

## Nursery

Dear Parents



Welcome back after the half term break, we hope despite the weather you had a good one.

We are now starting the second half of the Spring term, not that it feels like it outside, but we are seeing some lovely signs of new life sprouting in the nursery garden, with bulbs blossoming and buds starting to show on the tree branches, we now just need sunshine as well as water to make everything grow!

Our new theme for this term is Dinosaurs, always a favourite with the nursery and it has started with a Big Bang, no pun intended! We have looked at one of our big book stories called Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs and tried to remember some very complicated but awesome names like Diplodocus, Pachycephalosaurus, Stegosaurus, Spinosaurus and of course the very popular Tyrannosaurus rex. We have done this by sounding out the words phonetically i.e steg-oh-saw-rus and singing the names in all sorts of funny voices. The children then searched through the dinosaur box to find their favourite dinosaur and tried to name it and we also did the, If you were a dinosaur what would you be called? game. Mrs Davies became Mrs Dave-Oh- Saw-Rus and Mrs Nagy became Mrs Try-Nagy-tops and Miss diFine was Miss diFine-doh-cuss. The children had great fun choosing their dinosaur name, ask your little one to see if they can remember what it was and how to say it!

In the home school book this week, each child did a maths activity using number conservation to five, by choosing spikes and spots for their dinosaur. We also practised using scissors to snip out the grass and we then attempted to write our name, most importantly of all we just had great fun!

Our talk topic this week is: "What did dinosaurs eat, did they all eat the same things?"

Thank you to everyone who came to the book fair on Thursday, it was very well supported and we have gained some great books for the school, as a consequence of you choosing to buy some great books for your child. Children just adore reading books for pleasure and there is something so special about curling up together and reading a story or looking at some interesting facts or just admiring the beautiful illustrations, which bring everything to life and give us a glimpse into adventures we may never have otherwise. So, thank you once again!

Until next week, keep warm and cosy and read a good book together!

Have a lovely weekend.

Thank you

Alison Davies, Anna Nagy & Vanessa diFine

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

## Music

This week in music, we invited Fairies to a very special tea party, until the big bad wolf came to scare us all away!

## Reception

Dear Parents,



It has been a rainy, cold start to the week but the children who have returned already after the break, have come back full of sunshine and smiles! We have had low numbers in class so far, but this has not deterred us from diving straight into our new topic 'Toys and Teddy bears'. This week the children have learned the rhyme 'Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, turn around' and,, during our carousel activities have made their very own teddy bear, which you can see in their home school book, along with our new rhyme.

We have also talked about toys in general and have been finding out from each child what their favourite toy at home is and what they like to play with in school during golden time.

During our phonics sessions we have learned words that contain the sounds, igh, ay and ai, ask your child to see if they can remember how to say each sound and find a word that contains that sound.

In maths this week we have practised counting in tens and have added some very colourful kites to our working maths wall to illustrate how we write numbers from 10-100 using the counting in tens method. We have also continued to recognise and match written numbers to the same number of objects in a set.

Our talk topic for this week is: Ask your mummy and daddy, "Did you have a teddy bear when you were a baby, do you still have them and do they have a name?"

A great big thank you to all of the parents who came to the book fair or gave money in the envelope for their child to choose a book. We love books in reception and buying a book to share with mummy and daddy at home is just the best!

Have a great weekend and remember it will be Ms Nathan and Mrs Julaton in reception on Monday, instead of Mrs Van Wassenhove, who has started her maternity leave.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Davies and Mrs Julaton      [receptionteacher@telenet.be](mailto:receptionteacher@telenet.be)

## Music

There was a feeling of Rock and Roll in the classroom this week with our very catchy "Teddy Bear Rock" song!

## French

In French with Madame Scharf, we resumed our fun topic : animals. We keep singing many songs mentioning animals and learning new ones. The little booklets about the deer in his house were fun to produce; the children enjoyed the activity very much. We are now singing a very famous and fun song about a wolf getting dressed which gives us the opportunity to learn new vocabulary pertaining to clothing (Promenons-nous dans les bois....).

## EAL

The Reception EAL small group this week talked about toys, the new Reception topic. The children described the toys that they like to play with at home. They then thought about why we need toys, and came up with some profound ideas, including: *We need toys to play; We need to play to be happy; We need to play because we love it; When we play, we can learn to share with younger children and not to push or be rough; When we play with dolls, we can learn how to pick up real babies; When we play with the kitchen, we can learn about cooking food and feeding children.* As the children are now bringing reading books home, we will also spend a little of our EAL time practising blending simple consonant-vowel-consonant words, in the contexts of guessing games, and of stories.

I wish you all a very happy weekend,

Kate Read

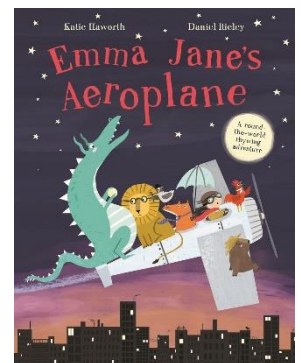
[ealteacher@telenet.be](mailto:ealteacher@telenet.be)

## Year 1

Dear Parents,

It was great to see almost everyone back at school, and thank you for not being too put off by the current virus stories. If and when the situation changes, we will react, but until then, we carry on as normal...

This week in Phonics, we tackled the fourth 'magic e' sound, namely /o-e/ as in 'code', together with its close relative /oe/ as in 'toe'. Together with the /oa/ sound the children already know, this makes three versions of the 'long o' sound they can now recognise. We worked through a series of reading, writing and speaking activities, to help us remember which words need which version of the sound. Our focus text this week (and for the next two weeks) is 'Emma Jane's Aeroplane' - about a girl who flies to a series of major cities around the world, picking up a variety of animal passengers as she goes. Having read, understood and discussed the story, the children then wrote about another place she might visit, and another animal who might like a ride. In our Grammar session, we looked at verbs ('action words') and some of their basic endings: -ing, -ed and -er, as in playing, played and player. We practised using them correctly with 'now' (present) and 'yesterday' (past).



We re-visited number bonds and doubles in Maths this week, but this time expanding our repertoire to cover number bonds to 8, 9 and 20, and doubles to double 10. With number bonds to 20, the children are encouraged to spot the similar pattern of bonds to that of pairs making 10 - e.g. 9+1, 19+1, 8+2, 18+2 etc. For doubles to 10, we made the connection between the sums of doubles (in sequence, from 1-10) and the numbers we call out when counting in 2s (2,4,6,8 etc). The children played some carpet-based games to practise this type of problem (<http://www.bisb.org/project/year-1-march-2020/>) and also did several written exercises to check their understanding, one of which you can see in this week's Home School Book.

In our 'transport' session this week we looked back at all the things we have learnt so far about the invention and development of various types of transport. I think the children now have a fair understanding of the concept of 'the past', so we then turned our attention to the future. The children were challenged to design a future vehicle of their own choice - and what an amazing range they produced: cars, trains and aircraft, operated by robots, magnets and rockets, and containing many essential features such as kitchens and bedrooms!

Our Science investigation this week was about a different type of force, namely 'thrust', as produced by rockets and aeroplanes. We experimented with balloons - taped to a drinking straw on a piece of string attached between the Reception door handle and the front window - a distance of 8 metres! We found out that the long, thin balloons flew further than the round ones, and that if we tried to put too much air in to our balloon rocket, it ended badly!

Please remember that Group B start their swimming sessions on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March - we would like two parent volunteers for each of the next four weeks, please. Maths homework this week is 'Bubble Burst 1.18' - all about telling the time. Finally, our Talk Topic for next week will be "If you were flying Emma Jane's Aeroplane, where would you go and who would you pick up?"

Wishing you a relaxing weekend,

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru  
[year1teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year1teacher@telenet.be)

### Music Years 1 & 2

The weather this week inspired us to explore music and the sound of water. After a good singing introduction on Monday, we created a musical accompaniment to a very rainy story !

### French

In French with Madame Scharf, we resumed our great architectural project : building our very own house on paper. We started with the kitchen, drew the bathroom and toilet and now the bedroom. We also finished our story "Une maison de musiciens" and learnt the days of the week.

### Year 2

Dear Parents,

In Year 2, we have had a fun week back at school, with just a few small changes with me (Miss Lingua) as the new teacher. The children have enthusiastically been sharing their learning of all subjects and focusing on being amazing listeners in the classroom.

In Literacy this week we have written book reports. As they had done previously in the year, the children chose their favourite book, or a reading book they have brought home to read and wrote a brief summary about it. Then, they had to choose their favourite part of the book and explain why they liked it. We have also focused on using our neatest and smallest handwriting, so that our reports will look good up on the classroom wall. Keep up handwriting practice at home, as the children are really improving their joined-up letters and making their words clear on the page.

In Maths this week we have focused on revising our multiplication. Each day, the children were quizzed (out loud) on their knowledge of times tables and we have been using the words 'groups of' and 'arrays' to understand how to multiply numbers.

As our Topic for this half term is volcanoes, we will be incorporating it into Science and Geography. This week we labelled the parts of a volcano – see how many new words you can remember! We also watched a few videos and learned fun facts.



In PE, we will focus on muscle exercises. As it was quite a rainy week, we did exercises in the classroom. We focused on squats, back stretches, calf stretches and movements useful for a cool down. Since it is important to make sure we are breathing properly, especially while exercising, we also made sure to do breathing exercises for a few minutes at a time at the beginning of our PE lesson and at the end.

Our talk topic is: on a volcanic island or in a country with volcanoes, what does the landscape look like? Is there a lot of vegetation around the volcanoes? Is there sea or a big ocean nearby?

Stars of the week: Vihaan, for taking time with his handwriting and making it very neat. Pranavi for thinking carefully about her sentences about her favourite book before writing them. Well done and keep it up!

Enjoy your weekend!

Juliette Lingua and Ena Tolentino [Year2teacher@telenet.be](mailto:Year2teacher@telenet.be)

## French Year 2

In French with Mme Halvorsen, we started talking about **la fête de Pâques** (Easter) which is around the corner. We touched on **la nourriture** (food), **les animaux** and **le printemps** (spring). We used these topics with action verbs like **manger, boire and aimer** (to eat, to drink and to like). We also role-played an interview game to ask questions with :

**Est-ce que tu manges? Est-ce que tu bois? Est-ce que tu aimes** (do you eat?

Do you drink? Do you like?).

## Year 3

Dear Parents,

It's been a busy week back after the holidays and we've done lots of fun activities in class. The children started their swimming lessons again at the pool and they are making pleasing progress. Please note that the children will be swimming for the next three Wednesday afternoons, these sessions will be the last that year 3 will have until next academic year. In our topic lessons we've started to learn about the Stone Age. We couldn't believe quite how long ago that was! We briefly discussed why stone age people were called that and what types of shelters they lived in. We did a 'hunter gatherer' activity where the children had to try and find what food they would eat in each season. We found out that the spring and autumn were the best seasons for stone age people as a greater variety of seeds and berries were available during those times to supplement a diet of mammoths and sabre-toothed cats!



In literacy we started some work on poetry. We looked at shape poems this week. First, we read some examples of shape poems and talked about the way the poems take the form of the poem's subject. Then we looked at some specific examples of shape poems on the subject of volcanoes. We watched a volcano erupting and came up with lots of interesting verbs, adverbs and adjectives to describe what we saw. The children then had a go at writing their own volcano shape poem. I was really impressed by the children's creativity and use of language. We continued with our spelling tests as usual and the children had a look at the week 2 spelling words for the second half of the spring term.

In mathematics we discussed when to use mental methods instead of written methods to solve a problem. We discussed how you can partition in your head and add the hundreds, tens and ones separately. We also discussed how you can round to the nearest ten in order to make addition easier and adjust by adding or subtracting the difference.

In science we started a new unit on scientists and inventors. We talked about who George Washington Carver was and the contributions he made to science and agriculture. We discussed and learned about crop rotation and how this method helps to keep soil full of nutrients and why this in turn enables farmers to grow more plants.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

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

### Music Years 3 & 4

After a good recorder practise on Monday, we finished our week with a song by the Carpenters "Sing a song". We tried to learn both voices in order to be able to sing two different melodies at the same time!

### Year 4



Dear Parents,

There is very little way of avoiding it, but COVID-19 was very much in our minds this week. The situation is filling our daily lives, but what we do have is information. The children were fully briefed about the absolute need for hygiene (as it always should be) and both effective handwashing, good practice and fact-based information both in school and on Edmodo. The children know what to do to keep themselves best protected.

I know that many of you have taken the decision to home school your children this week (just 11 out of 18 children were present on Thursday) but unless absolutely necessary this must be kept to a minimum. Anecdotally (and this is by no means scientific and just based on personal experience), for every week lost to absence - in the worst-case scenario - exam performance drops by 5.4%. This figure is reduced if there is adequate home-schooling but nonetheless, unless you have to, don't do it.

Due to the absence of so many pupils, the selection for the trip to Castle Club Tennis was easy – they *all* went and really enjoyed it! Good respiratory fitness is another key way to prevent infection.

Monday's Montagne Magique performance wasn't quite the usual classic, but it did have some classic moments and the puppetry was outstanding. The children got to see some real mastery and creativity in really quite understandable French.



In class in Maths, we found factors and used them to solve various multiplications. This was followed by subtraction from 1000 numbers, e.g. 4000-1345.

In Literacy, meanwhile, we practised alphabetical order with games the children really enjoyed and exercises which made them think.

Elsewhere, we finished our biographies and then peer-assessed them. The children have loved making them and the quality of their presentations is testament to that enthusiasm and commitment.

Also, in Topic, Cornimont Day 1's Celebrity Sports event began planning. The children have selected the sports and games they will lead: they just need to organise how they will do and explain this. The class also really enjoyed learning how to create running character animations: cartoons with athletic movements.

**Our Talk Topic for this week is:** What is the secret of a long life? Say and explain 5 tips.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman & Mrs Tolentino

[year4teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year4teacher@telenet.be) Please click [here](#) for our Year 4 webpage

### Years 3 &4 French

In French with Mme Halvorsen, we reviewed and had different activities with **Avoir** (to have) and **Être** (to be), and then we took the Avoir auxiliary one step further, to see how **Avoir** can change meaning when used with twelve different expressions as in for example: **Avoir faim, avoir soif** etc .. (to be hungry, to be thirsty..)Then, we role-played scenes among '**les copains**' (friends) meeting for the first time using and asking questions with these expressions.

In French with Madame Scharf, we resumed and finished our special topic : les vêtements (clothing). We learnt to conjugate a pronominal verb like "se laver" (to wash oneself). We also revised the possessives which in French depend on the gender of the noun (masculin/féminin) and not the person speaking or mentioned.

### Year 5

Dear Parents,

Its been a wet and cool week filled with anxiety over the Coronavirus. We have discussed this in class and I have helped to allay fears and misconceptions as best I can. Handwashing is now an integral part of the day and I thank you for trusting your children to us. Their safety is our first priority.

In Literacy we discussed modal verbs and how to use them. We have had practice of this in our homework this week. Our comprehension this week was in the form of a letter written by Robert Louis Stevenson to his father when he was just 15 years old. The rich vocabulary was to our liking and we came away inspired by it. We also began to read our new class reader, *Journey to the River Sea*, and were introduced to Maia, who is looking for a loving family.

In Numeracy we have focused on short division and are now actually quite adept at it. We have also touched on problems with remainders. Next week we shall be focusing on fractions.



In Topic we took a look at Mayan food. We discovered that the Mayans ate corn a lot and also chocolate. Their chocolate was not sweetened like ours but spicier, with the addition of vanilla and chilli peppers.

We had another WildEarth drive and, whilst it was very slow on the animal front, we had a lot of questions answered by Steve and David. This was the very first full 45-minute drive we had experienced.

In Art we had such fun. After watching a video on the art of taking a good photograph we set off, ipads in hand, to experiment. We took photos of the playground in both buildings and tried to improve on these as best we could. I was amazed at how creative the children were in their photography and how they tried to use the tricks learnt in the video to enhance their work.

In PE we played handball outside until the rain forced us to come indoors.

We are all eagerly awaiting our trip to Waterstones to buy a book as part of our World Book Day experience.

The talk topic this week is: All around we see electric scooters and bicycles for hire. Discuss the advantages of these modes of transport.

Have a hopefully dry weekend.

Mrs Vetter

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

### Music Years 5 & 6

We are getting close to our recorder test in two weeks, so practise is getting very serious in the classroom! We could however get a bit more relaxed at the end of the week and we discovered what "scat" music is!

### Years 5 & 6 French

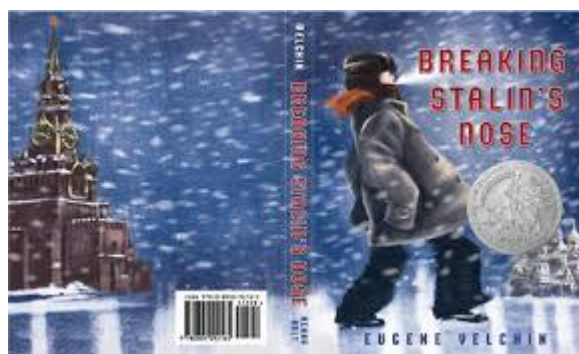
In French with Mme Halvorsen, we talked once again about 'l'heure' (time) **Quelle heure est-il?** (what time is it?) and we used the time expressions to describe our **daily routines** with regular verbs ending in **-er**. We also reviewed different prepositions such as **, sur, à côté de, devant, derrière** (on, next to, in front of, behind) and we used them to start our new project – **Décris 'la maison de rêve et ton jardin'** ( Describe your dream house and garden).

In French with Madame Scharf, we started presenting our work on the animal of our choice. So far, we have learnt amazing facts on the rabbit, the panther and the tiger. More exciting presentations are yet to come and we are all looking forward to them. We also continued correcting our reading comprehension about Keith Haring and conjugated more pronominal verbs such as "se laver".

### Year 6

Dear Parents,

This is it! We have entered the final preparation stage for our end-of-year examinations. If any student is not working to their full potential - this is the last chance to rectify this situation!



Monday turned out to be a marathon marking session. Delighted to see that Ninja comprehension skills are having an impact on the quality of answers and the algebra homework was correctly answered. There are



still some stumbling blocks with SPaG: verb tenses, the subjunctive form and prepositions. Disappointed to discover that some students still do not have the correct attitude towards their homework.

In maths, we revised plotting coordinates in all quadrants, drawing and translating shapes on the coordinate plane and reflecting them in the axes. We revisited lines or rotation and extended our learning of rotational symmetry.

We have begun our in-depth study of The Soviet Union. We watched some video clips about Joseph Stalin, the history of Russia and Soviet Young Pioneers in preparation for our next class reading book – Breaking Stalin's Nose. Our first focus is 'what was daily life like' in Stalin's Soviet Union for Sasha. Our outing, next week, to the exhibition 'Behind the Berlin Wall', will help students understand life under communist rule.

On Monday next week, we shall be going to visit Waterstones, details are on Edmodo and you should have received a paper copy. Your children enjoy reading and I am sure that they will find a book to read and treasure.

Thank you to Arjun and Aishwarya, our Microbit gurus this week, for teaching us how to create more complicated programmes.

In art, we are investigating how to create a 3D display board about our topic – Prisoners of Geography – for the entrance hall. We are inspired by this promotional video:

[https://youtu.be/v\\_Oq9akA2vk](https://youtu.be/v_Oq9akA2vk)

Lots of discussion about Coronavirus! We, the teachers, are doing our utmost to be factual, calm and objective about the situation - the last thing we want is for the children to become over-anxious. We are following the WHO guidelines with regard to hygiene, particularly handwashing.

Talk Topic: Would you like to live in a *kommunalka*?

Happy weekend!

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino [Year6teacher@telenet.be](mailto:Year6teacher@telenet.be)

### **English as an Additional Language (EAL)**

This week, the Junior Department EAL small group was very small, because of absences. We spent a session reading about sports and games in history, through which we found out about the Ancient Greeks and Romans, and how some words in English are derived from the Roman language (Latin). We also spent a session reading and writing the instructions for a game. Next week, we will read, and try to write, some shape poems, in connection with Year 3's class work.

In the Year One and Two EAL group this half term, we will increasingly be working on reading and writing skills. The children read a short book from the Project X series, and then asked and answered questions about the text, working in pairs, and then writing their answers. We played a story-telling game, again working in pairs, in which the children had 3 pictures and made up a little story using them. We will repeat this activity next week, when the children will also have a chance to write their stories down. We also read the book *Emma Jane's Aeroplane*, in connection with Year 1's class work, and we wrote about our favourite books, in connection with Year 2's class work.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read [eaalteacher@telenet.be](mailto:eaalteacher@telenet.be)