

Nursery

Dear Parents,



This is last home school book letter of 2019! The next time we write to you it will be 2020 and the beginning of the Spring term. The time since your little ones started in nursery in September (a bit later for some) has gone incredibly fast and it is wonderful to see how they are all progressing with their communication and language skills, personal, social and emotional development and physical development, which are the three prime areas in the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.

The two themes on 'All about me and my family' and 'Clothes' that we have covered so far, were fun and informative and our new theme after the holiday will be all about food and healthy habits, so watch this space! Of course, our mini theme over the last couple of weeks has been about all things Christmassy! The children have had great fun making all manner of Christmas items and this week they even cooked Christmas shortbread biscuits, which we hope they at least gave you a nibble of! Enjoy all of the wonderful surprises they should have brought home in their Christmas bag.

However, the highlight of our week was the nursery Christmas show on Thursday, we had some little voices, some big voices and rather a lot of Christmas conga dancing! But, above all else, we hope that you enjoyed every minute of the show and the glittering costumes. Broadway here we come!

Just a quick reminder that school finishes at 12.15 for everyone next Wednesday 18th December and there is no garderie service in the afternoon. We reopen on 6th January and there will be a number of new children joining us, so when you see a new face outside during pick up time, please say hello and welcome.

All we have left to say for this term is; ***HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR! However you celebrate, have some fun and family time. See you all in 2020!***

Thank you for all your support this term.

Alison Davies, Anna Nagy and Vanessa diFine

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Nursery Music

What fun it was to dress up and sing upstairs for all the Mummies and Daddies! We were a little bit shy with our singing, although our lips moved to the correct rhythms and words. We had some great dancers amongst us and it was a good first experience of going on stage!

Reception

Dear Parents,

The Autumn term has come to an end. In the past months your children have worked really hard in all areas and have all given their best to fulfil the activities we have planned and done in the classroom. So, a big hooray and well done for them and now a well-deserved holiday to rest, keep warm and enjoy the Christmas season.



This week, as announced in last week's newsletter, we worked on our Christmas crafts. The children have created some beautiful things that they will take home next Tuesday, from tree decorations to Christmas cards and Christmas-theme colouring.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy looking through all the work they have done in the term, as today you have received a bag with their art file, worksheets and Autumn crafts. Involve your children while you're going through their work by asking them what each piece of work was and see how much they can recall about it. This is also good practice for their communication skills!

Next Monday we are having our so-awaited Christmas show! All the songs have been learnt and the excitement has risen to top level, so I hope you'll appreciate the children's singing and dancing. As I explained in a previous newsletter, you're invited to take your children home after the show if you wish to do so, otherwise they'll stay in school and have a regular Monday afternoon.

In Maths we have started working on addition up to five. So, we have put presents, elves, Christmas trees and baubles in groups of one, two, three and four and added one, two or three more and seen how many we had in total.

In your child's home school book you will find a maths worksheet in which the children had to colour Christmas objects following a colour code and then chart how many of each object they coloured on a graph. To finish the work, they had to indicate which object was more or less than the rest.

This is all for this week. Have a lovely weekend and we hope to see all of you on Monday for what promises to be an exciting show!

Mrs. van Wassenhove and Mrs. Julaton

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Reception Music

Don't forget to come to our show on Monday! We have prepared some very exciting winter songs for you and we are very much looking forward to performing them. See you soon!

French

In French with Madame Scharf, we have been talking about Noël (Christmas) and everything that goes with it : Father Christmas (le père Noël), Christmas tree (le sapin), the presents (les cadeaux) etc. Lots of new vocabulary and songs to get ready for Christmas. We read stories and made beautiful pictures to create Christmas cards. We also tasted speculoos biscuits, which we loved !

Year 1

Dear Parents,

Even though our show is over, and there were no more practices, this has been a hectic week, trying to fit in all our Christmas activities.

In Literacy, we had our first attempt at letter-writing. We discussed the reasons we write letters, how we should start and end them, and how we should always be polite, especially if, as in the case of a letter to Santa, we are hoping for a pleasant result! So, in the Home School Book this week, you will find your child's Christmas wish-list - you now have just under two weeks to make sure he or she is not disappointed! In Phonics, we learnt the last of the phase 3 sounds, namely /ure/ and its close friend /ture/. The children have learnt these sounds as 'long' and 'short' versions, as in 'pure' (long, without a 't') and 'picture' (short, with a preceding 't') respectively. In January we shall move straight on to Phase 4.

This week in Maths, we were 'free' to explore a number of Maths topics which will be covered in greater depth in the coming year. We started by creating and interpreting simple block graphs (part of 'Data Handling'), did some work on symmetry (part of 'Geometry'), learnt about the > and < symbols (greater than and less than), and tried out some picture SuDoku (very good for logical thinking and spotting patterns). All of these were done, of course, with a Christmas theme.

Each day this week we have had a new timetable event called 'Santa's Workshop'. The children have been very busy making a variety of Christmas decorations, using wood, clay, lolly sticks, card, paint, glue, string and large quantities of glitter! On Thursday, they also did some 'Christmas Science' - making Christmas cookies with Mrs Bandaru. They will bring home all their creations next week at the end of term.



Our trip to the park was a success: it was a lovely, bright winter's day, and although much of the wildlife was already in winter hiding, there were plenty of water birds to look at. A PE session and a generous time on the park apparatus ensured that we did not get cold! Many thanks to the three parents who gave up their time to accompany us.

Finally, our Talk Topic for next week will be "At school, what has been your favourite part of getting ready for Christmas?"

Enjoy yet another weekend of Christmas build-up!

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru

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French

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been talking about Christmas: we learnt a lot of new vocabulary pertaining to this very exciting topic. We have been singing a lovely song about père Noël (L'as-tu vu, l'as-tu vu ce petit bonhomme ?) and another (Quand le père Noël vient me visiter) describing his dress code. We also drew beautiful pictures and played a memory game.

Year 2

Dear Parents,

I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas show last week! We sure did and the children have been humming and singing the songs from the show all week long. As you know, last week was super exciting for everyone, with both the Christmas show and Saint Nicolas coming for a visit. This week, however, has been much calmer and now we are really getting into the Christmas spirit!

As we start every morning opening a new window in our beautiful, online Advent calendar, we thought it would be a good idea to actually learn a little bit about Advent. What is it, how long is it, and what is it all about? Be sure to ask your children some questions about it, they might surprise you with their Advent-knowledge! We have even been working on making our very own Advent calendar!



Everyone also got a Christmas Activity Booklet, with maths and literacy exercises, and of course lots of beautiful Christmas colouring pages. Our super fun booklet has kept us nice and busy all week. Aside from working in our booklet we have also used the time to finish all the beautiful artwork that the children will be bringing home before the holidays.

Talk topic is: Which is your favourite holiday, and why?

Stars of the week go to Hemitha for being super welcoming and kind to our new student in the class, and to Shashwat for doing so well with our very complicated crossword puzzle this week. Well done Hemitha and Shashwat! Congratulations 😊

We hope you all have a lovely time these last few days before the holidays start, visiting markets and soaking up the Belgian Christmas spirit!

Have a wonderful weekend

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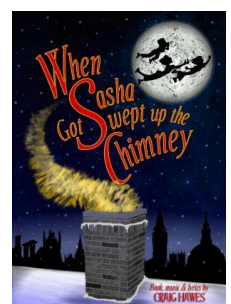
French Year 2

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we set up our restaurant 'Chez Balou' and we learnt how to order all sorts of food using '**je voudrais**' (I would like), '**j'aime**' (I like), '**Je n'aime pas**' (I don't like), '**je bois**' (I drink) and '**je ne bois pas**' (I don't drink) combined with the preposition '**avec**' (with). Then we played a sort of Memory game to see what goes with what and had to say all the words.

Year 3

Dear Parents,

This week has been all about the Christmas show. At the beginning of the week we were very busy with final rehearsals and preparations ready for our big day. And what a big day it was! I was so proud of all our year 3 children. They did a great job of singing, acting and dancing and they really played their parts well. There is so much potential for the future with this group, it's really exciting to see them growing in maturity and confidence in the Junior school. I already can't wait for the summer show!



In literacy we did our last spelling test of the term. I have given out the term 2 spelling books with the test dates and spelling words listed. The first spelling test will be on the 13th of January to allow the children to settle back into school after the Christmas break. Also, in literacy we looked at the poem 'Twas the night before Christmas'. We read and discussed the vocabulary in the poem and the language used. The children answered some comprehension questions about the poem and showed me how well they understood it.

In maths we did some Christmas related addition and subtraction problems. We reviewed some of the strategies we have covered this term, including the frog method, adding/subtracting multiples of 10 and adjusting the difference and partitioning. We also solved a tricky Christmas problem involving money!

We had a peaceful time doing some Christmas crafts and have enjoyed the festive spirit as the term comes to a close. Please note that the children will need their swimming things on the first Wednesday after the Christmas break for one more swimming session. May I take this opportunity to wish you Happy Holidays. I hope that all our year 3 families have a good break, whether in Belgium or elsewhere. See you in 2020!

Have a good weekend,

Camilla Rutayisire

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Year 4

Dear Parents,

A fabulous, final whole week of term!!!

The build-up to the show was electric as usual and the performance itself was magical. Every child had a blast and loved the experience and how well did they perform?!? You and I are very, very proud of them.



And it didn't stop there! Thursday's Property Pitches and Sale in Y4 was great fun and there were further great performances by your young estate agents. If they can stand and deliver in front of a 100-odd audience, they can do it in front of their peers and a room full of their parents. They spoke articulately, didn't get fazed and put across their message professionally and brilliantly. A super job!

It was hugely pleasing to see so many of you come and watch; we appreciated it very much. Thank you! A vast amount of the work done for the presentations was undertaken as homework so the congratulations very much go to you too!

These Y4 children can do no wrong and there was more. The Abacus end-of term exam was a resounding success and the class managed to register the highest average score of the last 4 years improving 8% on the previous Y4 record.

I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching these children this term and such a fan am I, I think I shall try twist some arms to have them again next year! 😊 At least, that's my Christmas wish. 😊

Tennis continued as usual while the 'stay-at-school group' played hockey and squash in the basement gym studio. The children (and I) love being down there and since October it's been home to Christmas dance rehearsals too. A number of Y4's have been heavily in action in these dances and there'll be opportunities again and for others come the summer!!!

By the time you read this, the children will have gone and back through The Wardrobe and arrived home (dripping) from Narnia. I am confident they will have had another magical time despite the weather.

And that was our magnificent week. Happy Christmas!

Our Talk Topic for this week is: How could your mobile phone help or hinder you in all the adventures in the park today?

Best wishes

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

Years 3 &4 French

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we rehearsed and sang for the Christmas show and made sure we knew well our song 'Noël est un rythme de jazz'. We also learned how to use the irregular verb 'Aller' (to go) with the preposition 'à' and 'au', and we reviewed and played a Memory game with many words related to Noël (Christmas).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been singing our Christmas song for our show which we sang really well. We also talked about Christmas and wrote a Christmas card. We also played a memory game and a guessing game around the Christmas theme.

Year 5

Dear Parents,

The rain and the cold have not deterred our enthusiasm and we have made the most of our time practising the play.

On Monday we found time to do our last spelling test of the term. We will now have a break until the new year.

Some Christmas maths worksheets were done in the odd times we had together in the classroom.



Most of our time was taken up by play practices. We worked very hard at honing our acting and singing skills. Our songs being word perfect, we then concentrated on our diction and placement on the stage. With great excitement we arrived at the theatre with our costumes and the stunning scenery, which complimented our acting so well. We took time to adjust to a bigger space and were given seats and instructed on the nuances that are the Theatre. We ran through the performance a final time and waited for our parents to arrive and be seated. We then gave the performance of a lifetime. We sang, acted and danced like professionals. I can tell you that I was incredibly proud



of the children last night. They spoke clearly and added emotion and spark.

On Thursday we finally found time to do our Christmas card snow globes. We will have to wait until next week to add the finishing touches.

Orienteering is always fun, even in the rain and wind. What a lovely end to this very exciting week.

The talk topic this week is: Can you think of ways in which mobile devices can be handy in the classroom?

Relax. You've all earned it!

Mrs Vetter

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Years 5 & 6 French

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we rehearsed and sang for the Christmas show and made sure we knew our song 'Noël est un rythme de jazz' well. We also learnt how to use the irregular verb '**Aller**' (to go) to form '**le futur proche**' (the near future tense) with more than twenty infinitive verbs, and we role-played a scene to talk about our future plans for the 'congés d'hiver' (winter holidays).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, thanks to our new poem "L'oiseau du Colorado" (by Robert Desnos), which gave us the opportunity to revise "les déterminants articles partitifs" : du, de la, de l' , we have been doing exercises to practise and learn how to use them. We talked about different shops where you can buy food. We also started talking about Christmas and read jokes and charades, playing with words around Christmas.

Year 6

Dear Parents,

We are coming to the end of what has been a fantastic and memorable term in Year 6. The Christmas production has dominated our life this week – and what an emotional and physical roller-coaster it has been! Notwithstanding the frustration of pupils not learning their lines and holidays being taken prior to the show, we have had to battle a variety of sickness bugs that have tried their best to thwart our production.



My 'grumpometer' (designed by the pupils) hovered around 'explode' on more than one occasion! But Junior Department children are a determined and resilient bunch, so despite their coughs and colds, they soldiered on to produce a magical, memorable and magnificent 2019 Christmas show!

On Thursday we relaxed. One of our class reading books is 'The Ruby in the Smoke' by Philip Pullman and as a few of the students had read his book, I decided to show the film. Eyes were glued to the screen from start to finish, as we entered the Victorian era, the days of Empires and the unbelievable wealth of the Maharajas - a superb example of historical fiction.

In the afternoon, it was a sing-along with Madame Mayeur. What a joy to revisit songs from our previous productions – I was pleased that we sang 'The Stoats' from Wind in the Willows. Every production seems to include a group of pesky, naughty characters! This year it was the elves, one year it was the merry men and then, no one wants to mention – the stoats!

To round the day off, Mr Stedman gave us a briefing about our thrilling orienteering adventure to Narnia.

Finally, thank you so much for your support this term: the smiles on the door, the supportive Edmodo posts, links to events and information and your enthusiasm for everything that we do in Year 6. The look on Aahil and Arjun's fathers' faces when they saw their sons captured the joy of Year 6!

Talk Topic: Why do I have to revise during the holidays?

Happy Christmas.

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

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Junior Department Music

There are not enough words to describe how proud and happy we are at the moment! All our hard work paid off and the result was beyond expectations.

It is the first time that we have succeeded to reach this "one voice chorus" sound that makes all the difference in the interpretation. This brings us to the next level of singing performance! A huge congratulation to our brave soloists too.

We cannot wait for the next one!

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Dear Parents,

This week, in the Junior Department EAL group, we worked with the connective word *if*, making sentences relating to pictures on cards. We used the future tense, with the word *will*, to say and write sentences such as: *On Wednesday, we will go to the theatre*. We also learned the vocabulary relating to the show. We continued to practise the skills of writing sentences using the correct punctuation, extending the sentences by using connectives, and enhancing them by using adjectives. We began to revise the phonics that the children have studied before, with the aim of using phonics to read new words (rather than making a guess based on the initial letter of the word) and to spell words in the course of writing a text.

In the Year One and Two EAL small group, we revised reading tricky words, in a lotto game. We practised



writing sentences making use of these tricky words and working out spellings by using phonics. The aim is that the children will become independent writers by using their own knowledge of letter sounds to work out spellings, rather than stopping to ask a teacher for spellings. We discussed which festival is our favourite, and we played a game involving identifying animals and objects by asking questions, e.g. *Is it an animal? Can we sit on it?*

In the Reception EAL small group, we read the story of P.B. Bear's Christmas, which enabled the children to hear in context, and with pictures, a lot of vocabulary relating to celebrations at Christmas. We practised giving and following instructions involving the numbers to 15, to colour a Christmas tree. We learned some new songs and games, one popular one being The Hokey Cokey, which involves learning *right* and *left*.

I wish you a very happy holiday.

Kate Read

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