

Home School Books – 21 December 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents

Incredibly this is our last home school book letter of 2018! We are about to turn the page and the next one will be when we return in January 2019.

This week was full of excitement, glitter and singing. We hope that you all enjoyed our nursery Christmas show, if anyone has a video of it they would like to share with us, please send it to nurseryteacher@telenet.be Your children were fabulous and performed very well on the day, when you consider how tricky it is for little ones to concentrate on singing and standing in a line, for more than a few minutes, they did amazingly! We will publish the photographs we have on the school website soon.



We also hope you like all of the little goodies in the Xmas bag that the children have made. You should have found a calendar, a Christmas card and a Xmas stocking, plus a couple of other works of art and the present from our special visitor we had today. The special visitor was dressed in red and had black boots and a long white beard, ask your child if they can remember what he was called.

When we return on the 7th of January 2019, our new topic will be all about ‘space rockets and other space related things’ we will be zooming off to unknown galaxies and we might even meet the odd alien or two! **Our talk topic over the holiday is ‘If you had a space ship, where would you go?’**

Until then all that is left to say is, have a wonderful Christmas break, safe travels to where ever you are going and enjoy the fun and happiness of family life. Thank you for all of your support this term.

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A JOYFUL NEW YEAR!

Thank you and see you all in 2019.

Alison Davies and Inés van Wassenhove

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

Our last week of the year has been all about winter and preparing for the winter holidays! We have done a lot of arts and crafts, some of which you will have seen in their folders this week, and some of which has been used to decorate the school. And so, despite the lack of snow outside, it's looking very wintery inside the school!



In phonics this week we learned the th diagraph and the ng diagraph. The ng is an especially tricky one. We practised writing the sounds and we thought of lots of words that have th in the beginning, in the middle or in the end. However, we couldn't find any words that start with ng. Luckily, we found lots of words that end with ng and the children have been really good at practising all the new diagraphs that they have been learning!

In Maths we continued to practise numbers from one to twenty and we played a lot of very fun number games on the whiteboard as well as some fun board games with numbers and counting! The children are getting very comfortable with their numbers, which is excellent!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been singing, drawing and talking about Christmas all the time. The children know a lot of vocabulary and have enjoyed singing "Vive le vent" very much. We sang other songs too and watched Trostro decorating his Christmas tree. Joyeux Noël et bonne année !

Our Talk Topic is 'Tell us some of the exciting things you did over the holidays!'

This last week has been fun and eventful and we are all excited about our holidays! We hope you have a wonderful winter holiday and we are looking forward to seeing everyone again in the New Year!

Elín Hafstein and Ivana Julaton
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Please click [here](#) for our Reception webpage

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

Even though our show is over, and there were no more practices, this has still been a hectic week, trying to fit in all our Christmas activities, and at times the classroom has looked rather like Santa's workshop!

In Literacy, we had our first attempt at letter-writing. We discussed the reasons we write letters, how we should start and end them, and how we should always be polite, especially if, as in the case of a letter to Santa, we are hoping for a pleasant result!

So, in the Home School Book this week, you will find your child's Christmas wish-list - you now have four days left to make sure he or she is not disappointed! In Phonics, we revised all of the Phase 3 sounds we have learnt this term, and played a variety of games and activities to make sure all the sounds were covered once more. We also did some work on the tricky word 'all' and associated words such as 'fall', 'small' and 'ball'.

In Maths, everything we have done has had a Christmas theme, so there have been trees, presents, Santa's, puddings and reindeer involved in all our work. We practised our use of the < and > signs again, and did some multiple addition exercises in an activity based on the song 'The 12 Days of Christmas'. The children enjoyed the song, and now know about half of it - you may like to play it for them at home - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYyhDvuq8_Y .

We have been very busy in our workshop, and in your child's special Christmas bag you should find a collection of decorative items: a Christmas tree made of wood, adorned with stick-on baubles and golden thread, a number of clay decorations, painted and decorated with generous amounts of glitter, a 'glittery star' tree decoration, made from a plastic bottle and yet more glitter, and a set of 'jingle bells' made from bottle-tops and wire! The children have thoroughly enjoyed making them all, and we hope you will enjoy them too - especially the bells!



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been singing, drawing and talking about Christmas all week. The children know a few songs and sing them really well. We played memory games, opened an advent calendar on line and read Christmas stories. We had great fun. Joyeux Noël et bonne année !

Finally, PE was a 'Christmas Special', involving sleighs, presents and reindeer: the teams had to build a sleigh using large blocks, load it with presents, then race up and down the playground, to see who had the fastest team of reindeer. The sleighs took a bit of a battering, and ended up being broken up and used as stepping stones to cross the river - the only way left to deliver the presents! Please see <http://www.bisb.org/project/year-1-december-2018/> for some action shots!

Talk Topic for the first week of next term will be "What was the best thing about your Christmas holiday?" Please remember that swimming for children in Group A begins on Tuesday 8th January 2019 - the letter informing you of the groups and dates was sent home in your child's folder this week.

Wishing you a fun-packed but relaxing holiday!

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru

Year1teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

We have thoroughly enjoyed ourselves this week doing lots of Christmassy things. We started by reading another e-book altogether, working in pairs on challenges such as predicting what we thought might happen, completing word puzzles to discover information about the story and identifying the important elements of the story using picture clues. These books give each child a chance to read out loud to the whole class (everyone is making fantastic progress in reading, thank you for your invaluable help listening to them at home), and provide lots of ideas for discussion. The illustrations can also be studied easily as they are big enough to show details.

We finished the Fox and Star story and took some of the design ideas to create our own Christmas cards. We used collage techniques to form a background and added detailed, original Christmas tree designs (based on the line drawing ideas we used for our fish). We then ‘took a line for a walk’ to create a string of lights down the side of the card and finished the inside with a glittery Christmas stamp. We used our recent spelling lists to complete a Christmas crossword, and had our first go at playing Scrabble – the perfect game for expanding vocabulary and improving spelling! We also read a version of the traditional Christmas story to give the background as to why Christmas decorations are often angels, stars, lights and presents. The story was beautifully illustrated with illuminated manuscript letters and intricate silhouettes against a watercolour wash background.



In Maths we finished the Abacus tests and the Christmas mystery, and solved some difficult word problems – it is still a challenge to decide exactly what the word problems are actually asking us. Very often the calculations on their own are relatively easy, but we first need to understand the question and not just give up or ignore the words we don’t quite understand. Lots more practice needed after the holidays! We also did some extra work on times tables and data charts in preparation for next term. It would be very helpful to practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s over the holidays. Mrs Tolentino has had great fun playing the SuperTmatik mental maths card game with everyone, we will continue next term with a class tournament.

We were very sorry not to be able to go swimming on Tuesday, we will do our best to find another occasion later in the year. However, on the positive side, it did mean that we had lots of time to do some cooking! Each small group read and followed the recipe instructions, weighing, mixing, squashing, rolling and cutting out their own biscuits, which were then decorated with icing and sprinkles once they had been cooked. Some people definitely do not like having sticky fingers, but it was a fun activity and the biscuits were delicious. Take a look at the action photos on the website! <http://www.bisb.org/project/making-christmas-biscuits/>

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we imagined “la maison du Père Noël” (Santa’s house) and we tried to describe it using ‘le vocabulaire de Noël’ (Christmas

vocabulary) with 'Il y a' (there is/there are) . We made a Christmas card and we sang a Christmas song- 'Le Père Noël frappe à la porte'.

Our talk topic for the week is “If you illustrated a book, what sort of art techniques would you use, and why?”

We wish you a very Happy Christmas

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

year2teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

Wow what a busy week we've had this week! On Monday the children went to the theatre to rehearse and perform the junior department Christmas production 'Christmas is Forever'. The children did an amazing performance with some superb acting, great singing and dancing. I enjoyed it very much as I'm sure you did too. And a particular well done to all the year 3 children who helped with the artwork for the programme and with making the props; they did an excellent job in helping the stage to look wonderful on the day.



On Tuesday we went to the park Rouge Cloitre for our Lapland adventure. The children did an individual orienteering challenge where they had to find a number of Christmas related items. There were some great performances by the children in year 3 with some children completing the challenge very quickly and all children showing determination to complete the challenge. The children then played an attacking game called 'defend the grotto' and finally did a group challenge to make a sleigh for Santa using materials found in the forest. Congratulations to Jacob and his mum's team for winning the challenge out of 10 teams, what a great result.

On Wednesday we had a little Christmas party in class. We played pass the parcel but with a mathematical twist where coins were hidden inside each layer. The child who got the parcel when the music stopped had to count the coins in their layer to find the total amount of money. We also played some other classic party games including pin the star on the Christmas tree and musical statues. On Thursday the group A children went to their first tennis lesson. These lessons will continue after the Christmas break. The children also finished their Christmas cards and gifts and took them home.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, it has been a short week but we still managed to talk about Christmas, revised all the vocabulary pertaining to the Christmas season, read a few stories and listened to various songs. Joyeux Noël et bonne année!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had a short week due to the Christmas show and the outing to Lapland. We imagined “la maison du Père Noël” (Santa’s house) and we tried to describe it using ‘le vocabulaire de Noël’ (Christmas vocabulary) with ‘Il y a’ (there is/there are). We made a Christmas card and we listened to different Christmas songs.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone Happy Holidays and I hope that you have a great time either here in Brussels or elsewhere. See you in 2019! The talk topic for after the holidays is

‘Our new topic is ‘Celebrity chefs’. Do you know about any famous Chefs?’

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Fiona King

year3teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

This week’s Home School Letter has been co-written by Srija.

This week, we have been very busy. On Monday, we did an extraordinary show. Everything went smoothly and to plan, and we got laughs, claps and smiles. We were all very proud. We can’t wait for the announcement about what the Summer Production will be!!!

On Tuesday, we had a wonderful time at Lapland Adventure. We first raced to the North Pole then we had an incredible marathon to stamp some Christmassy objects on things called controls. The class got a very noteworthy 7th, 8th and 12th place!

Also, we played ‘Defend the grotto!’ but last thing we did was build a sledge because ‘Santa needs a Sleigh’. Foraging and gathering in the forest, we got what we could and put together a fine carriage for the Man in Red. Mr Prescott awarded best prize to Rishi and Akhil’s team!!

Thank you to all the wonderful mums (and teachers) who helped and looked after us in the sub-zero Arctic conditions....O.K, well, 7°C. What a super day out we had!



On Wednesday, we multiplied HTU by U and then learnt how to divide 2-digit numbers by single digits using the ‘chunking method’. This is very difficult to teach and always very tricky to grasp. We enjoyed doing it, though, and we shall see

whether we got it because on Thursday, we landed like Father Christmas's sleigh with a bump and were hit with a triple bill of speed test and double Abacus end-of-term tests.

Swimming also began in earnest and we thank resident instructor, Shadi, and our own BISB Ms di Fine for teaching the technique.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, it has been a short week but we still managed to talk about Christmas, revised all the vocabulary pertaining to the Christmas season, read a few stories and listened to various songs. Joyeux Noël et bonne année!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had a short week due to the Christmas show and the outing to Lapland. We imagined "la maison du Père Noël" (Santa's house) and we tried to describe it using 'le vocabulaire de Noël' (Christmas vocabulary) with 'Il y a' (there is/there are). We made a Christmas card and we listened to different Christmas songs.

Today will have been the Class Christmas party which I hope will have been a riot but the week will mostly be remembered for the completion of the Class FairyTales CD Rom which I think is absolutely wonderful. I'm hugely proud and the children will have a saved memory to cherish forever.

And that was our final week. Happy Christmas.

Our Talk Topic for this week is: What might be the best things about living in the Lappish Arctic Circle?

Best wishes

Tim Stedman and Fiona King

year4teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

This week began on a very high note with our winter show, Christmas is Forever. The children peaked at exactly the right time and definitely made us proud. Their lines were said loudly and clearly and they acted really well. The singing was exceptional. The props were moved around inconspicuously to their correct positions. I would have been hard pressed to choose a star of the week as the whole class are stars in my opinion. You can find photos and some video excerpts on <http://www.bisb.org/project/christmas-is-forever/>

On Tuesday we headed off to the Rouge Cloitre for an adventure in Lapland. We had to help Santa by finding items which had fallen off his sleigh which we did using our orienteering skills. All credit to Aahil who finished first. We then had to protect Santa who was asleep from



being woken up. One team protected Santa and the other children had to wake him up. So much fun was had and it was Bhargav who finally pressed the button to wake him up. After a lengthy walk, we had yet another challenge. We had to build Santa's sleigh out of wood and leaves lying in the forest. There were 10 teams and it was team 9 that won the day. Well done to them. Yes, it was cold, but this certainly didn't detract from what was a really fun filled day. Again, there are photos to be found on <http://www.bisb.org/project/lapland-adventure/>.

Wednesday saw our class party which was in essence a pot luck lunch. Thank you, Moms, for being such good sports and supplying us with delicious food to eat. We had a super time sharing different dishes and playing with our classmates. The advent calendar has kept the class occupied with various games and activities. Thank you, Mrs Prescott, for supplying this wonderful daily activity for us. Thursday we did a lot of outdoor playing and spent the morning in the classroom. In the afternoon we enjoyed some singing with Mrs Mayeur for the last time before her maternity leave. Finally we had a super Christmas quiz to participate in.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, it was a short very short but we still managed to revise some Christmas related vocabulary and we listened to a story "Le sapin de Monsieur Jacobi". We also listened to a few songs. Joyeux Noël et bonne année !

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had a short week due to the Christmas show and the outing to Lapland. We imagined "la maison du Père Noël" (Santa's house) and we tried to describe it using the Christmas vocabulary with 'Il y a' (there is/there are) . We made a Christmas card and we visited the local Library where we got to discover the Kamishibai pictorial storytelling, which is a form of Japanese street theatre.

On Friday we had a visit from Santa himself and we all treated to a gift. Thank you, Santa!

It has been a busy term and we have all now earned some down time. Have a very peaceful and joyous holiday and, if you are travelling, please stay safe.

The talk topic is: Who is David Attenborough? What is he most famous for?

Best wishes,

Valeria Vetter and Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

What an amazing Autumn term! Space Week, a night in the Atomium, Wonder, the Antwerp Diamond Centre, House of European History,



Brussels Philharmonic orchestra, Hamlet, Outdoor Adventures and our Christmas production – Christmas is Forever! I think that we all deserve a rest over the Christmas holiday! However, I have made a Christmas folder on Edmodo, where I have uploaded some resources, if children wish to do some extra work – this is not obligatory.

We all enjoyed our performance on Monday night; I think you are all aware of the amount of work that is put into our productions. As always, your supplying of the costumes is very much appreciated.

Our trip to Lapland was magical. Notwithstanding the fact that we were actually in a park in Brussels, we all entered into the Christmas spirit and imagined, for those few hours, that we were indeed, in the world of Father Christmas (helped by chocolate milk and cinnamon buns)! A huge thank you to Mr Stedman for organising another awesome outdoor adventure for the Juniors and to the parent helpers, who braved the cold, to join us.

Next term, our new topic is WWII. Our key text will be *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*; we shall be touching on a range of subjects, including Kindertransport and the Holocaust. I have already booked a visit to the House of European History for a workshop on Tuesday 19th February.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, it was a short very short but we still managed to revise some Christmas related vocabulary and we listened to a story “Le sapin de Monsieur Jacobi”. We also listened to a few songs. Joyeux Noël et bonne année!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had a short week due to the Christmas show and the outing to Lapland. We imagined “la maison du Père Noël” (Santa’s house) and we tried to describe it using the Christmas vocabulary with ‘Il y a’ (there is/there are) . We made a Christmas card and we visited the local Library where we got to discover the Kamishibai pictorial storytelling, which is a form of Japanese street theatre.

Our Talk Topic is: Have you chosen a topic to debate for next term?

Wishing you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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,

We have all enjoyed this last week of the term. In our EAL classes, we have again been revisiting the essential material covered during the term, as well as using the language related to the festive season.

In our Junior EAL group, we met for fewer sessions this week, talked about our experiences in Monday’s Winter Show (in



we

which the children performed extremely well). We also used some Christmas vocabulary as part of a game, revised mathematical language in a game involving numbers to 90, and, in another game, began to learn some English idioms (I'm all ears; pull your socks up; blowing your own trumpet etc.)

In the Year One and Two EAL group sessions, we read a story called A Letter to Santa, noting the important features of a letter. They wrote a simple letter to Santa, in preparation for Year One's work in class (see the Year One Home School Book). The children completed their paper craft of Santa and a chimney, following written instructions (with help). They were then very pleased to find that Santa had written each of them a letter and had left it in their paper chimneys.

The Reception EAL group also practised some Christmas vocabulary in a picture card game. We then watched The Snowman, listening to a narration which describes each of the places and activities in the story. This gave rise to some interesting comments and conversation, including, for example, what makes a story scary.

I wish you a very happy holiday. Please encourage your children to engage in as much conversation as possible, in their home language, and, where possible, to listen to stories in English. A good link to material to listen to or watch is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0fXNmjDoC7ckPyT6qM8Urw>

Kate Read

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