

## EYFS Reception

Dear Parents,

We've been back from the half-term holiday for two full weeks and they've just flown by! The children continue to work hard in school and are progressing well through our phonics work, blending sounds, reading short words and captions, and working on letter formation. They've been looking at measurement in Maths, measuring different objects with blocks, working on vocabulary and exploring capacity using water and different sized containers.

We've begun a new topic on Celebrations starting with the familiar: The celebration of Diwali. We started with a lovely Diwali story and finished with some beautiful artwork on fireworks, rangoli patterns, and lanterns to name a few. Our topic on celebrations will carry on as we learn about Thanksgiving focusing on the harvest festival and gratitude aspects of this holiday. We will also explore other celebrations such as birthdays and of course Christmas. Speaking of, your child has begun learning the songs for our winter show, which they are very excited about.

We leave you with a few photos of your children in action.



**Our talk topic is: What is your favourite way to celebrate your birthday ?**

Have a lovely weekend. Mrs. van Wassenhove, Mrs. Cassidy and Mrs. Julaton [receptionteacher@telenet.be](mailto:receptionteacher@telenet.be)

## KS1 Year 1

Dear Parents,

It has been a while since our last Home School Letter but our days in Year 1 are still as fun-filled and action packed as ever. I would like to thank you for your participation in the Parent-Teacher Meetings that were held recently. It was a great pleasure to be able to spend time with you. Those meetings helped to strengthen the Home-School link and further allow us to work in partnership to provide the best possible provision that we can for your child. Here are some of our recent highlights:



Developing our understanding of maps with a walk in the local area.



Sharing some of our poems that we had written with the Year 3 pupils in Oak. They were a wonderful audience!



There's only one way to watch Michael Rosen perform his poem, 'Chocolate Cake' – that's by **eating** chocolate cake!



Here we are on Senses Party Day, celebrating our science learning.

Here are some of the things we are looking forward to in the next few weeks:

- Reading 'The Jolly Postman' by Janet & Allan Ahlberg in Literacy
- Learning about position and direction, comparing lengths and heights and measuring using non-standard and standard units, adding 1, 2 and 3 by counting on in Maths
- Investigating light, dark, shadows and sound in Science as we explore Celebrations
- Practicing our Winter Production, 'Gnome Alone'. Do this at home too please!



### STARS

**Rudransh** : For working so hard to use his Phonics learning when he's writing.

**Shivaan** : For amazing balancing and jumping in the garden.

**Deetya**: For practicing her words for the show and saying them with such expression.

**Tia Moushmee**: For wonderful ideas when discussing stories.

**TALK TOPIC:** What are some of the celebrations that you have enjoyed with your family? How did you celebrate? What did you wear? What did you eat? Did you have decorations?

Since the last Home-School Letter, these children have been in school **EVERYDAY**. A big 'well done' to: Yug, Masoomi, Johan, Ishitha, Ashvanth, Deetya, Vasu, Tia Moushmee, Rachit, Saahithi, Nithara, Shamruth.



Have a wonderful weekend!

Miss Corrigan and Miss Navarro [year1teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year1teacher@telenet.be)

## KS1 Year 2



Dear Parents,

We have had an exciting two weeks of dragon spotting in Year Two! The new half term began with some breaking news reports of dragon sightings around the Brussels area! This was followed by the mysterious destruction of the classroom and the discovery of green slime, an enormous poo and a huge dragon nest in the school garden! There the children found a baby dragon just hatched from its egg. In order to care for our new dragon hatchling we needed first to find out what kind of dragon it was and do some serious research using a range of dragon

information texts. We have been corresponding with a famous dragonologist who, impressed with our findings, has asked us to contribute to her book, 'The Dragon Seeker's Guide to the Dragons of Belgium'. We created our first information text entry for the book as a class about the lesser-spotted, fearful Thunder Dragon. Over the next weeks the children will work on creating their independent entries for the book based on their own dragon sightings.



In Maths we continued work on adding two, two-digit numbers by partitioning and then adding the tens and the units and we consolidated our knowledge of multiples of 2, 5 and 10 before applying our multiplication facts to number problems involving money. The children have been set the challenge of now learning their 3 and 4 times tables by heart over the next few weeks. We have been having fun using songs to rehearse our times tables.

In Science we moved onto the 'Material Properties' part of our topic and took a first look at different materials around our school on a materials scavenger hunt, using scientific vocabulary to describe the properties of these materials. In the coming weeks we will begin a series of practical science investigations testing the properties of different materials such as strength, stretchiness and absorbency and discussing why these properties might make the materials useful for their purpose.



Wacky Wednesday's have been overtaken by the preparations for our Christmas Production, Gnome Alone, with the children getting involved in not only rehearsing their lines and the songs of the show, but also practicing dance moves and creating the set backdrop, props and costumes! It is going to be a really spectacular show! We have sent home letters outlining the few bits of basic costume your child will need. Feel free to send the items into school over the next two weeks in labelled plastic bags please. The rest of the costumes will be made at school.

The children of Year Two have been very kindly taking Fop, the class Schaerbeek Scale-back dragon, home each evening. Please remember to feed and care for Fop over night and write in his diary about the exciting adventures he has had in your home before returning him to school the next day. You can also send any photographs of his time in your home to Miss Bird at [year2teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year2teacher@telenet.be) for your child to show and tell the next day.

Talk Topic; Do you think the Thunder Dragon should be hunted?



Debate your answer, giving reasons for your opinion and using debate vocabulary 'I feel', 'I believe' and 'I think' followed of course by a 'because' statement.

We wish you a very happy weekend, Miss Bird and Mrs Tolentino

[Year2teacher@telenet.be](mailto:Year2teacher@telenet.be)



## Music with Miss Di Fine

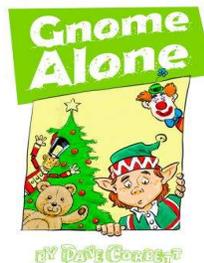
**Reception:** These last two weeks have been so exciting in Music! We are getting ready for our singing performance in Christmas's time. This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to perform for their families and friends some songs they have learned in school about the Winter and Christmas time! The songs we learned are called "Five Little Elves" and "Dear Santa".

### Five little elves



### Years 1 & 2:

During these two weeks we have been very busy learning all the songs of our Christmas play "Gnome Alone", which we will perform on the 13th of December at the De Kam Theatre. In next weeks we will combine the singing part of the play together with the acting part. You might have received the songs from the school office



before the half term holiday. It would be very helpful if you can sing or just play them at home with your child in order to listen to and to practice the lyrics and the pitch of the songs. Thank you! The children are all very much excited and they can't wait to perform their Christmas play! We also talked about the half note (minim - 2 beats) and the whole note (semibreve - 4 beats) and how many beats they are worth. We then clapped and played our percussion instruments on different rhythms and songs. We very much enjoyed the Classical piece called "In the Hall of the Mountain King" from Peer Gynt. If you want to practice this rhythm at home click on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ih-3t-igoo>



### Years 3, 4, 5 & 6:

These last two weeks we have worked intensely on building up our Christmas show songs. On the 16th of December at the De Lijsterbes Theatre we will perform our Christmas play called "Bah Humbug!", a fabulous musical adaptation of Charles Dickens classic "A Christmas Carol". We have now listened to and sang all the songs. We worked on the solos, on the different singing voices and on their tempos. The next step will be to memorize all the lyrics in order to sing them without reading the words!

## French with Ms Kowalska

### Reception and Year 1

We have now completed the autumn wardrobe topic. We have been busy practising new words; there has been art and crafts, riddles and stories reading. Ask your child how to say trousers, dress, coat, tights, and pullover in French.



With Reception we set out to discover the human body, the topic that offers us plenty of opportunities to have fun and to learn.

Children in Year 1 learn the days of the week. You can use the little weekly slide made in class and sing "[Lundi matin, l'empereur, sa femme et le petit prince](#)" together.



### Year 2

We have finished working on the calendar, with the seasons, months and days of the week. Everyone did their best to learn not only how to pronounce but also how to spell the new words. To take a breather between writing exercises, we sang "[Lundi matin, l'empereur, sa femme et le petit prince](#)".

"Opposites" is the new topic we are exploring now.

### Year 3

After learning names of each season, months and days of the week, we are now exploring the broad theme of the city. Places in the city, shops, roads in all directions. A work requiring concentration that Year 3s are more and more capable of. Well done Year 3!

### Belgium: geography, history & culture

With Year 3 & 4, we travel through the Belgian provinces. After watching a video tour of Antwerp city center, this week we got to know "Tchatchés", an emblematic character from the Puppet Theatre of Liège.

Around the 11th of November (Armistice), with Year 5 & 6 we talked about the Great War 1914-18 with the emphasis on the living conditions of soldiers and civilians in Belgium and the exemplary attitude of the Belgian royal couple.

**KS2 Year 3** What a busy few weeks 😊. The children all came back to school full of energy, enthusiasm and lots of news about their holidays. Since then the rhythm hasn't stopped and they have worked really hard, giving their all in everything that we have done, which is

Sharing books  
in the library



Creating healthy  
lunchboxes

Year 3 Restaurant, experimenting with a healthy, crunchy raw vegetable salsa to tie in with a

reading homework task, and a totally delicious carrot cake to bring a new set of reading comprehensions to life. Not only did we set up a great kitchen and learn some new practical skills, but we then converted Year 3 into our own TV studio, with each



group presenting their recipe to a very attentive audience! Some very impressive speaking and a good way to reinforce the learning, both by presenting and by listening and asking questions.



Making Mexican Salsa



The maths for this term is also hands-on, so out came the measuring scales (in the restaurant!), and the tape measures as we practised measuring objects ... and each other. All of this practical work is also helping to improve our group work and communication skills – essential as work increases on the Christmas show and we spend time together.

To make sure that we follow the big rehearsals with the whole department, we have been practising not only our own lines, but also reading and acting the lines of other characters. There has been lots of singing, acting, listening and



concentrating, but the show is beginning to come together and it's going to be **GREAT!** Watch this space and book the date 😊!

Next week will see more cooking, using different techniques, and we move onto the next set of skills in comprehension and maths. The new reading books are proving really popular, and our 'reading swap' shelf is growing steadily. Please don't worry if the books might seem too hard – the most important is to enjoy the stories together and to build the enthusiasm for exploring new authors and illustrators! Have a lovely weekend,

Jane Still [year3teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year3teacher@telenet.be)



## KS 2 Year 4

Dear Parents,

Since the last letter we finished our geography work on 'All around the world' with showing all we have learned on our globe models and made some decorations to celebrate Diwali, well done children!



We have had a busy start to the term and launched straight into our new 'write stuff' unit based on Serena Williams's version of Maya Angelou's iconic poem 'Still I Rise', you can view it here <https://youtu.be/TZO08C5vL2A>. We started off with an age-appropriate look into Maya Angelou's life and we were amazed at how many jobs she had! We enjoyed hearing her speak some of her inspirational quotes such as 'be a rainbow in someone else's cloud' and we created a wonderful display to honour her life. We also discussed some of the issues she had to overcome in her life such as bullying and racism and made lion posters of adjectives to show our own strengths which we can draw on to overcome challenges. We are now writing our own poem based on 'Still I Rise'. We have completed the first three verses and look forward to finishing the poem and then working on ideas for our own

individual poems next week.



Rehearsals for the Christmas show are in full swing and in Year 4 we have been learning a country style dance to Fezziwig's Shindig. So much fun! I'm sure that you're starting to hear the children sing the songs at home and we will continue to work on rehearsing over the coming weeks.

Next week we will also continue to work on our science unit of sound, building on what we have already learned such as identifying sources of sound and understanding what causes sound to be heard. We will progress on to looking at how sound particles travel to the ear.

**Talk topic: "Be a rainbow in someone else's cloud" - what does it mean and how can you apply this idea to your own life?**

Kind Regards,  
Camilla Rutayisire [Year4teacher@telenet.be](mailto:Year4teacher@telenet.be)

## KS 2 Year 5

Dear Parents,

The past month has been a whirlwind of events and next week we are still off on an adventure to the forest (don't forget your walking boots and your raincoat!). From the vibrant clamour of the Science Expo, to swimming in NATO, to an unforgettable tour of the Bois-du-luc Colliery and surroundings, the children have been experiencing everything!

We've made polymer molecules, escaped virtual viruses, climbed a man-made hill made of mining debris and (literally) jumped in the deep end.

Next Friday, we have our first orienteering race followed by the Autumn Crafts night (if the children are not too tired after their efforts). Rehearsals are in full swing and many of the class are practising Christmas dances. We are thinking, moving, collaborating and most importantly smiling!



The gang climbing the slagheap volcano

Atop the terril – the synthetic-mountain climbing team



**Talk Topic:** will you see, hear, smell and feel down in the forest next week?



Our topic display

Best wishes, Tim Stedman [year5teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year5teacher@telenet.be)



Learning to swim with a vengeance!!



Fascination at 'I Love Science!'



Eating lunch at the mining museum

Our shuttle to La Louviere



Making a subterranean oil trap



**KS 2 Year 6** The second Autumn term has been action packed. We really enjoyed a fantastic visit to the Atlantik Wall near Oostend. Our guide Hilda brought the occupation of Belgium to life and we learned what life was like for a soldier stationed in the bunkers built to defend the coastline from Allied attack. We saw a real enigma machine and discovered how the Germans encoded messages about where their U-Boats were. It was great to hear compliments about our children's knowledge about World War 2 and how well behaved they were. Well done year 6 you were a credit to the school and your families. We just had time for lunch by the sea and an ice-cream. We hope you enjoy the selection of photos from our visit.



Other news: Dr. Doyle arranged a visit to the Thomas More University for a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Project Day: A visit To The Moon. Our Digital Leader Kirill and Diya attended along with Dr. Doyle and Mrs. Bounds. It was a wonderful day where the children were immersed in the latest technology including: green screen video making, virtual reality experiences, robotics projects and scripting a virtual world and more. We are hoping that there will be more opportunities like this to come. Thanks to Dr. Doyle and The University of Mechelen for a great time.



Our Stars of the Week are: **Kuval** for organising and running a special assembly on The World Cup and **Geethika** for excellent art work making props for the school play.

**Talk Topic:** Can you make an electrical circuit to send a Morse Code message? Elisabeth Bounds  
[year6teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year6teacher@telenet.be)

#### Year 4

In French with Mme Halvorsen, we had such an exciting time learning and exploring our project 'l'automne chantonne?' (is autumn humming?). We covered a wide array of vocabulary related to 'l'automne and 'la météo'(the weather forecast) and used it to describe **la forêt, le parc, le jardin** using 'les adjectifs (les couleurs)' and the weather. We also learned how to use **les pronoms personnels**, and the 'auxiliaire Avoir' and saw the exceptional way of using it to express **one's age**. Then, we wrapped the week with a wacky 'chasse au trésor' full of excitement!



#### Year 5

In French with Mme Halvorsen, we had a wonderful time preparing our project 'l'automne enchanté' (the magic of fall) and putting into action things we've been covering in class such as the agreement (l'accord) of **la phrase (au singulier or pluriel)** with **les adjectifs**, the use of **les verbes réguliers**, **l'auxiliaire être** with a rich and wide array of vocabulary related to 'l'automne and 'la météo'(the weather) and asking questions like *Quel temps fait-il en automne?* (what's the weather like in autumn?). We also got to describe **la forêt, le parc, le jardin** using all the vocabulary related to **l'automne**. Lastly, we wrapped our project with an amazing and witty 'chasse au trésor'!



#### Year 6

In French with Mme Halvorsen, we continued exploring **les verbes réfléchis** and **les verbes transitifs'(VT)** and we had fun coming up with different practical interviews contrasting **la voix affirmative** and **negative** to see how we position (in a phrase) '**ne pas**' and the reflexive pronouns. We then had a test with sweeping and outstanding results! After which, we embarked on our exciting autumn project '**le valse de l'automne**' covering loads of new vocabulary related to 'l'automne and 'la météo'? and used it to describe **la campagne** (the countryside), **la forêt** etc.. Then, we wrapped the week with an exciting and wacky '**chasse au trésor**' where they nailed brilliantly all the clues while speaking and giving directions en français!

