

Nursery

Dear Parents,

Look out, we are all superheroes this week and our superpowers range from flying without an aeroplane to making chocolate ice cream for everyone! We hope you had as much fun discussing the talk topic as we have had painting ourselves dressed as a superhero with our bespoke superhero costumes. Keep an eye out when you are next in nursery and you might spot us just flying around somewhere!



To continue our activity on dressing ourselves and layering clothes, especially the uniform we wear for school, the children, instead of practising dressing themselves, have practised dressing teddy. Poor teddy has been pulled and squeezed in an effort to get all of the school uniform to fit one layer onto another and that is not including the extra leggings etc. that your little one wears underneath their fleecy jogging pants or school sweatshirt! Some children found the activity trickier than others and do need more practice dressing themselves at home, which is a huge part of acquiring some good independence skills. If you look at the wonderful photograph in your little one's home school book, you will see step-by-step how they got on with the activity. Don't forget to talk with them about it and see if they can remember the names of the clothes that went underneath, where we can't see them, and which clothes went on top of teddy, where we do see them.

Please remember that when your little one comes to nursery, please do not put too many layers of leggings, tights, etc. underneath their jogging bottoms. This causes havoc with going to the toilet as by the time they have pulled all the layers down, sometimes it's too late to pee in the toilet! Remember it is also warm in nursery, even though it may be chilly outside. Too many layers underneath the school uniform makes it uncomfortable and difficult for your child to move around easily. One extra layer and a good quality warm coat in the winter months is sufficient.

We are also practising number conservation activities this week and in the following weeks and, to tie in with the superhero theme, have done some superhero number bonds to 10. Number conservation means that your child will eventually not just recognise the actual number as it is written and count by rote, but will be able to understand that the number of objects that corresponds with each number remains the same even when rearranged, hidden or covered up etc. Number conservation is important to have before your child is ready for the concept of addition, where they will be able to count on to find the total of two groups. It is a process which can take a long time to grasp, so we start the first layer in Nursery and it is then successfully built upon throughout each class.

We hope you all enjoyed the Diwali and Autumn craft evening last Friday, the nursery teachers certainly did and Mrs Davies particularly enjoyed a samosa or two, very tasty indeed!

Our talk topic for you and your little one to discuss this weekend is; 'If you were a superhero, what superpower would you like to have?'

It would be great to see you at our walk in the woods event this Sunday, please don't be put off by the chilly weather, just wrap up warm, put on your walking shoes with a thick pair of socks and come and join us. It really is a beautiful route through the forest and the autumn leaves look amazing. Otherwise we will

see you next week back in nursery. Until then, have a great weekend wherever you are and whatever you are doing.

Alison Davies, Anna Nagy and Vanessa diFine

nurseryteacher@telenet.be

Reception

Dear Parents,

This week we have been learning about owls. We watched some videos that showed different species and listened to how the hooting noises they make vary from one type of owl to the other. The children had fun imitating them and, as you can imagine, the classroom sounded as a forest at dusk. We also read the book 'Little Owl' a very sweet story about a baby owl and the adventures he has while learning to fly.



We made a lovely owl craft that will be hung on our Autumn wall, along with the pasta hedgehogs and the popcorn mushrooms!

In Maths we have been working on ordering numbers from 1 to 10 and seeing in detail which number comes before and after a given one. We have also worked with measures; long and short. We played a jumping game in the classroom where we measured the distance your children could jump in one go and you'd be surprised by how far your little ones can actually get.

In Phonics we have introduced new letter sounds, h-b-f-l and we have also learned two tricky words: 'the' and 'to'. As usual we add these on to the letter sounds the children already know, introducing new vocabulary to be used in our blending games.

In this week's home school book you will find a phonics activity focused on beginning letter sounds. The children had to find the beginning sound of each of the animals shown in the pictures.

Exciting news! We are planning a trip to the Warandeborg Park in Wezembeek-Oppem on Thursday 5th of December. This outing fits in with our current topic as the park is surrounded by a lot of nature and hopefully we'll be able to see some animals around. We will be leaving school at 11 o'clock and returning at around 12:45 ready to have our lunch in the classroom. The children do not need to take anything to the park apart from winter coats, hats, scarves, gloves, appropriate shoes and wear their green joggers instead of the grey trousers or grey skirts.

We will kindly ask three parents to come along with us, so if you are free on that day and at that time, please contact us through the school office or through the class teacher email address. Your help will be much appreciated.

An important reminder for everybody. The school needs to have a written authorization whenever your child is being picked up by someone who's not his/her parent. Notice given at the door by a third party is not enough, so please remember that if you have someone picking up your child, you need to send an email or call the school office as early as possible. Thank you for your understanding.

Our talk topic for next week is: *if you were to hibernate all winter, what food and things would you keep close to you?*

We wish you all a nice weekend, keep warm and hope you enjoy the annual walk in the woods on Sunday.

See you back on Monday.

Mrs. van Wassenhove and Mrs. Julaton

receptionteacher@telenet.be

Nursery and Reception Music

This week in music, we continued to practise our Christmas songs. We are getting quite good at remembering all the words, and now it is all about singing loud and clear!

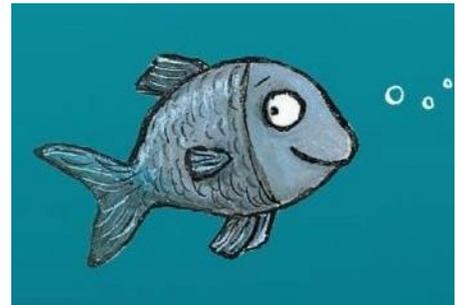
French

In French with Madame Scharf, we have been focusing on learning colours. We read stories, we sang songs and played games to help us remember them and we managed to learn the names of eleven colours. We also learnt to say : “Je voudrais du bleu, du rouge, etc ... s’il vous plaît.” .

Year 1

Dear Parents,

Our 'sounds of the week' for this week were /ur/ as in 'burn' and /ow/ as in 'town'. The latter sound is an example of where phonics becomes a bit tricky in Year 1, as the /ow/ digraph also appears in words such as 'snow'. Nevertheless, we practised as usual, with a combination of interactive games, video clips, writing practice, both on whiteboards and in exercise books, and a worksheet which you can see in this week's home school book. 'Tiddler' this week did not turn up for school, and the children had to imagine that he was lost: in an effort to find him, they had to create a 'lost' poster, with a description, a picture and a reward! There were some super descriptions and lovely pictures, and they will be on display soon.



In Maths this week, we have been working on improving our addition and subtraction skills. We started by adding and subtracting small numbers to and from teen numbers, concentrating on the ideas of 'counting on' and 'counting back' and the corresponding direction to move along a number line. We then moved on to adding three small numbers, focusing on two concepts: first, that it does not matter in which order we add the three numbers, and second, that we should look for quick ways to add the numbers, such as doubles or bonds to 10, which we should all know by now. For example, in the sum $4+3+4$, we spot double $4=8$, then add 3, and in $3+4+7$, we spot that $3+7=10$, then add 4.

On Wednesday, the children put the final touches to two longer-term Art projects: their egg-box ocean scene, including various clay creatures, which they have now brought home, and a rather large paper-chain octopus, which is on the classroom wall, and has menacingly wrapped one tentacle around the class teddy bear! We also found time to make our Christmas crowns for the show, to have two show practices, and to have another fun (and loud!) session programming the bee-bots.

Next week's Maths homework is called 'Starfish Strike 1.10', and this will be the last one until after Christmas. Our Talk Topic for next week will be "How many ways of travelling in or on water can you think of?"

Enjoy the weekend.

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru

year1teacher@telenet.be

French

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still listening to our story "Une maison de musiciens" and we are now learning all the parts of the body with the help of songs, games and stories. We learnt a poem that the children illustrated and took home. Please ask them to recite it to you, they know it really well.

Year 2

Dear Parents,

This week our second group started their swimming sessions, and there was much excitement amongst the new swimmers. We also continued our preparations for the Christmas show by making costumes and props, by practising our lines and remembering when to say them, and last but not least, by practising the songs for the show. The children have been great at practicing one song a day at home with parents and the results have been fantastic! They have made so much progress! 😊



In maths this week it was all about measuring. The children have now measured most things inside the classroom, and even some things outside the classroom!! They are starting to learn that one meter is 100 cm, and therefore we measure big things in meters and small things in centimeters. We even practiced measuring things in dm (1dm = 10 cm). With all this measuring the children are getting a firmer idea of how big things are, the difference in sizes that things have, and of course all the different measurements that we have!

This week we have been reading *The Magic Finger*, by Roald Dahl. The children love the story and are super excited for each of our reading sessions. In grammar we continued to talk about verbs and how to recognize them, and we started to learn about when it is appropriate to use commas in a text, currently focusing on using commas when we write a list (for example, I need to buy apples, oranges, grapes and juice).

Our Talk topic is: What are some of the good things we could do if we had a magic finger?

Stars of the week go to Pragnan for excellent progress in writing and for doing a really good job writing about our Christmas show! And to Yuvanathi for showing good progress in her ability to concentrate on her work and for doing really well in measuring this week! Congratulations Pragnan and Yuvanathi 😊

Have a lovely weekend.

Elin Hafstein and Ena Tolentino

Year2teacher@telenet.be

Year 1 and 2 Music

Two weeks left and it is all coming together! We have done an amazing job learning the lyrics of our songs and we are now working on achieving more precision and clarity in our singing.

French Year 2

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed '**les jours de la semaine**' (days of the week) and we learned a beautiful song '**lundi matin**'. It was fun and interesting to understand the storyline and at the same time follow the days of the week.

Also, we learned more words related to '**les repas**' (meals, food and vegetables), followed by a witty game.

Year 3

Dear Parents,

This week we have been very busy preparing for the Junior department winter production. We have been making props and scenery, practising singing the songs and some children have had some lines to learn. It's all beginning to come together and I'm sure all their hard work will be worth it when the day of the show comes around in a little over two weeks!

In literacy we did our usual spelling lesson on Monday. We have just a few weeks left of adverbs before moving to a new spelling topic after the Christmas break. It was a good week for spelling, with many children managing to spell all of the words correctly. In guided reading we concentrated on recognising speech parts in a text and reading with good expression and intonation. We also discussed the characters and story setting in the books. The children are becoming fluent when reading in a group and are really engaging well with the texts that we read during these sessions.

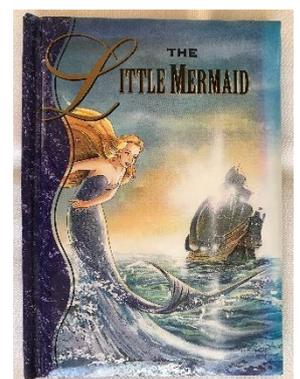
In grammar we revised the topics we have covered so far in preparation for a writing task next week. In our text level lesson, we looked at Hans Christian Andersen's original version of The Little Mermaid. We agreed that it was a sad but beautiful story with a very engaging main character. The children were able to write about the setting, characters and the main events that occurred using a good level of detail and description.

In maths we are reaching the end of the Abacus scheme for the autumn term. We did division with remainders this week. It seemed a tricky topic at first but when the children realised that using objects or their knowledge of times tables can help, they were dividing with great confidence! We also reviewed methods of addition and subtraction taught this term – partitioning, counting up (frog method) and counting back. We discussed when to use these different methods and why.

Kind regards,

Camilla Rutayisire

Year3teacher@telenet.be



Year 4

Dear Parents,

At this time of year, when we are fully immersed in preparing for the show, one must adapt, tweak and, above all, have a good sense of humour! To get the very best out of the children, scene set-pieces must be practised, singing must be mastered, props and scenery have to be made and 60-plus children must be managed and juggled to do that. The timetable floats.

But the greater part of it sails on regardless. This week in Maths, we dwelt more on fractions and decimals and ended with an enjoyable jaunt into adding 4-digit (or bigger) numbers.

In Science, we were on the thermometers again - this time, an experiment to find the coldest and warmest parts of the classroom. At the time of writing, on the radiator is hot, on the sink and by a draught are not!

Literacy and Topic were consumed by making our property brochures and Keynote (PowerPoint) presentations. It's a logistical nightmare but it's hugely rewarding to see all the children's hard work done at home (and in class) being drawn together to create a finished and glossy product! Each child, without exception, is completely engaged in the project. Great!

On Thursday, while the Castle Clubbers played tennis, my 'stay-at-school group' really enjoyed playing football and learning close ball control. By Thursday, temperatures had gone up a bit and the children got quite sweaty!

And that was our week.

There is very little left of the term, but we are tying up many ends and enjoying every minute of it. Once we hit December, this sense will just double.

Two weeks 'til the show and much more!

Our Talk Topic for this week is: What kind of house, where, would you like?

Best wishes

Tim Stedman, Mrs Tolentino & Mrs Irakoze

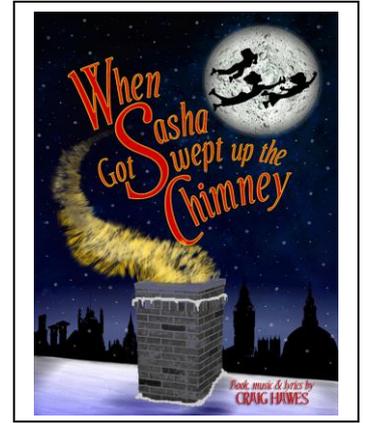
year4teacher@telenet.be

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

Years 3 & 4 French

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about '**Action verbs**' and we learned more than fifteen of them. We talked about how to use these verbs in questions and answers, as in **Est-ce que tu nages bien?** (do you swim well?), **Oui, je nage bien** (yes, I swim well) etc. Also, we reviewed and worked with '**les adjectifs**' in the feminine and masculine, and we had a fun activity where we had to describe three persons: **Myself** using **Je** (I), un garçon (a boy) using '**il**' (he) and une fille (a girl) using **elle** (she).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have focused on two questions: "Tu aimes les chiens?" with two possibilities for an answer: "Oui, j'aime les chiens." or "Non, je n'aime pas les chiens.". The second question is: "As-tu



un animal à la maison ?” with again two possible answers : “Oui, j’ai un animal.” or “Non, je n’ai pas d’animal à la maison”. We also used all the other pronouns and learnt a poem about animals.

Year 5

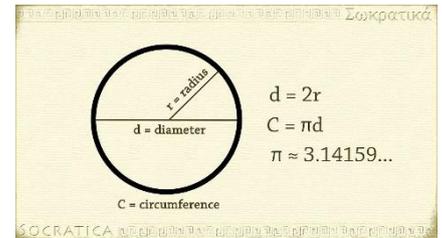
Dear Parents,

Winter has absolutely arrived with the temperatures dipping below zero. Please make sure your child has a warm, waterproof coat for this time of the year.

In Literacy we have been focusing on our lines and acting. In short, the dramatic part of Literacy is fully on the go. Lines have got to have been learnt by now as not knowing these lines would result in letting the side down. Dance practices are also being held daily and dancers have been practising in pairs and groups. We did find time to do a comprehension on a passage from The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. The children enjoyed the story and were again faced with new and unusual words.



In Numeracy we delved into the realm of angles and circles. We learnt how to measure angles using a protractor as well as to draw angles using these protractors. We revised the meaning of acute, obtuse and reflex angles. Just when we thought maths could not get any more exciting, we began learning about circles. We learnt about the radius, diameter and circumference of a circle. We then used compasses to draw circles before discovering a formula to work out the circumference of a circle using π (3.14). This has been an exciting and memorable week in Numeracy.



We used iPads to write thank you letters to our Wild Earth guides although these are not yet complete.

Whilst having play practices, we split into groups doing activities such as sport, art and crafts. This kept the children occupied gainfully whilst acting was being perfected. On Thursday, we had a full rehearsal with Mrs Mayeur. This went quite well although there is still much work to be done.

On Friday we went on our French outing to Montagne Magique which we enjoyed.

The talk topic this week is: Why is it important to learn our lines and do our best in the school play? How does this affect the other children?

Enjoy your weekend.

Mrs Vetter

Year5teacher@telenet.be

Years 5 & 6 French

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about the use of irregular verbs and particularly the verbs of the 3ème groupe (the third group). Also, we worked with three key verbs: ‘**Devoir, Pouvoir, Vouloir**’ (To have to or must, To be able to or can, and To want) .

We learned and practiced how to conjugate and use them with different subject pronouns.

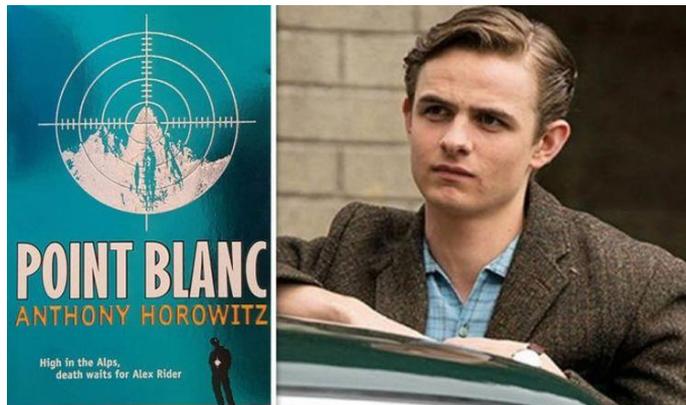
We followed up with an interactive role-playing ‘**Qu’est-ce que tu veux faire?**’ Where we could see how to use these three verbs combined with other action verbs.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished watching the film we started last week: “L’appel du grand nord”. We also corrected a series of exercises on “l’accord de l’adjectif” and talked about the plural of the adjectives which also change in French.

Year 6

Dear Parents,

I was very pleased to discover that all the Year 6 actors and actresses knew their lines at the rehearsal last Friday; some have over 70 lines to remember! Great job Year 6! Rehearsals are now in full swing, with at least two a week and dancing practice during lunch breaks. It’s all hands to the decks at the moment – terrific teamwork from Team Juniors (staff and children).



On the subject of teamwork, we enjoyed a superb game of football on Tuesday; we all commented that, as Year 6 students, we had developed a true ‘esprit de corps’. It was a memorable moment in the Year 6 journey!

Second look at fractions this week, which included: equivalent fractions, mixed number, simplifying, improper, finding fractions of a number and using all four calculation methods with fractions.

Whilst individual pupils were receiving verbal feedback on their double spread Black Hole information work, others worked through a range of comprehensions focusing on inference skills as well as revising determiners and fronted adverbials.

We are totally absorbed in our second book about Alex Rider and with only one third of the book to go, the atmosphere in our classroom is electrifying! Alex is now on a mission at the Point Blanc Academy. He has learnt about the Gemini project and knows that Dr Grief and Mrs Stellenbosch - Mrs Stomach-Bag – as the boys refer to her, is up to no good. We must finish this book before the end of term!

On Thursday, we had our first rehearsal with music; excitement is mounting as the big day looms. We have some terrific actors, actresses and soloists in the Juniors,

This afternoon we have an outing to the theatre la Montagne Magique - another thrilling week in Year 6.

Talk Topic: How might an actor feel, when he hears a mobile phone ringing in the audience – discuss?

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/04/30/mobile-phones-ruining-theatre-blame-middle-aged-sherlock-star/>

Happy weekend,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

Year6teacher@telenet.be

Junior Department Music

Now that our words have been memorized, we can start to focus on how to sing with musicality. Our goal is to fully understand what the songs are about, adapt our singing according to the content of each songs and to make the audience feel this through our musical interpretation.

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Dear Parents,

This week, the Reception EAL small group explored the idea of sorting animals into groups, and practised the associated language (eg. These animals all have..., These animals don't have...) One main focus was on animals which lay eggs and those which don't, stemming from a story about dinosaurs and their eggs. We also practised using the simple past tense to retell a story about a boy (Kipper) going to nursery school.



The Year One and Two EAL small group this week read a simple book together about animals, taking care to stop at each full stop. We also practised reading and writing the tricky words (which are not decodable phonetically): I, you, no, go, to, be, me, we, she he, my, they, all, are, was, the, In connection with Year One's study of water, and the book Tiddler, we watched a programme about the Midnight Layer of the ocean, and found out what kind of animals live there.

In the Junior Department this week, we read another instalment of the Totem series, focusing on using punctuation to help with our expression and intonation when we read aloud. We also read a text giving instructions, noting that in each sentence, the verb was at the beginning (eg. **Cut a strip of card, Stick the decorations on the card**). We then wrote our own set of instructions together (for a game involving adjectives and animals). We reread the funny rhyming poem *Please Mrs. Butler*, and we read another funny poem (which did not rhyme): *I Wanna be the Leader*.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read

ealteacher@telenet.be