

Nursery

Dear Parents,

Incredibly this is our last home school book of 2019! we can't quite believe that after the holiday it will be 2020! You will get the newsletter electronically next week but you will not receive your child's folder, as we keep them tucked up safely in nursery over the holiday period and take stock of our library books, so please return your child's folder and library book no later than Wednesday next week.

Christmas activities are in full swing in nursery, as you may have noticed when your little one comes home full of sparkle and paint! However, we have still managed the serious business of learning how to write our names, first names only at this stage and you can see your child's superb efforts in their home school book. The children are all at different stages of writing at present so don't be alarmed if your child is not yet putting pen to paper and forming their letters correctly, our aim is that at the end of nursery everyone will be able to recognise, trace, copy and then write their name unaided using lowercase letters, not capital letters, apart from the letter their name starts with, for example; AYUSH would look like Ayush or SUZANNA would look like Suzanna. Our letters and sounds programme will also start at phase one for all of the nursery group but not pre-nursery, they will complete a different programme in preparation for starting next year, you will all receive more information on this as we go through it.



Don't forget it is our Christmas show next Thursday 12 December at 11.30am in the Infant department hall, please let us know if you have decided suddenly to take leave before then and your child will be absent. The children have practised singing the Christmas songs very well but, as with all 3 & 4 year olds, it depends on their mood on the day! Some get stage fright as soon as the parents appear and others decide just dancing around is much more interesting, so be prepared for an extravaganza of actions and emotions! However, it will be AMAZING so be there or be square as they say! We expect all of the children to leave with you after the show is over as it is an exciting and tiring morning and when the children see their friends go it causes a lot of distress if they have to stay in nursery, so unless it is absolutely necessary and you have no other option, please take your child with you when you leave.

Until next week keep warm and keep singing and discuss our talk topic at the weekend which is: 'What is an Advent Calendar and when does it start and finish and why?'

Have a fun weekend.

Alison Davies, Anna Nagy and Vanessa diFine

nurseryteacher@telenet.be

Reception

Dear Parents,

The magic of Christmas has begun! You might have heard your child talk about the wonderful decorations that have been hung up in school as they are all very excited about them, especially about our marvellous Christmas tree standing in the library.



The highlights of this week have been our trip to the park and St. Nicolas visiting us in school!

Our topic has moved onto Christmas, so we have said goodbye to all the cute creatures and animals who live in the forest and we have welcomed tinsel, sparkly lights and our own Christmas tree in the classroom.

In Phonics we have introduced new letter sounds: w – x – y – z and we have had fun working on our Christmas Phonics worksheet, which you will find in your child's home school book.

In Maths we have worked on measures, this time measuring capacity. We have identified when a cup is full, nearly full, half full/empty, nearly empty and empty. To experiment with this we have had some water play in the classroom, where children could fill their own cups using big jugs of water. You can find some pictures of this on the school's website, on our class page. We have also worked on number formation, paying attention to the right direction when writing numbers from 1 to 20.

Next week we'll keep practising for our Christmas show and making some Christmas crafts.

In our Art session this week we have worked with stencils, painting a beautiful Christmas tree to decorate the paper bag that the children will take home before the holidays.

In the meantime, as our talk topic you can ask your children: *'Who took a present from Santa's bag?'*. This is a game we have been playing in circle time and that they really enjoy. Ask your child to say the words to it and then you can have some family time playing it and having a nice warm chocolate.

Enjoy the weekend, wrap yourselves and go discover the magic of Christmas in all the markets around the city.

Mrs. van Wassenhove and Mrs. Julaton

receptionteacher@telenet.be

French

In French with Madame Scharf, we have been talking about Saint-Nicolas of course: the clothes and the colours he wears, the stories that are told about him, what he brings, etc. We drew beautiful pictures of him. We learnt a song which we will sing for him when he comes to visit us, and we rehearsed what we want to tell or ask him. We made our own "mitre" (his hat).

Year 1

Dear Parents,

We trust you enjoyed the Christmas Show last night - the children had worked hard to learn their songs and their speaking parts, they had been getting more excited with each practice, so it was great for them finally to dress up and perform a 'real' play, in front of a real audience. We are very proud of them.

While all the pre-show excitement was building, we also had to carry on with our work: this week's 'sounds of the week' were /air/ as in 'chair' and /er/ as in 'herd' and 'ladder'. The /er/ sound has 'long' and 'short'

versions, depending on where in a word it appears: the long /er/ is heard in 'mermaid' or 'perfect', whereas the short /er/ is found at the end of many words, such as 'letter', 'flower' etc. In our main Literacy session, having practised spotting the rhyming words in 'Tiddler' last week, this week we had a go at making up our own rhythmic rhyming story, entitled 'One night after dark, I went to the park'. In pairs, the children enjoyed making up rhyming couplets about a variety of animals we 'met' in the park, and using each pair's lines, we were able to produce the whole-class rhyming story you can see in this week's Home School Book.

This week in Maths, having just completed the second teaching block, we had a couple of revision sessions, then the children each did a short assessment test. From now until Christmas, we shall be doing 'Christmas Maths' (which is just normal Maths, but with a Christmas theme, which the children think is FAR more interesting!).



Also, of note this week was our first PE session with the parachute: all the children hold on to the edge of the parachute, and we practise various movements and games to develop co-ordination, self-control and teamwork - all in a highly entertaining way! To see how much they enjoyed it, please look at the photos <http://www.bisb.org/project/year-1-december-2019/>.

With regard to our planned trip to the park next Thursday, please be aware that we have not yet had any volunteers to accompany us. Please do let us know as soon as possible if you are able to help - if we do not have two volunteers, then we will simply not be able to make the trip.

Finally, our Talk Topic for next week will be "What do you expect to see now that winter has started?"

Enjoy another weekend of Christmas build-up!

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru
year1teacher@telenet.be

French

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we went on talking about Saint-Nicolas and his various legends. We looked at pictures of him and described his clothing. We also drew pictures of him and learnt songs which we will sing for him when he comes to visit us. We also made a "mitre" which we will wear when he come to school.

Year 2



Dear Parents,

This week was all about Christmas and the Christmas show! The children practised tirelessly all week long and it really paid off! They were all brilliant during the show and we couldn't be more pleased. However, the Christmas spirit was not just on stage, but also off stage. We spent the week decorating our classroom with Christmas paintings, Christmas drawings and Christmas lights. Our art was of course Christmas-themed as well as some of our writing exercises. So, as you can imagine, we are all filled with Christmas spirit after this first week of December.

In maths this week we learned about coins. Since we follow a British curriculum and our books are all from England, we learn about pounds and pennies, rather than about Euros and cents – But of course, the principles are exactly the same! We learned that there are many different coins for all the different pennies. There is a 1 penny coin (1p), 2 pence coin (2p), 5 pence coin (5p), 10 pence coin (10p), 20 pence coin (20p) and 50 pence coin (50p). We also learned that in one pound there are 100 pennies, so if we have two 50p coins, they equal one pound! As you can imagine, this is complicated for many 6-7 year olds, so don't worry if they are still struggling a little bit with their worksheet at home. This takes a lot of practice and we will indeed practise this more later in the school year. Nevertheless, even though this is complicated and often at times a bit confusing, they have still done really well with all their coin work this week!

We continued to read some more Dr. Seuss, one of our all-time favourite authors. We also continued to work with poems and this week we focused on a funny Christmas poem. They are really getting the hang of poetry and enjoy figuring out the rhyming, the rhythm and the meanings of the poems that we read at school.

Talk topic is: What was my favourite part of the Christmas show?

Stars of the week go to Shaurya for brilliant work with coins this week and for always being happy to help out a friend during class, and to Anwitha for making beautiful Christmas decorations for our classroom! Congratulations Shaurya and Anwitha 😊

Don't forget to check out our website, we just added some lovely pictures from our Christmas preparations.

Have a lovely weekend,

Elin Hafstein and Ena Tolentino

Year2teacher@telenet.be

French Year 2

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we finished preparing and singing in French for St Nicolas and the Christmas show. We also created a collective letter with beautiful drawings for St Nicolas, and we coloured and made St Nicolas' headdress - 'La Mitre'.

Music Years 1 & 2

We made it! What a journey! Not only did we impress everyone with our beautiful singing, but we also showed our teachers that they could trust us with the learning of difficult repertoire. Thank you to our wonderful and supportive audience for cheering us all the way long!

Year 3

Dear Parents,

'Venez, venez St. Nicolas', what an exciting week we've had in year 3! We made some shoes for St Nicolas's visit in art. We also have been busy with our Christmas card project. We handwrote a beautiful poem to go inside them and finished decorating the cards with glitter and sparkles. We made the envelopes using tessellating shapes to print with, they look lovely and I'm sure you will enjoy them when they are taken home.

In literacy we did our usual spelling lesson on Monday. We learned our last set of words for our last spelling test of the term on Monday. There will be no spelling test in the last week of the school term. However, I will be giving out the new book with the spelling lists and dates for term 2 next week, so look out for it in your child's bag. Also, in literacy we finished off grammar for term two by doing an extended writing task about our favourite meal. The children tried to use lots of interesting adjectives to describe the food and they remembered to use punctuation such as full stops, commas, apostrophes, exclamation marks and capital letters. They are also learning to check their work carefully.

In maths we did some fraction problems with a Christmas-related theme, for example if $\frac{1}{4}$ of Santa's 12 reindeer were sick and had to rest, how many reindeer would be left to pull the sleigh? We also practised adding and subtracting small numbers from a three-digit number and adding and subtracting multiples of 10 and 100.

In addition to all of this, we have been very busy with show practices. The singing, dancing and acting are really coming together now and I'm sure it will be a fabulous performance. I'm very proud of our year 3 children, as I'm sure you will be too!

Have a good weekend.

Kind regards,

Camilla Rutayisire



Year3teacher@telenet.be

Year 4

Dear Parents,

We have but a week and a half left of the Autumn Term. Sickness is trying to lay us to waste but we are holding firm, keeping calm and Christmasing on. Rehearsals are beginning to click, and we are finishing off our various courses.

In Science, we brought a successful end to last week's experiment and planned and set up another for next week. This experiment is based on what we know about how we keep things warm and will use the Tudor Houses we built back in October!!! Oooo!

In Numeracy, we frantically prepared ourselves for next week's test. We measured capacity and a lot of water went flying. We also revisited the Grid Method of multiplication (this time with bigger numbers) and we were ace at it. All we have left is division by chunking.

We have very nearly completed our Homes for Sale presentations and a letter was written (and should have been delivered) inviting you to the classroom next Thursday. Come and join the fun and try and buy your friend's (or your own) dream home.

There will be some homes on auction too so be prepared to chance your arm and make a bid! Please come at 9am if you can make it.

A further bonus we've embarked on is trying to map the plan of a Roman bathhouse in the playground. So far, the children have changed the dimensions of the archaeological site on paper to scale for our back garden. We will map it on the ground next week in amongst all the fabulous events coming up.

Incidentally, the Y4 Christmas Party will be on the penultimate day of term on Tuesday 17th. Please kindly send your child with 1 small sweet, savoury and drink item that day, Thanks in advance.

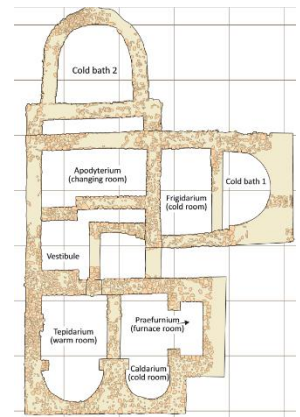
Our Talk Topic for this week is: Recount the story of St.Nicolas in English

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 St Nicolas and reviewed all the vocabulary related to this traditional Belgian festival, then we made a beautiful and colourful 'bricolage' and wrote him a letter where we used 'être' (to be), **adjectives** (to describe ourselves) and vocabulary related to '**ma famille, les animaux, les couleurs et les jouets**' (toys) saying '**je voudrais**' (I would like).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been rehearsing the song for Saint-Nicolas and the French song for the Christmas show. We also spoke about the legend of Saint-Nicolas. We wrote him a letter and prepared questions for when he comes to visit us at school.

Year 5

Dear Parents,

It has been bitterly cold this week, but we have seen the sun too.

In Literacy found the time to do our spelling test, managed to do some words of the day and even did some grammar. We spoke about determiners. We discovered that determiners can tell us if a noun is known or unknown. Our comprehension this week was 16 steps to the ice house. This was a concrete poem which spoke about ice houses. It was interesting and fun to find out what it was.

In Maths we did our half-termly Abacus test and had mixed results this time. Hopefully, going through the test together and seeing where we made our mistakes will help us in these tests in the future. It has to be said that a lot of the mistakes are as a result of not reading instructions carefully enough. The rest of our Maths lessons we dedicated to Christmas-themed worksheets involving co-ordinates, and tables.

There is no more homework this term, although I will send home a Christmas worksheet or two.

Play practices are progressing well with props being used, although it is really difficult to practise with so many actors missing. Unfortunately, sickness is a way of life, especially when the weather changes.



Our Wildearth Kids safari was epic again. On this, our third safari, we saw lion cubs and, most especially, a tiny baby impala which had just been born. We spoke about the weather and the fact that schools in the USA and Europe were combined for this drive. We had quite a few of our questions answered, considering that there were 3 schools on this safari. I have posted the link on Edmodo for you all to see.

The talk topic this week is: Should we be using more technology in the classroom and what is the future for handwriting?

Have a super weekend and see you on Wednesday for the play.

Mrs Vetter

Year5teacher@telenet.be

Years 5 & 6 French

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about St Nicolas and reviewed all the vocabulary related to this traditional Belgian festival, then we made a beautiful and colourful 'bricolage' and wrote him a letter where we used '**être**' (to be), les **nationalités**, les **pays** (countries) **adjectives** (to describe ourselves) and vocabulary related to '**ma famille**, **les animaux**, **les couleurs**, **les jouets**' (toys), **la nourriture**, and **les verbes** (action verbs) describing - **Ce que j'aime faire**' (what I like to do) and **ce que je souhaite recevoir** (what I wish). We also had a test on the topic of St Nicolas.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we summarised the facts and figures we read about ostriches and polar bears. We also read our new poem "L'oiseau du Colorado" (Robert Desnos) which gave us the opportunity to revise "les déterminants articles partitifs" : du, de la, de l'. We also spoke about Saint-Nicolas and his legend. We wrote him a letter hoping that he pays us a visit.

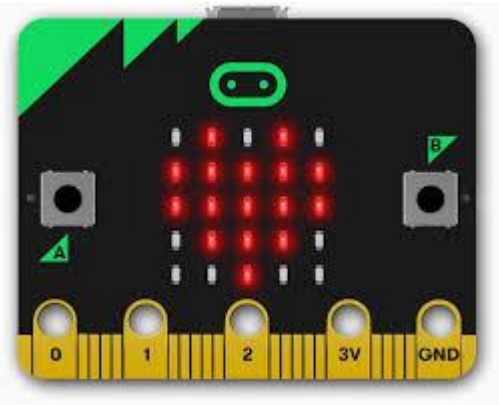
Year 6

Dear Parents,

A joyous start to the first week in December – the Abacus maths test! Whilst the marks were pleasing, some students failed to heed my 'read the question' alert and threw away valuable marks (groan!). All students should take my advice and revise during the holidays...

Our topic for next term is based on the book - Prisoners of Geography: Our World Explained in Twelve Maps – by the bestselling author and news reporter, Tim Marshall. Topics will include: conflict, refugees, politics, diversity, mental health, the differently-abled and of course, geography.

Quite a few outstanding student presentations this week - a news report from Ronit with an amazing 'gif' of the world on fire. This was followed by Arjun explaining how a BBC Microbit works. Now, I bought one of these in the summer to improve my programming skills and was delighted to discover that two of our pupils also have these gadgets.




A Microbit is a pocket-sized computer. It has 25 red LED lights that can flash messages and be used to create games. Next term, we will be following the Microbit Educational Foundation scheme of work [Microbit](#).

Finally, we had a few moments to enjoy our Latin and Chinese projects. In Latin, we started to construct short sentences about each other (including me!).

We learnt how to ask each other our age and numbers 1-10 in Chinese. Then, it was decided that we should write the date in Chinese, so with the help of Chineasy, we managed to draw all the months of the year!

I am just looking at some of the excellent work that the pupils are creating with reading treasures from 'Mrs Still's Secret Book Bag'. Delighted that they have once again been inspired by Mrs Stanley's double-spread format.

So now you have two great ideas for educational Christmas presents for your child! 

Talk Topic: Do you support the motion that mobile phones should be banned in primary school?

Happy Weekend,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

Year6teacher@telenet.be

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Dear Parents,

This week, the Junior Department EAL group worked on using connectives to extend sentences. We revised *so* and *because*, and we worked with *but*. We worked some more with adjectives, this time discovering how we can make adjectives from verbs (eg. *the flying horse, a flickering light*), and from nouns (eg. *heart-shaped, spotty*). We read the story *Stick Man*, by the authors of *The Gruffalo*, and we listened out for the rhyming words. We also practised writing sentences using capitals, full stops and commas, and spelling correctly the common tricky words that we have been working on. The children will bring home another set of common tricky words next week, and it would be great if they could learn them over the holiday.



The Year One and Two EAL small group this week also worked with rhyming words, listening to rhyming words in *The Gruffalo*, playing a game using rhyming words, and then working together to create some rhyming sentences, including: *A big brown rat was wearing a hat; There was a king who wore a ring.* We wrote some sentences about our home activities, taking care to use the past tense correctly for the verbs *was, went, saw, played, helped.* The children in this group performed extremely well in the Year One and Two show, articulating their lines clearly, and singing very well. Well done!

The Reception EAL small group played games involving the numbers up to 10, counting objects and reading then writing the numbers. We also listened to instructions and followed them, to colour in pictures of drinks, with different numbers of ice-cubes. This was a hard listening activity, since the instructions involved 2 key parts (eg. *Colour the drink with 5 ice-cubes green*). The children took turns to give the instructions.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read

ealteacher@telenet.be