. Firstly, we tried to define what having a pet actually meant, as there was a lot of confusion surrounding what a pet actually was, as many of the children thought keeping a lion or a tiger or a giraffe as a pet was great! Until someone decided that the lion might actually eat them up if it was hungry!

We also read the story 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell and decided some animals just did not make good pets for all sorts of reasons. If you don't know this story take a look at it on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rudDGRQ9QGA>

The children then did some small group work trying to identify, and stick the pictures of the animals we had looked at in the same order as they had been in the story, but one animal was missing - who could it be? If you look in your child's home school book you will see their handy work on the back of our pets word mat and the question is 'Who is missing?' listen to the story again and see if they can remember and then write the name of the animal they think it was on the paper for them. Or, let your child draw a picture of the missing animal and we will take a look next week and see who got it right, you can also practise with them naming all of the pets that they can see on the word mat using their English vocabulary.

Using scissors (child sized safety ones of course) so we can cut out all kinds of things in class is an important skill to work on during your little one's time in nursery. Watch this space for how you can help your child become a proficient cutter out! More information next week.

**Please remember it is important to drop your child off at school before 9am. Children who are late into class disrupt the lesson that has already started and this is not fair on the teacher or the other children or your child, as they will have missed the start of the classroom day. Thank you for your understanding.**

Our talk topic this week is: 'If you were allowed a pet, what would it be and how would you take care of it?'

Until next week keep looking out for signs of autumn when you are out and about.

Thank you

Alison Davies, Anna Nagy and Vanessa diFine

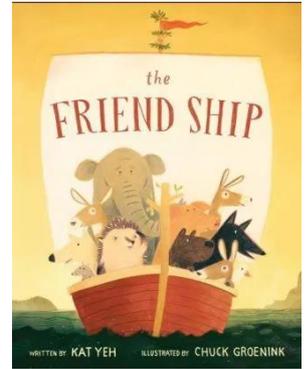
[nurseryteacher@telenet.be](mailto:nurseryteacher@telenet.be)

## **Reception**

Dear Parents,

Autumn is definitely here, and you can feel it in the air as the mornings are getting cooler.

In Phonics this week we introduced new letter sounds 'm' and 'd', but we also keep going back to the letter sounds we have learned in the past weeks. We are now putting letters together and learning to blend the sounds to read very simple and short words. For this we have played some phonic games online and the children got a chance to use the interactive whiteboard, which of course they all loved!



In Maths we have introduced positional language, so we took the children outside to play with balls and asked them to place them in different places using their body as a reference, 'put the ball on your head, put the ball between your knees, put the ball on the floor in front of you' and so on. We have also introduced teen numbers and we practised naming and recognising them.

Our topic this week was focused on friendships. We read two stories 'Strictly no Elephants' by Lisa Mantchev and 'The Friend Ship' by Kat Yeh. Both of them focus on the importance of making friends and feeling included. You will find in your child's Home School Book a fantastic drawing about this story. Ask your child if they remember which animals sailed off in the ship.

To add to this, we had a very interesting discussion about friendly and unfriendly attitudes and the children came up with very good explanations and ideas. Now everything has to be put into practice in daily play routines.

One of the highlights of the week is always our P.E. sessions. Children just love going to the top playground and using the special equipment we have for this end. This week we played throwing and catching a ball in a big circle and then in pairs. We also played 'Tag', a whole group game with simple rules that have to be followed. This is a little bit tricky at the moment because with the excitement of running away from the child who is 'it' the rules are simply forgotten. So every time we go back to them and have another go in the hope that the children will play by them.

Our talk topic for next week is: *'if you had your own 'Friend Ship', what animals would you invite to come along and sail the seas with you?'*

As the weather is changing, please send your child to school with appropriate coats and shoes. And a kind reminder, if your child is wearing rain boots please include a pair of shoes or slippers in their bag as boots are not comfortable enough to spend the whole day in them. Thank you for your understanding.

Have a nice and restful weekend.

See you all back on Monday.

Ines van Wassenhove and Ivana Julaton

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

## **Nursery and Reception Music**

This week in music, we continued singing about autumn and the beautiful leaves falling off the trees. We also perfected our instruments playing skills and learned to follow simple instructions from our teacher.

## Languages

The Reception children very much enjoyed their full session of **French** on Wednesday, in which Mme Scharf introduced some essential words and phrases, including *Bonjour, Salut, Je m'appelle...* and *fille et garçon* (boy and girl). In English, we re-read the story of the Very Hungry Caterpillar, and practised talking about food, numbers and the days of the week. We also read the story of Little Mouse and the Big Red Apple, and talked about sharing.

## Year 1

Dear Parents,

Our 'sounds of the week' have been the first set of Phase 3 sounds: /j/, /v/, /w/, /x/, /y/, /z/ and /qu/, together with /zz/. Although these sounds occur less frequently, the children already recognise them when reading, and can use them to write simple words. The children have also learnt that, in English, the letter 'q' is always accompanied by its friend 'u', to form the /qu/ sound. We also spent some time on the Phase 2 'tricky words' - words that do not follow the rules of phonics and that the children must learn to recognise quickly. You can see some of their work on this in this week's Home School Book. For our main writing session, we practised creating our own sentences, using random pictures as prompts. It was good to see so many children already becoming used to the simple conventions of capital letters and full stops and also understanding that a sentence must tell us something.

Our focus in Maths this week has been on number work: recognition of number words (one, two etc), improving our speed in stating 1 more and 1 less than a given number, and estimating. The latter is a difficult concept for young children to understand - when presented with an unspecified quantity of items, their instinct is to begin counting. However, we practised with boxes of chestnuts, pebbles and coins, and the children began to make some reasonable estimates. They also learned that it is easier, safer and quicker to divide large quantities into groups of 5 or 10, and then to count in 5s or 10s at the end.

In our topic sessions, we talked about creatures which swim in the sea, but don't live in it. This led us to penguins and polar bears, which in turn led us to a discussion of continents and some map-work, colouring and labelling a world map with the names of the seven continents. We also talked about rivers - how they start, how they increase in size, who or what lives in them, on them or next to them, and finally how we get across them. The latter led seamlessly into our PE activity of 'river crossings' - a team relay race to get everyone and their treasure across the dangerous river without falling in!



Thank you for returning your permission slips - the Year 1 web page is now up and running for this year - you can catch up with September's activities here: <http://www.bisb.org/project/year-1-september-2019/> There will be no Maths homework this weekend, as next week is a revision week. Our Talk Topic for Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October will be "Think of some things that we can do with water, in water or on water".

Wishing you a relaxing weekend,

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru

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

## French

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we all know our prepositions “devant, derrière, sur, sous, dans, à côté de et au milieu de” really well and can answer the question : “Où es-tu ?” (Where are you?). We sang songs to help us remember these words and we played games. We also created a memory game.

## Year 1 and 2 Music

Time flies and it might not seem like it, but our Christmas production is getting closer too! Two months for seven challenging songs will definitely not be too much time!

## Year 2

Dear Parents!



Last Friday in assembly we learned a lot about climate change and global warming and the children really liked the subject. They had lots of brilliant ideas of how we can help save the planet and are very eager to learn more about global warming. Therefore, we decided to dedicate this week to issues concerning global warming. We have especially been talking about things that we notice in our environment. Things that pollute, like cars, using too much electricity and being wasteful. As well as things that are good for the planet, like cycling, planting trees and plants, and reducing, reusing and recycling rather than buying a lot of new things!

In literacy we wrote a lot about global warming as that was our focus this week. The children wrote about what it is that is harmful to the planet, and they also wrote a lot of great ideas of how we can help save the planet. Our book of the week was *The Lorax*, by Dr. Seuss, where we learned about how people sometimes treat the environment and discussed what is a good way to treat the planet and the animals that live on it.

In maths we continued to work with numbers to one hundred, comparing and ordering them, figuring out which one out of two numbers is the bigger one and which number is smaller. We learned to use the < and > signs. We call them Crocodile mouths and we learned that the mouth opens towards the higher number, thus enhancing their understanding of big numbers.

Talk topic of the week is: How could we reduce our carbon footprint in our home?

Finally, the stars of the week go to Pranavi for doing excellent work in all of our Global Warming work this week and to Niteesh for being super enthusiastic about our Carbon Footprint work and art piece. Congratulations Pranavi and Niteesh 😊

Elin Hafstein & Ena Tolentino

[Year2teacher@telenet.be](mailto:Year2teacher@telenet.be)

## French

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about ‘les quatre saisons’ (the four seasons) and we used the expressions we learned last week about ‘la météo’ to interview each other and talk about our ‘saison préférée’. Then, we started preparing for our first project which will be about ‘L’automne’ ( autumn) and many things and vocabulary we associate with l’automne.

In the Year One and Two **EAL sessions** this week, we have been revising essential vocabulary relating to school and home. We read the story *Peace at Last*, and talked about rooms in a house, and objects that we see in different rooms. We worked with prepositions (*in, on, under, behind*), and question words (*what, who*,

where, how many), in a team quiz. We played a lotto game, which involved practising writing 3 letter words to name familiar things.

### **Year 3**

Dear Parents,

It's been another fun filled week in year 3! We've enjoyed our continuing work on the Vikings. This week we did a group project to make models of Viking Longhouses. First, we looked up some information about them. We found out that they typically didn't have windows and that they were long because the animals lived at one end and the people at the other! The children used a variety of materials to make their Viking longhouses, boxes, tape, art straws and sticks. They also made some Vikings, animals and Viking style long benches to go inside them. It was great to see such good teamwork amongst the children; I was very impressed to see the level of engagement and interest in the activity and to see the children working together to achieve their goal.



In mathematics we have been learning how to place numbers on an empty number line. We learned to identify the multiples of 100 that the number was between and use our knowledge of place value to put the number in the correct place. We also did work on rounding to the nearest 100 and nearest 10. We compared three-digit numbers using the more than and less than signs. We also learned about the numbers of days and weeks in a month and in a year. We were worried about the people born on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February in a leap year because their birthday only comes around once every four years!

In literacy we revisited the story 'Viking Vik and the Trolls' and our work on describing characters and story settings. We used all of this knowledge to write our own stories. First, we planned what our characters were going to be like and where the story was going to be set by using a story map. Then we talked about the features of good writing – Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation. After watching how to turn ideas into writing, the children had a go at writing their stories. Also, in literacy this week we did our spelling test and learned about using commas in a list in our grammar lesson.

Next Friday afternoon is our first orienteering session. If you think you could come along and help us with this trip please let us know.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Camilla Rutayisire

[Year3teacher@telenet.be](mailto:Year3teacher@telenet.be)

### **Year 3 Music**

This week, we got our first taste of what it means to practice for the show in the Junior Department. We realized the songs were much more challenging that what we were used to last year, but we are very excited to be finally part of this big event!

## Year 4

Dear Parents,

It's been a week marked by rain and Tuesday was a veritable wash-out. What better day then to map the Junior School? The children really took to this task and while the other classes were busy speaking French, our Y4 building engineers were able to infiltrate the Emeraude Department unchastened. Top, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> and ground floors were all attacked, mapped and then technically drawn using some of Mrs Tranter's finest design paper. A great activity followed 30 minutes later with a cease in the rain and a sunny lunchtime play outside – perfect!



The week was marked also by some key learning in both Numeracy and Literacy. In maths, the children learnt the next stage in using the Grid Method (visited last year in Y3) but also learnt fractions of amounts for the first time (e.g. 1/10 of 60). Many coped without a hitch, but many grasped the basics but found it difficult to master it independently.

In English, we focused entirely on dialogue rules and how and where to use related punctuation. This week's homework will do exactly the same. The books Peter Pan and Tom's Midnight Garden provided stimuli for these lessons.

I am now beginning to clarify more acutely the children's proficiency levels, but over the next 2 weeks there will be writing, reading and maths course assessments which will provide even more of a picture on what each child needs to further target their learning.

Whatever the results, the children appear to be enjoying learning and the dream sequence storyboarding we have been finishing off is a fine example of this. Met with equal enthusiasm was the task of making various homemade switches for the class circuits. For me, the greater interest of this activity is the way it demands logical thinking and common sense on the part of the children, and it can be hugely revealing.

And that was our week. Have a nice weekend.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman, Mrs Tolentino & 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 some masculine and feminine nouns with the indefinite articles 'Un et Une', and then we followed up with a fun game.

We talked about '**les loisirs**', our favourite hobbies, and we learned how to use the prepositions à, au, aux with verb **jouer**. We also worked on our French book Zig Zag to help us reinforce what we've learned.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still working really hard on être (to be) and avoir (to have) in the present tense. We also reviewed the negative sentence : "je ne suis pas .... / je n'ai pas de ....". Not an easy subject but everyone did really well.

## Year 4, 5 and 6 Music

Our week has been shared between our first practice of the songs from the Christmas show and recorder playing on Thursday.

## Year 5

Dear Parents,

There is now a decided chill in the air, which tells us winter is coming. It has also been very wet, so it is important for your child to have a waterproof coat as we go out as often as possible.

In Literacy we focused on nouns and pronouns. We found out that things you see and feel, as well as know (understanding), can also be considered as nouns. Our comprehension this week was called the Diver. This is a poem in which we could see examples of onomatopoeia. We read another 10 pages of the Mill Girl in which we learnt that Eliza has begun working in the mill. Usually on Fridays we write a story - I am so glad to see children trying to use our words of the day to enhance these stories.

In Numeracy we have finished our unit on perimeter and moved on to subtraction using the column method and the expanded method. You might find this video enlightening if you are not sure of what I mean: <https://www.khanacademy.org/math/arithmetic/arith-review-add-subtract/arith-review-subtract-within-100/v/introduction-to-regrouping-borrowing> I have also allocated videos explaining this on activelearn.

In topic we took a look at Queen Victoria; taking notes at first and then writing a passage on the iPad, adding a photo and finally printing it. I have backed these lovely pieces of work and they are now part of our Victorian display on the classroom.

In PE we enjoyed our second tennis lesson and came back refreshed and full of energy.

In Art we coloured in some of William Morris' designs. It is taking a bit of time as we are colouring in very carefully. Our Monet paintings are up and our classroom is looking bright and full of the children's work.

The first of our pen licences was given out this week. This gives a child the opportunity to write in pen if they so choose.

Friday saw our very first school debate on school uniforms. It was an interesting afternoon.

The talk topic this week is: What time do you go to bed? It is important for you to get 8-10 hours sleep a night. Do you get enough sleep?

Have a very calm weekend,

Mrs Vetter

[Year5teacher@telenet.be](mailto:Year5teacher@telenet.be)



*William Morris designs*



## Years 5 & 6 French

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we learned more than twenty action verbs to describe or talk about our daily or weekly routines during every day of the week. We also talked about our plans in the near future, by learning how to use '**le futur proche**' (the near future) with verb 'Aller', which we discussed last week.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we read a new poem that the children will recite next week. We also carried on with Europe and the European Union topic. Next week we will learn the nationalities, masculine and feminine, and the various languages.

## Year 6

Dear Parents,

What an awesome week in Year 6! On Monday morning, the excitement about our forthcoming night in the Atomium required drastic action to suppress! So, there was no option but to focus our attention to spellings, dictation and solving fraction of quantities problems.

It was gadgets galore in the Year 6 gadget lab! Applying computational thinking (divide and conquer) skills from our Codeweek.EU lesson, scientific specific vocabulary and technical drawing skills, the designers created blueprints of their gadgets and wrote descriptions and instructions for these. I am now terrified to pick up a pen or pencil case in Year 6 in case I end up incapacitated for 10 minutes! We continued reading (and listening to) Stormbreaker – Alex has been caught by Mr Grin – will he survive?

In maths, we began our module on mathematical patterns, codes and algebra.

It is such a privilege to spend a night in the Atomium and worth every minute of not having any sleep! Thank you to Tomasz for delivering our mountain of luggage to the Atomium. Think about it... a Year 6 sleepover in suspended pods, brushing your teeth by twinkling fairy light from the illuminated spheres, pizza, chocolate, snacks, drinks, midnight-feasts, watching Johnny English in the mini-cinema, playing games, gadgets, warm croissants and 'pain au chocolat' for breakfast – not to mention a private tour of the Atomium. Heaven if you are eleven! The thrill continued with a perfect picnic lunch organised by Mrs Still – thank you - and then a swim in the NATO pool.

Thank you to our news reporter, Maanas from last week – I am pleased that the students are putting so much effort into these presentations.

I think that we all need this weekend to recover from the excitement of this very special week.

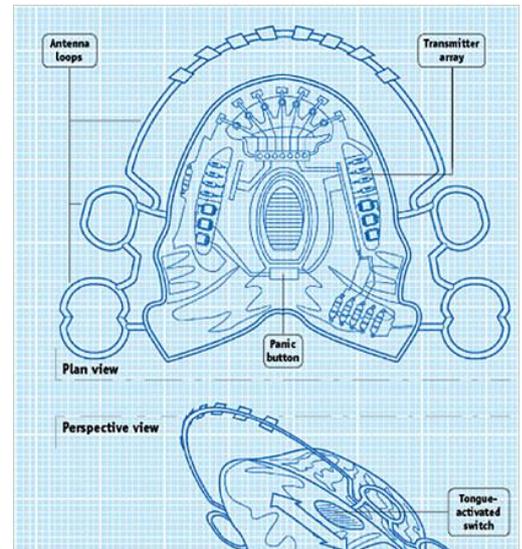
Talk Topic: What issue would you like to debate next?

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, the Junior Department EAL small group worked a little more with verbs, developing the concept of verb tenses. We also looked at the importance of time phrases. We read the book, *The Gift*, which is a sequel to last week's book, and which involves a magic staff. We had fun sharing ideas about what a magic staff could do, and the children wrote a short passage about their own magic staff. We took some time to prepare for the Junior Department debate, and we learnt to use phrases such as *I agree/disagree with you; That's a good point.*

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

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