

Home School Books – 14 December 2018.

### Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents

The cold weather has come and we are all wishing it would snow! The children were excited to see the white frost in the playground this week and tried to scrape enough together to make a snowman! So how wonderful it would be to look outside and see enough snow to build several snowmen!

Just to get us all in the mood for a snowy day, we decided to print snowflakes with white paint and if you look opposite you will see your little ones snowy day painting. Although I think more paint went on our hands than the paper! If you look carefully you might see a few handprints in among the snowflake flurry. We also



made paintings of snowmen for our large whole school winter display, which you can see on the staircase wall in the library. You can't miss their big colourful hats, so please take a look next time you are in school.

We then finished off our costumes and hats for the Christmas show which is on Monday 17th December at 11.30am in school. Please do not forget to put your child in black or white tights or leggings, underneath their trousers on that day. We can then just whip off their outer trousers and dress them in their costume without too much fuss. We can't wait and the children have practised the songs so well, let's hope they don't get stage fright on the day! One parent asked if photographs could be taken on the day of the show and the answer is, yes, because it is a special school event.

**Afternoon children are invited to do a morning session on the day of the show. Therefore, there will be no afternoon session for them and the children attending full time are also welcome to go home after the show if parents wish.**

Another quick reminder, next week is our final week before the Christmas holiday and school will close at 12.15pm for all children; there will be no garderie service. Please put it in your diary now, so we don't have anyone left late, as it is upsetting for little ones when everyone else has gone and they are the only ones still there with all of the teachers!

Until Monday, stay warm and well for the show! Keep your children's vocal chords working with our talk topic, which is, 'If snow wasn't white, what colour would you like it to be and why?'

Thank you

Alison Davies and Inés van Wassenhove  
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Please click [here](#) for our Nursery webpage

## Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

We hope that you all enjoyed our little Christmas show - We thought it went great! The children all did an excellent job and had a really good time, which is the most important thing. Well done everyone!

We are also very pleased that more children have been arriving before 9 am this week and we hope that this will continue throughout the rest of the school year.

In phonics this week we learned the /sh/ diagraph. We practised writing the sound and we thought of lots of words that start with /sh/, like the shop in our classroom corner. In Maths we continued to learn about money and the children are starting to understand that a two cent coins has two one cent coins inside it, and we are now starting to work with 1 cents, 2 cents, 5 cents and 10 cents coins. The concept of money is still a bit confusing for them but they are doing a great job of practising as you will see in your child's home school book

We have also been busy preparing for Christmas by doing arts and crafts and decorating our classroom with Christmas pictures that the children coloured, with Christmas balls that the children decorated and with lights and Christmas decoration. As you can imagine, we are all in great Christmas spirit by now!



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been learning Christmas related vocabulary and singing “Vive le vent” which is the famous French “Gingle Bells”. We have been opening an advent calendar with Boowa and Kwala, read Christmas stories and made a beautiful Christmas card.

### **Our talk topic for the weekend is: What is my favourite thing about winter?**

Please remember to have a discussion about that with your child this weekend, and as always, it's fine to have the conversation in your mother tongue!

Finally, Stars of the Week go to: Shanvika, for being so very good at working with coins this week! And Jagrav, for being really good at practising his phonics and his writing!

We hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Elín Hafstein and Ivana Julaton

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Please click [here](#) for our Reception webpage

## Home School Book – 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 and more excited with each practice, so it was great for them finally to put on their costumes 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 in Phonics, we learnt the last of the phase 3 sounds, namely /ure/ and its close friend /ture/. The children have learnt these sounds as 'long' and 'short' versions, as in 'pure' (long, without a 't') and 'picture' (short, with a preceding 't') respectively. After Christmas we shall move straight on to Phase 4. Our other main Literacy work this week was a non-fiction exercise about reindeer: where they live, what they eat, what they are good at, and so on. We all read some 'fact sheets' together, we asked some questions, the children discussed their ideas, and then they wrote their own fact sheet by answering a series of questions - I am confident that we all learnt something new about reindeer! Please ask the children, to see whether they can remember.

This week in Maths, having just completed the second teaching block, the children each did a short assessment test. Then we were 'free' to explore a number of other Maths topics which will be covered in greater depth in the coming year. We started by creating and interpreting simple block graphs (part of 'Data Handling'), did some work on symmetry (part of 'Geometry'), learnt about the > and < symbols (greater than and less than), and tried out some picture SuDoku (very good for logical thinking and spotting patterns). All of these were done, of course, with a Christmas theme, and you can see an example in your child's Home School Book.

In Art, the children made 3-D snowmen, festooned with glitter and stickers, which will replace our ageing skeletons on display in the classroom. In PE, we adapted one of our favourite games to the season, and called it 'Dress the Reindeer' - and as reindeer have antlers, they are capable of holding much more equipment than a mere scarecrow!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been singing our song for the show "Le Père Noël est enrhumé" and "Vive le vent" which is the French "Jingle Bells". We read stories, played a memory game which helped us learn Christmas vocabulary and made a beautiful card.

**The Talk Topic for next week will be "What do you like best about Christmas?"**

Please note that swimming for Year 1 begins in January - the class will be split in to 2 groups, and the first group will start swimming on the second day of term, Tuesday 8th January 2019. You will receive a letter informing you of the groups next week.

Enjoy another weekend of Christmas build-up!

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru

[Year1teacher@telenet.be](mailto:Year1teacher@telenet.be)

Please click [here](#) for our Year 1 webpage

## Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

Well, as we saw this afternoon, Santa has successfully resolved all of his problems and Christmas is nearly here! We have had very busy week building up to the performance and it was very exciting to finally put everything together on a proper stage, in costumes. Thank you all for battling through the traffic to get to the theatre, we hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we did. The children were amazing, and it was a real privilege to watch them perform with such confidence and enthusiasm. They should be very proud of themselves.



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The concentration and effort that goes into participating in such a play is huge – eight songs, lots of words to learn, knowing where to stand, when and where to move, when to sing, understanding how a play works and how to act a part – and this is only part of the process. The children made elements of their costumes and painted the scenery and props, deciding what would make the best décor and how it could be made. So, although the end performance may only be 40 minutes long, the work that the children do beforehand is wide-reaching and demands considerable maturity and a great sense of teamwork. When I suggested to someone that they needed to face the audience and speak more loudly, he replied that it was really difficult because he was very shy – all the more reason for him, and many others, to be very proud when overcoming that shyness and performing so confidently. Everyone deserves a Christmas star of the week this week for great team spirit!

In addition to rehearsals and last-minute scenery painting, we have also managed to review our maths work this term and complete most of the end-of-term Abacus maths tests. We have filled in the missing parts of our first maths workbook and are looking forward to the challenges of next term. In the meantime, we will now work on a Christmas maths mystery and play some of the class maths games.

In literacy we are reading a beautifully illustrated story called “The Fox and the Star”, which is a modern fable in a winter woodland setting. The illustrations are detailed and stunning, taking up whole pages and offering plenty of scope for discussion and extension of the story and of the ideas behind it.

We have our last swimming session next week and have decided to make it even more special by taking the whole class, so could you please make sure that your child has their swimming bag on Tuesday? Every child should also bring a woolly hat as it is

cold when we leave the pool. Thank you in advance – they will be very disappointed if they do not have a costume and are the only child not in the water!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we learned how to use ‘Il y a’ (there is/there are) in order to describe ‘notre classe’ (our classroom) and related vocabulary. We sang and practised our song for the Christmas show: Le Père Noël est enrhumé.

**Our talk topic for the week is “What did you most enjoy about the Christmas play?”**

Have a peaceful relaxing weekend,

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

[year2teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year2teacher@telenet.be)

Please click [here](#) for our Year 2 webpage

### Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

‘Christmas is forever’, our Winter show has been the focus of our week in year 3. The songs are very memorable and we’re sure that everyone is going to love the show. The children have also been busy practising their acting skills and getting into their respective parts of reindeer, MI6 assistants and elves. We hope that everyone will enjoy coming to see the show on Monday evening.

This week in literacy we revised key concepts of the grammar curriculum that we’ve covered so far. The children were challenged to write one sentence about Frosty the snowman using an expanded noun phrase, one using a possessive apostrophe, one using the personal pronoun ‘he’ and one using the conjunction ‘but.’ We had some very creative sentences! We also practised using a thesaurus to find more exciting words for ‘pretty’, ‘colourful’, ‘tall’ and ‘kind’. We found some much more exciting words such as iridescent, lofty and gorgeous that will make our writing much more exciting to read. We did our last spelling test of the term and we looked at the first set of words



In maths we investigated using coordinates for the first time this year. The children learned how to go across (the x axis) the grid first then up (the y axis) in order to find the coordinate. The children then drew a reindeer on a grid and then plotted the coordinates of the squares that they used to make their design, writing them as a list of instructions. We’ve also practised trying to draw the other side of gingerbread men to make them symmetrical.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked about Christmas and revised all the vocabulary pertaining to the Christmas season with the help of various books. We made a Christmas card and sang a song about Père Noël.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen we reviewed 'Avoir' and 'Être' (to have and to be). We had several interactive and fun activities and exercises, then we talked about our visit to the library and the vocabulary we learned from the story we heard through the Kamishibai: 'les trois plumes' (the three feathers).

In our art and topic lessons we've been busy preparing our Christmas gifts and cards using a range of skills – painting, printing, drawing and cutting. The children are proud of what they've made and are looking forward to taking them home. **The talk topic for next week is 'What was your favourite part of our winter show and why?'**

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Fiona King

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Please click [here](#) for our Year 3 webpage

#### Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

It's been a very exciting (and final) week again of rehearsals. We hope to put on a great show for you on Monday and we don't think you'll be disappointed! Just three more rehearsals to go!!!



Of course, the day after is the monumental trip to the North Pole. Don't forget to send in the permission slips and don't forget to wrap your children up. It's always easier to strip one of many layers than try and keep warm with just three thick ones. Time for the thermals!

Three days after, we return to the Castle Club for swimming. It'll be good to go just once before the holiday break as it will loosen up some rusty joints and also, if the bug catches, may result in a 'Daddy/Mummy, can we go swimming today?' a couple of times! Incidentally one of our children is a member of Triton Evere swimming which I believe is every Wednesday night.

What about in class this week? Well, in Maths we weighed using scales and converted units of mass and also enjoyed a bit of data handling. We entered data in a frequency table and transferred it onto graphs. Next week, there will be the end-of-term Abacus

tests. If your child is jumping ship early to go on holiday, please let me know so I can bring the test forward.

You may remember that there was a decreasing time frame for our fairy-tale writing. Well, the children have attacked this and thundered towards the final product. The stories have been pretty much typed up, edited and, for some slightly further ahead, an audio 'telling' has been added. Once I've managed to collate the finished tales, converted them from Apple Keynote to Microsoft PowerPoint and recorded them onto a CD-ROM, they will be ready to hit the Amazon Sales. O.K, distribution will be a bit more modest but each of the 18 disks will become collector's items and when the children become famous one day, will be worth a tidy packet!!!☺

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked about Christmas and revised all the vocabulary pertaining to the Christmas season with the help of various books. We made a Christmas card and sang a song about Père Noël.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen we reviewed 'Avoir' and 'Être' (to have and to be ). We had several interactive and fun activities and exercises, then we talked about our visit to the library and the vocabulary we learned from the story we heard through the Kamishibai: 'les trois plumes' (the three feathers).

And that was our week.

**Our Talk Topic for this week is: What is the difference between the North Pole and the South Pole?**

Best wishes

Tim Stedman and Fiona King

[year4teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year4teacher@telenet.be)

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

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

In this penultimate week of the autumn term we have been very busy with craft and fun activities. The weather has been much colder, even dipping below zero, and we have had rain also.

The main focus in our classroom has been the making of our snow globe Christmas cards. We had to tape the cardboard together to give the card depth and then create a background for our globe. We then glued this and added our 'snow'. We covered the front with clear plastic before sticking on a glittery frame. We wrote a seasonal message in the card to finish it off. The class really enjoyed making these lovely cards.



We watched a PowerPoint about Christmas around the world and learnt many different things. We then did a comprehension on this same subject. Our literary highlight had to be the great Christmas Pudding conundrum! Some naughty elf had swapped the sugar for the salt and ruined the Christmas pudding that Mrs Claus had made. As chief detectives we had to sift through 5 clues and find the culprit. To solve these clues we had to do various literary activities involving suffixes, prefixes, punctuation and spelling corrections. We had fun eliminating the good elves and finally got our elf!

We also finished our last of the word of the day activities and learnt words such as laboriously and leverage.

For numeracy we had cryptic Christmas codes to crack using our knowledge of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched another part of the film “Les trois brigands”. On Wednesday, we went to the local library Thomas Owen where we had a “kamishibai” presentation which is form of Japanese street theatre and storytelling using a combination of picture and text to convey a story. The librarian Mélisande read us two stories and we got to borrow books. We also created a mind map for Christmas.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed ‘Avoir’ and ‘Être’ (to have and to be ) and we focused on the exceptional use of ‘Avoir’ with certain expressions . We followed up with several interactive activities and exercises. We also reviewed several adjectives and their opposites and we combined them with ‘être’ (to be) in order to assess and see how they conjugate it and apply the agreement in gender and number.

We are in the final throes of our Winter play preparation. Costumes and props have been checked and finalised. Our singing is sounding really good now and our acting has begun to come together. We are now looking forward to presenting this to you all on Monday.

Events to look forward to next week are the play on Monday and our Adventure in Lapland on Tuesday. It is going to be an exciting and busy week.

**The talk topic is: If a friend asks you to do something you know to be wrong, how should you react?**

Have a restful weekend.

Best wishes,

Valeria Vetter and Ena Tolentino

[year5teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year5teacher@telenet.be)

Please click [here](#) for our Year 5 webpage

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

I think that we now know all the words to the songs and our lines for the play. This week, we have focused on acting, changing scenes, using props and coming in on cue. If you have a chance, please look at some video clips from the older James Bond movies- our production captures many of these famous and loved scenes.



We completed the Abacus maths tests on Wednesday. Frustratingly, there are still some children who are not reading the question! At this level of maths, when the answer is to be given as a simplified fraction, there are no marks awarded if this is not the case and it is necessary to always check the intervals on any scale. Questions now have three or four steps to be completed - some children do the first calculation and think that this is the final answer!

Our second debate about ‘are computers better than books?’ took place on Thursday. It was obvious that most pupils had prepared thoroughly for this debate. Our next step is to analyse the video recording and discuss how we could improve on this first attempt.

I am delighted that the book challenge has worked so well; this will be continued next term, when our new topic will be WWII.

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Our final week is going to be very busy, so just to remind you:

- Monday – production at the De Kam theatre, 17.00
- Tuesday - Lapland Adventures – a small backpack day with enough food and water to keep you active throughout the day
- Wednesday – Christmas party day in Year 6 – please bring extra snacks and goodies for lunch!
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**The Talk Topic for this week is: Which book did I enjoy the most, this term and why?**

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino  
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 6 webpage

### English as an Additional Language

Dear Parents,

This week, the Reception EAL group revisited some of the activities from earlier in the term. We looked at pictures of objects from home and from the environment, talked about them, and sorted them into groups. The aim here was to practise understanding instructions and simple descriptions. I was also pleased to hear the children putting two or three words together to explain how they were sorting the pictures, and using some simple adjectives.

In the Year One and Two EAL group, we revised some essential writing skills, including the phonics covered this term in Year One, and the concepts of a letter, a word and a sentence. We worked with the Year One spelling words to create our own simple sentences (with a capital letter and a full stop, and with spaces to separate the words). We read together the book Ben and Paul, and talked about what it feels like to be bigger or smaller than someone else. We also completed sorting activities, talking about grouping and comparing.

In the Junior Department EAL group this week, we studied phrases that tell us when and where something happened, sorting them into two groups. The children also read two simple books, independently, and looked in the text for the answers to some when, where and what questions. We also read together a more difficult text, about the human body, which helped the children to practise their listening skills, and which gave rise to much interesting discussion. We are continuing to practise using vocabulary and grammar that we have covered over the term.

In addition to all this, we are continuing, in all the groups, to practise the language related to the winter season, and the holidays.



I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read  
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