

Nursery

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the holiday. We wish you a happy new year full of awe and wonder and lots of good weather after what is looking like a very wet start to the Spring term!



The children who have been with us for a while were definitely glad to get back into the rhythm of nursery life, our new children are not quite there yet, but they will be! So a big pat on the back for all of our little ones, old and new! Please join us in giving a warm welcome to the parents of, Nithara, Sriya, Amaira, Vividha and Elise.

If you see a face you don't recognise at pick up time, go over and say hello as we are sure you all remember how nervous you all felt in September when your little one had just started nursery.

We have treated this week as a resettling back into the swing of things and therefore our new topic on *Food and Healthy Habits* will start in all of its splendour next week. The children were briefly introduced to the topic in circle time this week and we touched on a food everyone seems to enjoy, Pizza. If all goes to plan, we might actually make some real fresh and healthy ones next week, so watch this space.

However, this week when you look in your child's home school book, you will see a simple maths activity based on the shapes of some ingredients we might find on a pizza. We also colour coded the shapes to find out who could follow a simple colour pattern. You will see by looking if your little one managed to crack the colour code! Don't worry if they didn't, we will have plenty of practice throughout the year with similar activities.

Just a quick reminder to request you don't dress your child in too many layers underneath their uniform, especially if it is tights or leggings under their trousers as this really does cause havoc during toilet time. We can reassure you that their fleecy green jogging bottoms with a pair of warm socks underneath really is enough to keep your little ones legs toasty on cool winter days.

Our talk topic for discussion in circle time on Monday is 'What is your favourite ingredient on a pizza and why?'

Until next week have a great weekend and see you all on Monday.

Thank you.

Alison Davies, Anna Nagy and Vanessa diFine

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Music

This week in music, we sang a song about clouds and rain. We hope that, like in our song, the rainy weather we have had this week will give way to a beautiful sunshine.

Reception

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a nice Christmas break and please receive all our best wishes for this new year that has started.



The children were very excited to come back and full of stories about their holidays. They wanted to share everything they did and describe every place they went to. So Monday, first thing in the morning, we had a very interesting conversation about this, we now know that you have been very busy throughout the break.

This week marked the beginning of a new term and a new theme topic in Reception. We have now entered the magical world of the enchanted forest and in it we will discover all sorts of magical creatures, from unicorns to giants and wisdom trees to flowers with eyes. So, we have started to create a forest in the classroom and what better than starting with trees that have leaves in all colours? For this the children have worked very patiently on making paper chains that represent the branches and leaves of our forest. As weeks go by, we'll keep adding the children's work to the wall to enrich our magic forest as much as we can.

In Phonics we have had a good revision of all the letter sounds learned until now and we are very pleased that the children remember almost all of them. We have also worked with double consonants – ff,ss,ll - and introduced the sound 'qu' as in queen and quilt. For this we have worked in our Phonics workbook and also played a sound bingo.

In Maths we have introduced money, identifying Euro coins and notes, and brainstorming when, where and what we use money for. Some very interesting ideas came out from this discussion and most of the children are very aware of what money is used for.

In P.E. we have played the 'Crocodile in the Swamp' game and we've had a circuit of four bases with different exercises for the children to do: bats and balls, football, balance boards and hoola hoops. The aim here is not only that the children exercise and develop their gross motor skills, but also that they learn how to handle and use our P.E. equipment.

In our Art session we made salt snowflakes, which were painted and will be soon hung on the classroom windows. The children are desperate for it to start snowing, so let's keep our fingers crossed and hope the snow will come soon so we can go out and build some snowmen.

The talk topic for this week is, ***'If trees could talk, what would they say to each other? What would you ask them?'***

This has been all for our first week of term. We hope you all have a nice weekend and see you back on Monday.

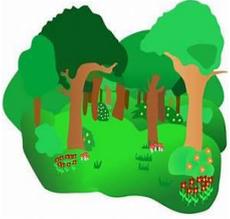
Mrs. van Wassenhove and Mrs. Julaton

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French

In French with Madame Scharf, we have been talking about winter (l'hiver) : the weather (il pleut, il neige, il fait froid) and the clothes we wear in this season. We sang several songs and drew beautiful pictures.

EAL



In the Reception EAL small group, we had fun making an enchanted forest, each child listening to instructions to make a cardboard tree, picking out and repeating the key instruction words: *put, take, cut, glue, stick, pick up*. Once the forest was finished, we used it, combined with some small dolls and a toy castle, to tell the story of Sleeping Beauty. The children should be able to tell you the story at home, perhaps in their home language: this would show you whether they understood the English version that they heard at school.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read

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Music

This week in music, we learnt about a composition celebrating the animals. Camille Saint-Saëns's "Carnival of the Animals" is a fun way to get acquainted with classical music. We had a lot of fun marching and roaring like lions or even pretending to be chickens looking for food. We can't wait to discover what else his music is hiding from us!

Year 1

Dear Parents,

It was great to see almost everyone back at school this week, for what promises to be another busy term!

Our focus this term in Literacy will initially be on story-telling, using some well-known stories to help us with ideas for plots and endings. Later in the term, we will move on to some newer books, as well as some non-fiction work. We started this week with the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' - reading it, creating a story map for it and then, in two teams, acting it out. You can see some photos of our very engaged actors at <http://www.bisb.org/project/year-1-january-2020/>. In Phonics, we started work on Phase 4, which is all about 'consonant clusters' - pairs or groups of adjacent consonants which can be used at the beginning or end of words. This week we looked at pairs of consonants used to start words, such as 'black', 'green', 'swing', 'train' and so on.

In Maths, we have been working on the concepts of 1 and 2 more and less, and learnt to use the terms 'before' and 'after' in this context. We have also spent some time reinforcing our knowledge of 'digits' in 2-digit numbers - ie that the 1st digit stands for the number of 10s and the second for the number of 1s. Finally, we studied the arrangement of numbers on a 100-square, learnt about rows and columns, and spotted number patterns, for example when highlighting all the numbers beginning with 3, or ending with 7, and so on. You can see your child's work on this in their Home School Book.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Our new topic for this term is 'Getting Around - Transport Through the Ages'. Over the next twelve weeks, we will be looking at many of the different types of transport, how they have evolved, what they are made of and how they work. This week, we began by listing all the means of transport we could think of and

began to consider each one in terms of purpose, features, range and operating environment (albeit in rather simpler terms!). Our Science unit on materials is also closely linked to our topic, and we made a start by examining a number of samples of metal, wood, plastic, fabric etc, and discussing where they can be found in various vehicles.

Please remember that we are going to the Musée des Instruments de Musique for a music workshop next Thursday (16 Jan). Please send in your permission slip and payment by Monday 13 Jan.

Maths homework for next week will be 'Marching Madness 1.12' - all about missing numbers. Finally, our Talk Topic for next week will be "What sort of transport did your parents or grandparents use?"

Enjoy the weekend!

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru
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French

In French with Madame Scharf, we have resumed our story "Une maison de musiciens". We described our families (j'ai un frère, j'ai une sœur) and we revised the body parts vocabulary by singing, drawing pictures and playing games.

Year 2

Dear Parents!

It has been lovely to come back after the holidays and to meet everyone again. The children have been super happy to be back in school, to see all their friends and teachers again, and to get back into routine. We welcomed one new student to our class this week and the children have been good at showing him how everything works at the school and making him feel welcome in our classroom.

Now that we are starting a new term it is time for a new topic, and this term it's *An Island Home*. We will be learning about Iceland, the island far in the north. But we won't be learning about life in Iceland today but how life was in Iceland a thousand years ago, in the Viking age. At the moment we are starting to learn about the Nordic Gods that the Vikings believed in and later on we will learn more about the Vikings, their explorations and their way of living.



In math this week the focus was on understanding place value in numbers to 100, and to begin using this to add and subtract 2-digit numbers, mostly subtracting 9, 10 and 11 from 2-digit numbers. We continued working on counting in 10's and adding and subtracting 10's as it is super important for them to become good at understanding the difference between ones and tens!

In literacy we have been reading and writing about the Nordic Gods. We have learned about Odin, who gave his eye for knowledge, Sif, who marks the seasons with her golden hair, Loki, the god of mischief, Freyja, the **best sources** of all the gods, who owns a cloak that will turn you into a bird if you wear it, and finally about Thor, the god of thunder.

We also learned about the continents of the world, so we can better understand where the Vikings lived, and we even did some Thor inspired paintings in art class.

Talk topic is: Which was your favourite of the gods that we learned about this week?

Stars of the week go to Inaaya for brilliant work in maths this week and to Ayra for her beautiful artwork this week! Well done Inaaya and Ayra! Congratulations 😊

Remember that the children are going to the music museum on Thursday 16th January and it is very important that they are all here on time that morning. It would be great if the children could all be at school at 8.50 😊

Have a great weekend

Elin Hafstein and Ena Tolentino

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French Year 2

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about '**mon corps**' (my body). We sang and learned many words related to '**mon corps**'. We also reviewed the use of the definite articles '**le, la, les**' with these words when they are masculine, feminine, singular and plural, as in for example: '**la main, le nez, les pieds**' etc...

Music Years 1 & 2

To be able to fully enjoy our visit to the museum next Thursday, we have been talking about the four families of instruments and what makes them so different from one another. We even had a peek inside the classroom's piano to discover that strings are hiding inside of it!

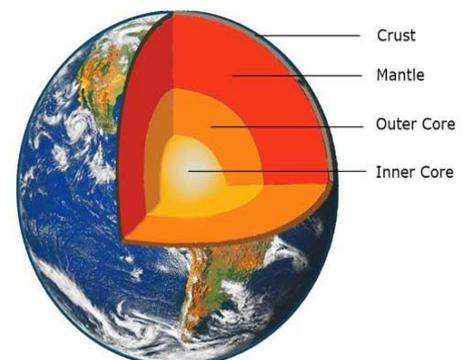
Music Junior Department

Who said that music and mathematics are unrelated? We discovered the link between both and how arithmetic and fractions are essential to music writing. Rhythmic notations and time signatures have no secrets for us!

Year 3

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to welcome the children back to class after the holidays. They've returned full of energy for the new term! This week we have started our new topic 'The street beneath my feet' where we will be exploring all things underground. We have started this term by investigating the different layers of the earth – the inner core, outer core, mantle and the crust. We were amazed to discover that very little exploration has ever been done of the inner layers of our own planet, mostly because of the extreme heat and distance required to reach it. In our geography lesson we started to talk about different types of rocks and discovered that they can be natural or man-made.



In mathematics we have been learning about place value this week. The children practised multiplying and dividing numbers by 10, 100 and 1000 and observed how the 0 moved to the left when multiplying and to the right when dividing. They revised using the greater than and less than signs to make comparisons between numbers and they also completed some addition and subtraction word problems using their knowledge of place value.

In literacy we read the first couple of pages of our new topic book 'The street beneath my feet'. We discovered that there are some creatures that like to live underground, earthworms and centipedes. We read fact cards about earthworms and the children had to make a fact file about them. They had to decide on a suitable heading and sub-headings to organise their work clearly. We learned the first list of spelling words ready for the spelling test on Monday, the 'i' sound spelt with a 'y' as in 'myth'. We also did our first guided reading session of the new term and I was impressed with the developing fluency and confidence of the children.

The children have completed their last block of swimming lessons at the NATO pool for now. They will swim again later in the year. Mr and Mrs Tranter were very pleased with the progress that the children made in their swimming skills.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Camilla Rutayisire

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Year 4



Dear Parents,

After such a lovely and restful holiday, we were all a bit rusty on Monday and took a while to get going. However, the enthusiasm to learn and improve was there and by the afternoon 'the wheels' were spinning - the children were asking for extra reading homework!

We began with place value and rounding followed by the bones of the human skeleton. The children have produced some 1metre tall skeletons each and have learnt some of the scientific names of the bones we know.

Then, we looked at newspaper reports about amazing people and events and practised writing about them ourselves. We also changed tenses in sentences.

Following that, there was some big number addition; including counting on and back to complete number sequences. Then we started our new and popular Topic – Celebrity Sports.

To start this, the Cornimont word had to be used (as the children will organise a day's activities for the Junior School residential trip) and the children quickly got excited and their heads filled with trip inspiration! May will not come quick enough for the class but in the meantime, they know what we will be studying and what our aim is.

This week, we researched the history of the Olympic Games of Ancient Greece. This involved some interesting detective work and the finding out of fascinating facts. The Greeks competed in some very different events to the ones we see now on TV.

Finally, in PE, we passed in hockey by pushing and hitting, followed by some shooting practice and then had a very competitive match.

And that was our week. Welcome back!

Our Talk Topic for this week is: Which event would be your preferred event at the Ancient (Greek) Olympic Games?

Best wishes

Tim Stedman & Mrs Tolentino

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

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

Years 3 &4 French

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about the function of '**les pronoms personnels sujets**' (subject pronouns) and how when we conjugate auxiliaries and verbs, we have to take into account these pronouns. We had many oral and written activities with '**être, avoir and aller**' (to be, to have and to go) . Also we learned 'les mois de l'année '(the months of the year) and we reviewed '**les quatre saisons**' and days of the week.

In French with Madame Scharf, we started the new year by revising the months of the year and the days of the week. We also revised some food vocabulary in order to go over once again "les déterminants articles partitifs" like du, de la, de l', des.

Year 5

Dear Parents,

This has been a very frenetic and exciting start to our Spring term. We have enjoyed being back together and sharing our holiday news.

In Literacy we looked at relative clauses. These are parts of speech which can be added to a sentence to give more detail. They always begin with a relative pronoun. Our weekly comprehension was a poem called Sea Fever. The class really loved this poem and were introduced to personification. We also delved into note taking and report writing. More about that later.

In Numeracy we looked at 6-digit numbers and their place values. We revised how to write and say these numbers in words and numerals. We then did some simple addition and subtraction, which involved changing specific values only. We then moved on to being able to plot these on a number line and deciding where to add new numbers.

In Science we were introduced to our topic for the term which is Fabulous Forces. We did this via our live drive. Read more later.

Our Topic for this term is the Mayan Civilisation. We discovered where the Maya lived and were introduced to their complex and interesting ways. We then combined this with computing and researched the Maya to create and print a document to adorn our classroom wall. The class are loving this topic and cannot wait to learn more.

Now on to the most exciting and educational event this week. We had a drive planned for Wednesday afternoon. And what a drive it was too! We finally managed to get the guide we had been waiting for, Trishala Naidu, who is a South African Indian, so we had plenty of cultural questions for her. Well, we didn't get around to asking any, so busy was the safari. We began by taking a look at some butterflies drinking water and then moved on. We saw a Burchell's Starling which was calling beautifully and had its beak open. Trish told us about the iridescent colours on its wings and that the beak was open due to the heat. It was 35C in Djuma. She was hoping that we would see an elephant and then we quite literally bumped into a leopard. The leopard, Thandi, snarled at us and it was evident she was not happy with us being so close. We moved away slightly and then observed from a distance. We found out so many interesting facts about leopards. Do you know, for instance, that a leopard's charging speed is around 90km per hour? Thandi had a kill which was why she was snarly and panting heavily. Steve showed us a pair of beautiful giraffes and explained how to distinguish a male from a female by looking at their ossicones. Then, together with Trishala, they answered so many of our questions relating to forces. We learnt there are only natural forces and that there are 4 kinds, strong, weak, gravitational and electromagnetic. We were all so sad to have to leave at 15:30. However, the next day we went back through the drive and took notes on all that we had learnt. We then created a report on a chosen topic. If you would like to look at this drive with your children the link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pbNA3Q2q4Y> check out around 1.41 into the drive where you can see Thandi hoisting her



kill into a large tree. The force and power of that hoist is amazing to see.

A brief reminder from the French teachers to fill in and return the slips for the upcoming outing. Also, Madame Halvorsen's group have a test on Monday and need to revise for this.

Wow, after such a week, I hope we can recover at the weekend. Enjoy it.

The talk topic this week is: Explain the four types of forces to your parents.

Mrs Vetter

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Years 5 & 6 French

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had interactive oral and written activities to talk about **le futur proche** (the near future) which led us to work and ask questions with verb '**Aller**' and different interrogative words **Qu'est-ce que? Quand? Où?** (what, when and where). We reviewed '**les pronoms personnels**' (personal pronouns) and how, when we conjugate auxiliaries and verbs, we have to take these pronouns into account. We also reviewed **être** and **avoir** and had a short test covering everything we worked on.

In French with Madame Scharf, we started the new year by revising a few basic verbs like être, avoir and aller. We also revised the months of the year and the days of the week as well as the numbers in writing. We also read our new poem “La petite épicerie” (by Maurice Carème) which gave us the opportunity to go over once again “les déterminants articles partitifs”: du, de la, de l’, des.

Year 6

Dear Parents,

A wonderful start to 2020 in Year 6 with a new project – Prisoners of Geography – Diversity and Difference. The book that this topic is based on is ‘Prisoners of Geography – Our World Explained in 12 Simple Maps’. Amazingly, the journalist and bestselling author, Mr Tim Marshall has kindly agreed to Skype with Year 6 students on the morning of Thursday, 6th February! By Wednesday, I could no longer keep this a secret from the pupils... when I found out last year, as his acceptance email flashed up on the screen, I leapt off my chair, letting out a scream of delight; the children wondered what had happened! Thank you to Arjun’s father who is helping set-up our new conference Skype equipment.

We are studying India and Pakistan as a class, then each student will have their own area and geographical topic to research and present to the class. You will find a list of questions that we are discussing about this topic on Edmodo. We all need to strive to disagree productively – this Ted Talk from Julia Dhar is inspirational.

https://www.ted.com/talks/julia_dhar_how_to_disagree_productively_and_find_common_ground?language=en

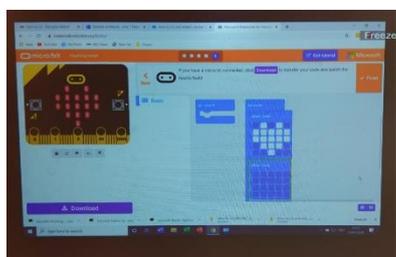
In maths, we are revising and extending our knowledge of shape and space. This included revision of all circle facts: constructing circles, perpendicular bisectors and how to bisect an angle.

We shall be working through a mock SPAG revision test each week. The gap analysis of this week’s test resulted in revision of the passive voice, past participles and fronted adverbials.

Our first, class reading book is ‘Ballet Shoes in Syria’; this book will be studied and read with Mrs Still. Home reading books have been given out: ‘Warlands’ and ‘Iqbal’. All books support this term’s topic.

In science, we watched a virtual dissection of a human brain and learnt about neurons. On display, we now have eleven extra neurons in the class!

Thank you for supporting our new computer programming project by encouraging your child with their own BBC Microbit. Mine is sitting in my desk waiting to be programmed – will it light up? – I hope so!



Talk Topic: What does ‘Prisoners of Geography’ mean?

Happy Weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

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English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Dear Parents,

It is a great pleasure to see the children again after the holiday, and to hear about all the fun they have been having.

In the Junior Department EAL small group this week, we worked on enhancing a piece of writing about the holiday, by using adjectives, and connectives. This was partly revision of last term's work, and partly a chance to use the new connectives *while*, *before* and *after*. We also reviewed the concept of the simple past and present tenses, and we practised using the progressive (continuous) tense, in the past and present, eg. *My sister ate an ice-cream, while I was riding on the giant wheel; The children play quietly, while Grandad is sleeping.*

In the Year One and Two EAL small group this week, we practised reading words that begin with two consonants. We worked on recognising verbs in sentences, with the aim of broadening our use of different verbs in our writing. We read together, and acted out, the story *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. We also talked about opposites, and about rhyming words where the spellings of the rhyming sounds are different (eg. *storm* and *warm*).

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read

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