

Nursery

Dear Parents,

The children are settling in so well considering it's only their second week in Nursery, how wonderful!

We have now started our theme "Myself and my family" and this week during circle time, we have started saying our name, the colour of our hair and the colour of our eyes. We also looked at our hands and then covered them in paint and put our handprints on paper. Some children love the feel of paint on their skin, others are not so keen! We did see some very funny faces being pulled when the paintbrush bristles started tickling their hands!



Thankfully no one refused to do the activity, so if you look in your child's home school book, you will see their amazing handprints. Underneath we have a song all about Tommy Thumb and his friends. Songs in English are a great way for children to hear, absorb and then repeat many common words and some 'wow' words that help them to visualise and describe an event or activity. So ask your little one to sing the song for you and join in when you know the words!

Your child is now part of a wider group and we have started the sharing, taking turns and being kind to our friends and being respectful to each other. All of these things are tricky for children to do initially, but it is important to role model these skills at home too, as it is an important part of your child's personal, social and emotional development.

Each week from now on we will have a 'talk topic' for you to participate in over the weekend. The purpose of this was explained in last week's whole school newsletter, here is a reminder just in case you have forgotten or missed the explanation:

Talk topics give you the opportunity to be actively involved in your child's language development by spending a little time over the weekend talking about the topic. In this way you will be actively encouraging their listening and talking skills, helping them to express their own ideas and giving them the possibility to share with you work they have done during the week.

Our talk topic for this week is, '*What is your favourite nursery rhyme or poem? Teach mummy and daddy the words and sing it together*'.

One last quick reminder, please don't forget that your child's folder containing their home school book and library book will go out on a Friday and must be returned no later than Wednesday of the following week. Please do not separate the library book from everything else, this is how things get lost in transit!

Until next week, have a fabulous weekend and enjoy the promised sunshine.

Thank you

Alison Davies, Anna Nagy & Vanessa Di Fine

nurseryteacher@telenet.be

Reception

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy week in Reception and the children are slowly starting to get the gist of our 'Carousel' way of working. Every day we set out four different activities on the tables. Two of them related to phonics or maths, a game and a fine motor skills exercise. The children have been randomly divided into four colour groups. Each group starts with an activity and after a certain time each group changes towards the next activity in the sense of a Carousel. In this way, they all get to do all four of the activities.

In Phonics we have been learning four letter sounds: s, a, t, p. The children learn to say the sound of the letter instead of calling them by their name. To complement the oral work, they have also worked on their Letters and Sounds workbooks and we've done a lot of group work on the interactive board.

In Maths we have been working on numbers from 1-10, playing games to match number pairs and chanting numbers in order. We've also introduced number rhymes. Ask your child if they can recall the rhyme ... 'Number one, touch your tongue; Number two, touch your shoe...'. In their HSB you'll find a piece of work your children made this week. They have coloured a caterpillar using a colour pattern they invented themselves.

In P.E. we have practised our positional language placing hoops in front of, behind and next to ourselves and we've also started to learn how to hoola hoop. It takes a lot of practice and they'll eventually learn how to do it; in the meantime, we need to keep 'hoola hooping'!

For our topic the children have really enjoyed talking about their families and showing the family picture you have kindly sent. They were all very proud of it! If you still haven't sent it please do, so that everybody is included in the activity.

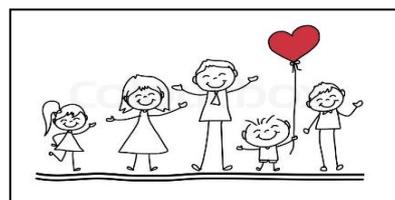
Our Talk Topic for next week is: Do you live in a house or in an apartment? What's your favourite room in it and why?

Last but not least, a big thank you to all parents who came to the Curriculum Briefing Evening.

Enjoy the nice weather over the weekend and see you all next week.

Mrs. van Wassenhove and Mrs. Julaton

receptionteacher@telenet.be



Music

Nursery and reception

This week, we got to know Mr Froggy, our new friend coming from a far-away country, the music land. He introduced us to some instruments, and we had a lot of fun marching with him to the music and playing rhythms on claves and maracas.

Languages

In this first half term, Mrs. Read and Mme. Scharf are working together with the Reception class for four sessions each week. We are using stories, games, songs and other activities to give all the children a solid base in English, and we will gradually introduce some simple French words.

Year 1

Dear Parents,

We are gradually learning our daily routines, and the number of folders, water bottles and bags correctly placed each morning is increasing...

This week in Literacy, we have covered the next six Phase 2 sounds: m, d, g, o, c, & k, and have practised writing them in words and sentences. We also looked at the combined /ck/ sound and learnt that it can never be used at the start of a word, only ever in the middle or at the end. To practise their single-letter sounds, the children did a set of 3-letter phonics spellings, which you can see in this week's Home School Book. Our main writing session was based on one of the familiar reading scheme books, and the children had to write words or sentences to accompany a picture from the story. In grammar, we did some more practice on the use of capital letters for names and the word 'I'.

The focus in Maths this week has been on number bonds (i.e. pairs of numbers which go together to make a given number). We have practised bonds to 5 (5+0, 4+1 etc), 6 (4+2, 3+3 etc) and 10 (8+2, 7+3 etc), and the children have been learning to spot the pattern these sums make when they are listed in order, and to spot the similarity when, for example, 4+2 and 2+4 are placed next to each other. Rapid recall of number bonds, especially to 10, are a vital building block in children's maths skills, so we have spent a good deal of time on them, using games, songs, iPad apps and lists to aid familiarity. We will re-visit this area of maths several times over the course of the year.

In our topic work, we looked at our planet, and, using Google Earth and a globe, talked about what the different colours mean (ice, desert, forest, water etc.). We also learnt the names of the five oceans, and did a cut-and-stick activity to label the oceans on a map. In another session, we looked in more detail at the water cycle, listened to a story and watched a video about it, then labelled and coloured individual water cycle pictures.



Many thanks for such a large attendance at the Curriculum Briefing Evening - I hope you found the information useful, and I trust you have all been able to log in to your child's ActiveLearn account. If not, please let me know. Maths homework for next week is entitled 'Pesky Pests 1.3' (to be allocated on Sunday) and the Talk Topic for Monday 16th September will be "If you could travel to the bottom of the ocean, what do you think you would see?".

Wishing you a pleasant weekend,

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru

year1teacher@telenet.be

Year 1 Music

This week in music, we learned a body clap for Johann Strauss' 'Radetzky's March', combining hand, feet and fingers actions. We also learned to follow a conductor playing different groups of instruments to the same music.

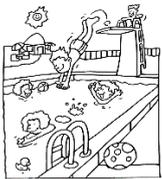
Year 1 French

In French with **Mrs. Scharf**, we are following Tourloubanc to the country of colours which gave us the opportunity to revise all the colours and the names of many animals. We sang songs and played games trying to guess the missing colour or which animal we were imitating.

Year 2

Dear Parents,

Unfortunately, we were not able to have our Curriculum evening last Wednesday so we will have it next Wednesday instead, 18th of September at 18h. I apologise for the change of dates and hope you will be able to come next Wednesday.



On Thursday next week the children will start their swimming session. The class will be split into two groups and each group has 8 swimming sessions. The first group starts their swimming on 19th of September and swims until 14th of November. If your child is in the first group, please make sure they have their swimming gear with them next Thursday.

We had a lot of fun with Maths this week and the children played all sorts of counting games to help them learn number bonds to 20. They all worked very hard and made some excellent progress. In Literacy we continued to learn new words and to practise our spelling and reading a lot. We also several different writing exercises and the children are now practising their story writing skills using exercises to learn how to build up a story.

In Science we started to learn about food chains. We learned about different animals, what they eat, and what eats them. We will continue learning about food chains in the weeks to come, allowing the children to further understand how all things in nature are connected. The children also did some brilliant artwork this week! As they may have told you, we will be making A Very Big Book out of all the art pieces connected to our current topic "Take a look around". This week's project about all the things we see in our classroom will be a great addition to that book.

The Talk topic for the weekend is "What kinds of animals might you see this weekend? How would you fit them into a food chain?".

Finally, stars of the week go to Vibha, for working very hard on her concentration skills this week and for her brilliant artwork, and to Pragnan for hard work and good improvement in maths this week. Congratulations to Pragnan and Vibha!

We wish you all a lovely weekend

Elin Hafstein & Ena Tolentino

Year2teacher@telenet.be

Year 2 Music

This week in music, we danced, we sang, and we played instruments! The focus around those activities was to teach us how to keep a steady beat, and it made us realize how important it is to get the same feeling of the music if we want to play together.

Year 2 French

In **French** with **Mrs Halvorsen**, we continued talking about our topic “Vive la rentrée”. We talked about ‘Avoir’ (to have) and we played an interview game with questions and answers “Est-ce que tu as ..? (Do you have?) combining those questions using farm animals, numbers and colours.

Year 3

Dear Parents,

We’ve continued to enjoy finding out about Vikings this week. Our big class Longship full of vicious Vikings is now complete and looks rather stunning now that is adorned with colourful shields and set upon a stormy sea. We also made our own individual models of longships out of card, including a sail and oars. This week we found out more about the Viking Gods, including Thor, Odin and Freya.

We found out lots of interesting facts about them and their special powers. We made mind maps to organise the information we gathered.

In mathematics we explored place value. We talked about how numbers are made up of hundreds, tens and units and we practised writing three-digit numbers from their verbal descriptions. We identified the value of each digit and used arrow cards to help us. The children also revisited basic fractions including, halves, quarters and thirds.

In literacy we had our first spelling lesson to introduce the first list of spelling words, words with the /ai/ sound spelt with the /eigh/ grapheme e.g. eight, sleigh. We explored the meaning of the new words and the children practised writing the words in sentences. The first spelling test will be on Monday 16th September.

In science we’ve continued to explore our unit on ‘Animals including humans.’ We talked about saturated and unsaturated fats, studied which foods were high in which type of fats and did a simple sorting exercise. We looked at how animals need different amounts of nutrients compared to humans, for example birds need more protein and less carbohydrates.



Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Camilla Rutayisire

Year3teacher@telenet.be

Year 4

Home School Book – Year 4



Dear Parents,

We got right into the class routine this week and the children can rely on it being consistent from now on. The work they are doing and effort they are putting in suggest they are responding well to it and I'm really grateful to them all for that.

Aarohi joined us a day earlier than expected and it was super to see her. She got stuck in from the start, a highlight being her response to having no swimming stuff on our first trip to the NATO pool. Adapt and overcome, she did: "No swimsuit, I'll find a solution." And swim she did!

The trip to Evere to the water was a great adventure and a refreshing change of scene with the new venue. Once grouped, the children showed off their confidence and learnt a little to begin developing their skill. Many more sessions are to come!

In Science, the children loved testing circuits to confirm our theories about what's required to create an electric current. Maths was all about place value but also subtraction by counting up (the Shopkeeper's method). Literacy, meanwhile, saw us delve deeper into Narnia like Lucy herself. We described a room in the professor's house using creative vocabulary and ended the week doing the same but about Mr Tumnus, the faun's house. I've been a little surprised to hear that none of the children are familiar with 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' but they will soon become very familiar with the children's classic and possibly experts by the end of the term. Watch this space.

Elsewhere, we had a fantastic Topic lesson learning all about Henry VIII and the Tudor period of Great Britain but, more specifically, what their homes were like and what was in them. The children produced absolutely superb computer-aided designs of these 16th Century houses using the iPads. And more importantly they loved doing it.

And that was our week. Have a nice weekend!

Our Talk Topic for this week is: What's the most amazing building you've ever seen? What made it so great?

Best wishes

Tim Stedman & Mrs Irakoze

PS – Don't forget swimming hats for the pool.

year4teacher@telenet.be

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

Years 3 and 4 Music

This week in music, we created our own interpretation of Ravel's 'Bolero', playing an accompaniment to the music with body claps, xylophones and other percussion instruments. Not an easy task to play different rhythms on top of each other!

Years 3 &4 French

In French with **Mrs Halvorsen**, we continued talking about our topic "Vive la rentrée" to greet each other and introduce ourselves. We worked with 'Avoir' (to have) and we learned how to conjugate it with different subject pronouns. Then we followed up by role-playing an interview and coming up with four questions and answers using 'Avoir', and all the vocabulary we covered during the week.

In French with **Mrs. Scharf**, we revised all vocabulary pertaining to school material, which gave us the opportunity to revise the articles un/une/des and le/la/l'/les. We played a few games to help us remember the vocabulary and the articles.

Year 5

Dear Parents,

What a full week it has been. We have worked hard and learnt many new things. It was very good to see you all at the curriculum briefing. I look forward to working with you all.

In Literacy we looked at subordinate conjunctions after finishing off fronted adverbials. Grammar in year 5 is full of smart sounding items. We did some exercises and will hopefully add some of these clauses to our writing on Friday. We also did a comprehension called Jacky Daydreamer which focuses on the early life experiences of Jacqueline Wilson. We discovered things such as ration books and why butcher boys kept pencils behind their ears. Reading about Eliza was interesting also and we now know she is 13 years old and has to stop going to school because her family cannot afford to keep sending her. We find out that the mills are very polluting and that every Saturday the house and the court have to be thoroughly scrubbed to get rid of the black soot. Eliza is constantly being reminded that she is adult but is still shut out of adult conversations. She finds this very confusing.

In Numeracy we have been focusing on the frog method of subtraction which is essentially subtraction by adding up. We have also been speaking about mental strategies of addition and subtraction.

Victorian toys was our focus in topic and we had fun both learning about these toys and also making models of a boat, a jack in the box and a toy soldier. We were treated to seeing real Victorian photographs which are now on display in our classroom.



In PE we moved the desks in our classroom and danced around. This was because it was wet outdoors and not really conducive to playing cricket. Tennis begins next week so please note that PE uniform should be worn on Thursdays.

On the first day of school, Mrs Still gave us a plant. We have been nursing this plant and watering it daily. We have been rewarded with 2 shoots. This is so exciting.

In computing we experimented with Scratch Junior. In order to understand its full potential, it is essential to experiment with the sprites and changing the backgrounds.

The talk topic this week is: Did your parents wear school uniform? If so, what did it look like?

Have a very relaxing weekend,

Mrs Vetter

Year5teacher@telenet.be

Years 5 and 6 Music

This week in music, we learned about a Russian composer who honored a diseased friend with a musical tribute. Modest Mussorgsky's 'Pictures at an Exhibition' is a musical journey through Viktor Hartmann's paintings. Our goal this week was to reproduce the Promenade's theme on the xylophones, and we did a pretty good job at it!

Years 5 & 6 French

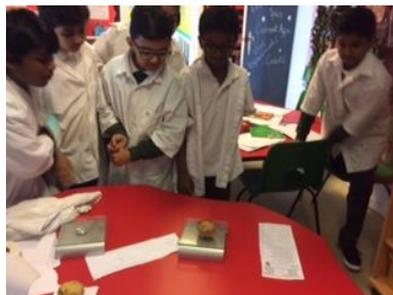
In French with **Mrs Halvorsen**, we continued talking about our topic "Vive la rentrée" to greet each other and introduce ourselves. We did more activities and exercises with 'Avoir', and we came up with many questions to interview our peers. We also talked about 'Les jours de la semaine' (days of the week), then we followed up with a game to see if they knew well their 'jours de la semaine'.

In French with **Mrs. Scharf**, we quickly reviewed the school material vocabulary and the plural of nouns. We also interviewed each other in order to review certain basic introduction expressions and did a little geography.

Year 6

Dear Parents,

It was a pleasure to meet with you on Wednesday evening to discuss life in Year 6 – I do hope that you found the discussion helpful and reassuring.



Wednesday afternoon is a total workout which includes brisk walking and swimming. Observing the lack of stamina in some of our children, increased physical activity can only be of benefit. Also, we must encourage children to change into, and out of, their swimming costumes more quickly. Otherwise, we will have to reduce the amount of time spent in this fantastic pool. We are obliged to change together (including me) in a single-sex school changing room; many of the children are taking too much time to get changed because of modesty issues! Might I suggest making a towelling cover-up to use instead of a towel? Here are few ideas from Pinterest... <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/75787206213240273/>

In maths, we have compared and ordered numbers and started to work on the addition and subtraction of negative numbers.

We shall be focusing on improving our comprehension skills this term. Higher-level questions in all the comprehension tasks proved challenging for students. In grammar we studied modal verbs.

Our first science experiment, from the Open University, was truly spectacular including some special 'smoke' effects! We investigated the relationship between heat and the water content of a potato, measuring the change in water content as heat is transferred to a potato during the cooking process.

In Mandarin we are learning greetings and the 'a' sounds.

Talk Topic: Wearing uniform limits self-expression – discuss.

Zàijìàn

Happy Weekend!

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

Year6teacher@telenet.be

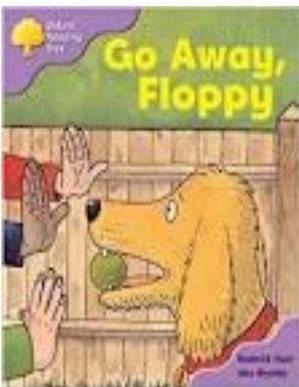
English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Dear Parents,

At the end of this second week of term, I am getting to know the children's strengths and to see which areas of English, and which skills, they need to work on.

In the Junior department EAL group this week, we used the story *The Silver Box*, from the *Project X* series, to develop vocabulary, and to practise reading with understanding, and writing with independence. We also practised using time phrases such as: *2 days ago, one year ago, 1200 years ago* to talk about the past. We will work with the past tense of common verbs next week.

In the Year One and Two EAL group, we read the story *On the Sand*, and in connection with Year One's class work, we talked about the things we can see and do at the beach. The children made predictions using the phrase: *I think he will...* We practised asking each other simple questions using "What is your favourite...?"



In the Reception class, Mme Scharf and Mrs Read read the story *Go Away, Floppy*. The children talked about feelings, taking turns to ask each other "How are you feeling today?" and replying *I'm happy/sad/angry/tired*. We acted out the story simply together. This involved miming actions and using the present continuous tense to say, for example: *I'm drawing; We are skipping; We are painting*.

If you would like to meet me at any time to discuss your child's progress in English, please contact the school office, or email me directly. I am usually available each Thursday at 8:30 in the Junior Department, and Friday at 8:30 in the Infant Department.

I wish you a happy weekend.

Kate Read

EALteacher@telenet.be