

Nursery

Dear Parents

Healthy eating was the name of the game in nursery this week and the children have been talking about, looking at and tasting all different kinds of fruit!



We kick-started our healthy eating discussions during circle time with the passing the teddy bear game, asking each child to name their favourite fruit. We had some very interesting answers ranging from pears to pineapples and lots of other juicy fruits in between. Next week we will make a graph of the most popular fruit eaten in nursery and add it to our maths display board, so remember to take a look next time you are in.

This week the children looked at and named a variety of fruit and then coloured it in. If you look in their home school book you will see a 'Yes please' and 'No thank you' fruit bowl. You will also find a small envelope with their coloured-in fruit; all you have to do is look at each picture together and ask your child if they would like to put it in the 'Yes please' or 'No thank you' bowl and then pop a bit of glue on the back and stick it in the correct place. We will have a look in circle time next week to see how many pieces of fruit got a big YES! and how many were a resounding NO!

The week finished off with a scrumptiously delicious nursery secret recipe fruit salad, just like the one in the story we had this week all about Oliver and his amazing fruit salad. Ask your little one if they can retell the story in their own words, either using English or mother tongue, let's see who was listening during story time!

We also finished our 'Guess who this baby is?' display and have had great fun every day remembering who is who! The children are always fascinated by how different they looked when they were younger and really do love looking at themselves as tiny babies because, of course, when you get to 3 & 4 you think you are so big!

Everyone should have received their parent-teacher appointment paper now. Please remember to bring back the signed tear-off slip at the bottom so that we can confirm you will be attending. All appointments for Nursery will be held on 25 October and the whole school, including Nursery, will be closed for the children on that day.

Please remember to update your child's spare clothes that stay in the bag on their coat pegs. It is now cooler weather so warmer trousers or leggings are needed, plus spare knickers, socks and underpants.

Thank you for all of your lovely and positive comments about what we are doing with your little ones in Nursery, they are a super little bunch and everyone has their own unique way of growing and learning, all we need to do is nurture that! Remember, you are their first teachers and working together with us is always the best way to help them do the very best they can.

Until next week wrap up warm and enjoy the outdoors. Fresh air even in Brussels is good for blowing those cobwebs away!

Our talk topic for you to chat over with your child this weekend is "Name a fruit you do not like and how do you know you don't like it, have you actually ever tried tasting it?"

See you on Monday.

Thank you,

Alison Davies, Anna Nagy and Vanessa diFine

nurseryteacher@telenet.be

Reception

Dear Parents,

This week we have introduced two new letter sounds 'g' and 'o' in our Phonics sessions. As usual we keep going back to the other letter sounds we have learned and putting them together to form words that we can start reading.



In Maths we started working with teen numbers, taking a close look at their formation and putting them in the right order. For this we have used number lines to help us, along with number cards. We also continued working on positional language and played a fun game with boxes and soft toys, positioning them in the right place according to the instruction given.

We have included a special session that takes place once a week in which the children do special activities that stimulate their fine motor skills. This special 'finger gym', as we like to call it, helps them to strengthen their fingers by developing their little muscles. This allows them to increase their dexterity when manipulating scissors, tweezers, tongs and writing and painting material such as pencils, paintbrushes, pens, etc. You can find some pictures in the website that show some of the activities we have been doing with this purpose.

We have also been talking about feelings. We read some nice stories 'What makes me a me' and 'The feelings book' and, using these as a prompt, had some interesting discussions about how different things that happen at home or at school make us feel. You will find a drawing in your child's home school book about the things that make them happy.

On Friday 25th October the school will be closed for the children as we are having our Parent Teacher Meetings. There will be no garderie on that day so please make sure to sort out childcare for the time when your meeting is scheduled, as children are not allowed in with you when you come to meet us.

You will find in your child's file the slip of paper with the time detail of your meeting. Please make sure to fill it in accordingly, sign it and send it back to school next week.

This weekend the weather is going to be very nice so enjoy being outdoors as much as you can.

Wishing you all a nice and sunny weekend,

Ines van Wassenhove and Ivana Julaton

receptionteacher@telenet.be

Nursery Music

We continued to sing about autumn and play games around following a conductor.

Reception Music

We were very excited to start our first week of show practice! We learned two very nice songs and even had the time to continue practicing rhythms in various musical games.

Languages

The Reception children very much enjoyed their full session of **French** on Wednesday, in which Mme Scharf introduced some essential words and phrases, including *Bonjour, Salut, Je m'appelle...* and *fille et garçon* (boy and girl). In English, we re-read the story of the Very Hungry Caterpillar, and practised talking about food, numbers and the days of the week. We also read the story of Little Mouse and the Big Red Apple and talked about sharing.

Year 1

Dear Parents,

This week In Literacy, we revised the /ch/, /sh/, /th/ and /ng/ sounds, practised writing them in words and sentences, and played a number of games, including a new favourite, the 'dancing cow' game (an interactive word-search, concentrating on specific sounds). The children learnt words in which the first three of these sounds appear either at the beginning or at the end of words, but, as this week's 'new rule' showed, the /ng/ sound can never be used at the beginning of a word. Our writing session this week was a great success: the children had to make up their own sentences about a farmyard scene, and everyone did a super job, showing what progress they have made already this term. You can admire their efforts in this week's Home School Book.

In Maths this week, we had revision sessions on Monday and Tuesday, during which we recapped counting, ordering numbers, missing number problems, number bonds, doubles, 1 more/1 less, 2-D shapes and Venn diagrams. The children then went on to do their mid-term assessment, the results of which we will discuss at our parent-teacher meetings in 2 weeks' time.

We had an interesting discussion about rain, and the uses of water. The children then had to draw pictures and write captions to show four different uses of water. Also on our water theme, we had our first Science experiment this week: the children had to investigate which material was best suited to repairing a hole in an umbrella. This involved lots of 'rain', lots of soggy paper and fabric and lots of excited faces - you can see some pictures of the action in the October gallery on the website.



Unfortunately, after a good start, the number of children arriving late for school is starting to increase - please organise your day to ensure that the children are at school by 08.55. As well as disrupting our first session, late arrivals also miss out on being chosen for 'special day' privileges.

Maths homework this weekend will be 'Clam Collector 1.6' (about ordering and comparing numbers). Our Talk Topic for Monday 14th October will be "What things might happen if there is too much rain?".

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend,

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru

year1teacher@telenet.be

French

In French with Madame Scharf, we are still following Tourloubanc in the county of colours where the animals are sad because a black bird has stolen all colours. We read the famous story of Elmer the elephant and talked about being different and produced a beautiful articulated paper elephant.

Year 1 and 2 Music

We are challenging ourselves with the songs of our show! Slowly but surely we are making our way around all those lyrics to remember, but what great music!

Year 2

Dear Parents!

We had an exciting week this week. We continued with our focus on nature and on global warming. We learnt that climate change causes all kinds of weather changes, not only warmer weather. Because of climate change we have more storms, more flooding, and more drought, which are all very unfortunate for us and the animals that we share the planet with. In addition, global warming means that the icecaps in the Arctic and Antarctic are melting which means a lot of animals lose their natural habitats and with all the melted ice, the sea levels are rising. To understand all of this a bit better we made an experiment with ice cubes. We placed one ice cube outside and one ice cube on the radiator and found out that the ice cube on the radiator melted much quicker than the one we placed outside. Thus, learning that hotter weather would also melt the ice in the North and South Poles much more quickly than colder weather.



In literacy we did some creative writing and we wrote scientific reports in regards to our experiment. We also read all together in little reading groups. The children continued to be super enthusiastic about their own reading and about our classroom books, and last but not least, we started reading a super long, exciting book by Roald Dahl, *Billy and the Minpins*. Even though the book is so long that we can only read one or two chapters every day, the children have been great at keeping their attention on this very long book. The book is both imaginative and exciting and the children have been super enthusiastic about it, which makes us very happy. In maths we learned about ordinal numbers (1st - first, 2nd - second, 3rd - third) and practiced ordering things with ordinal numbers. We also practiced or counting in tens, both with and without a number grid and by playing some fun number games!

Talk topic of the week is: What can we do to make sure that the ice caps in the south and north pole don't melt?

Finally, the stars of the week go to Camilla for excellent work in our climate change project! And to Aadya for writing a brilliant story this week! Congratulations Camilla and Aadya 😊

Elin Hafstein & Ena Tolentino

Year2teacher@telenet.be

French

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started designing our project '**La danse de l'automne**' (the autumn dance). We learnt how to use lots of words related to nature, food and the fruit we pick, pluck or find in the woods and the market. We also discussed the weather patterns and common colours and festivities of **l'automne**.

Year 3



Dear Parents,

This week in year 3 we have been busy doing our first assessments of the year ahead of our parent teacher meetings on the last day of term. The children showed me their current skills in reading, writing and maths. I can see that they have been working hard in class and at home doing their reading, spelling and homework. Just a reminder to please sign your child's reading record in the comments section when they have read at home. It is important that the children are reading regularly at home each week. Around three books a week is a good guide until the children are on longer books with chapters. Practice really does help to build fluency, confidence and comprehension skills.

In our topic work we found out about what the Vikings ate and drank. We discussed the fact that they had no freezers, refrigerators or modern ovens and how that would have affected the things they ate. As they were seafaring people, fish would surely have been on their menu! We then followed a recipe to make Viking bread which used ingredients that would have been available at the time, although unlike the Vikings we did use a modern oven. We all liked the taste of it, especially with cloudberry jam! The children wrote the recipe down including the ingredients, instructions and equipment needed so you can have a go at making it at home should you want to.

In science we discussed vertebrates and invertebrates and learned the difference between the two. We then talked about animals with exoskeletons, endoskeletons and hydrostatic skeletons. The children sorted different animals into groups based on their type of skeleton and we learned some of the advantages and disadvantages of these different skeleton types.

In literacy we learned about using apostrophes to mark possession of an object. In our spelling lesson we talked about homophones – words which sound the same but have different meaning and spelling. When it comes to practising these it's best to use them in a sentence so your child can practise deciding which word is the correct one. In maths we did more work on doubling and halving using the partitioning method.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards
Camilla Rutayisire

Year3teacher@telenet.be

Year 3 & 4 Music

Our week has been dedicated to the show practice. We are learning to control our voices and articulate together.

Year 4

Dear Parents,

The end of term feels it is now approaching fast and we tied up a few loose ends so we can focus on some forthcoming assessments. Next week, we will have the annual



autumn PIRA reading test and then shortly after that, the children will tackle the maths course test.

Today, the children wrote an unaided writing assessment. It was the perfect time to do it: Literacy was full of technical stuff. We wrote dialogue, commas in lists and time connectives; and learnt how to present paragraphs.

The week started with a science experiment which the children fully threw themselves into. They had to hypothesise first and then investigate: 'What happens if we add more and more batteries to a circuit?'

In Numeracy, meanwhile; we told the time to the minute, extending what we learnt to calculating intervals. This can be done at spare moments when waiting at the bus stop. Look at the posted timetable and get the children to calculate the frequency of the buses and total route times.

We didn't just look at clocks. The children had fun converting measurements of length (mm-cm-m) and then going around measuring things. Aside from that, the children worked to finish their Tudor houses and their dream sequence photo shoots. The class worked in teams to produce five super PowerPoint displays. Thank you for those done at home individually: I enjoyed looking at them and the effort put into them too.

Also in Topic, we looked hard at how we use energy in our homes considering what Mum, Dad, brother/sister and 'me' use: when and how much?

The children continue to love swimming sessions and it's nice to know we still have two visits to the pool to go!

And that was our week. Have a nice weekend.

In connection to the next Junior Department debate, **our Talk Topic for this week is: When does a child need a mobile phone?**

Best wishes

Tim Stedman, Mrs Tolentino & Mrs Irakoze

year4teacher@telenet.be

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

Years 3 &4 French

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we learned how to use the verb '**faire**' (to do/to make) and how to combine it with the prepositions **du, de la** when talking about '**les loisirs**' (hobbies). We worked with our French book Zig Zag, and we revised the difference between **jouer and faire** when talking about 'les loisirs'. We also sang and learnt many words related to 'mon corps' (my body).

In French with Madame Scharf, we are still focusing on être and avoir to be able to describe ourselves physically, which gave us the opportunity to study the masculine and feminine of adjectives : grand/grande, petite/petite etc ... we listened to a song which helped us to remember all of this.

Year 5

Dear Parents,

Even when the weather is wet and raining lightly, the children go out to play. It is therefore essential for them to have a waterproof coat with them. Belgian weather can change suddenly, and some children come in sunny weather to school and when it rains, they have no coat.

In Literacy we revised reported speech and did a few exercises to consolidate this learning. Our comprehension for this week was about a British hero of the Falkland war, Simon Weston. The class seemed

to love learning about him. This week we did our PIRA tests and our writing samples. The class love story writing and it is something we do most Friday mornings.

In Numeracy we moved on to multiples and factors. This is a section they enjoy and when children know their multiplication tables, this becomes very easy for them. Our half termly Abacus tests have also been done and dusted this week.

We have moved away from the Victorians and begun delving into marvellous maps. The quote of the day was when I asked what an atlas was and got told 'Paper Google Maps'. Anyway, after laughing about that we began learning how to use an index and find different towns and features. We touched on the key and also spoke briefly about lines of latitude and longitude as well as GPS co-ordinates. To finish this week they did an atlas quiz.

In PE tennis was the order of the day again. However, due to flooding of the tennis court, the class played squash instead. They seemed to have enjoyed this immensely.

In Art we chose a country and drew it, labelling the cities and borders. We also finished our William Morris patterns.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the week was the music workshop. We were drawn into a world of music, movement and song. WOW, what an experience. The afternoon flew by and we were sorry to see it come to an end. The behaviour was impeccable, and every child absolutely enjoyed the experience.



By now, you should all have been given a time to come and see me on the 25th October. If this time is not possible, please let me know as soon as possible so we can arrange another time.

The talk topic this week is: At what age should a child be given a mobile phone?

Have a peaceful weekend,

Mrs Vetter

Year5teacher@telenet.be

Years 5 & 6 French

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on **les vêtements** (clothing) and 'Qu'est-ce que **tu portes** aujourd'hui? What are you wearing today? We combined this topic with the weather forecast, the seasons and the days of the week through an interactive game called 'match de tennis' where they had to use and play with the clothing vocabulary, while constructing simple and coherent phrases. We also went over our French book Zig Zag and we revised the use of 'avoir and être'.

In French with Madame Scharf, we have been reciting our poem about an apple falling on a snail. It was a long and difficult poem, but everybody did really well. We also learnt the nationalities of all EU countries and did a small test.

Year 5 and 6 Music

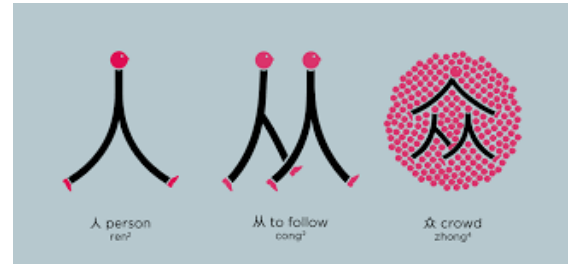
What an end to the week! We were lucky to welcome musicians from the ReMuA Asbl who gave us a workshop about music played by an orchestra. We travelled through compositions by Henry Purcell, Bela Bartok, Piotr Tchaikovsky and Benny Goodman, and were even able to impress the ReMuA team with our choreography of Sing, Sing, Sing!

Year 6

Dear Parents,

This week, the children sat the reading comprehension PIRA test and the Abacus maths half-termly assessment. Despite my 'code red' warnings about reading the question (and to make sure to tick or circle the correct number of words or boxes) the first student's paper that I marked contained two of these types of errors. Result - two marks lost immediately!

In Chinese, students discovered the exciting world of Chinese and learnt about the first building block 'person' (人²), they added another person and created 'to follow' and using three building blocks created a 'crowd'. Take a closer look at the link and you will see our school logo!



<https://www.chineasy.com/educator/>

We enjoyed a productive first lesson about Microsoft Excel. By creating online shops, students learnt how to automatically insert months, calculate totals, change fonts and background colours and then transform all this data into a table.

Thank you to our roving news reporter Swarnima, who gave us a detailed presentation about the damage that plastic is having on our planet.

We began our Forensic Science module with a fingerprint investigation. After having analysed different types of prints and learning about their reliability at a crime scene, it was time to complete a fingerprint identification form. The scientists took their own fingerprints, then made a glass slide of a fingerprint which they viewed under a microscope. Also, using the Digi-scope, they took a photograph of their fingerprint and viewed it in glorious magnification on the whiteboard.

Thank you to Mrs Mayeur for arranging a terrific and energetic music workshop for Year 5 & 6 on Thursday.

The core learning continues with calculating percentages of amounts, studying three exciting sentence constructions from Alan Peat, discussing the importance of spelling rules, finishing our work on Arlo the Author and reading Alex Rider!

Talk Topic: Are your parents addicted to their mobile phones?

Happy weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

Year6teacher@telenet.be

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Dear Parents,

The Year One and Two EAL small group talked this week practised *she* and *he*, as well as revising words to identify people (*boy, girl, man, lady, woman, sister, brother, baby, grandmother, grandfather*). We also worked on common verbs, and made simple sentences in the form *She is running. He is watching tv. She is playing with lego*, as part of a memory game, then a drama guessing game.



In the Junior Department EAL small group this week, the children did very well to produce a short piece of independent writing, derived from their responses to the lovely story *Where the Wild Things Are*. This unaided written work shows the children's strengths, and the areas that we need to develop (including punctuation, paragraphs, describing places and people, keeping their ideas going for longer). Over the coming weeks, we will continue to work on learning new vocabulary and practising new grammar structures, while also taking one session each week to focus on writing, so that the children have plenty of practice. Fortunately, they are all diligent and imaginative, which are useful characteristics for good writers.

I look forward to meeting many of the parents on Friday 25th October.

I wish you a happy weekend.

Kate Read

EALteacher@telenet.be