

Nursery



Dear Parents,

The Christmas season in nursery is about to start! We are gearing up for all of the glitz and glitter (the environmentally friendly version of course!) so if your little one comes home with sparkle and shine in every place possible, remember they had fun doing it!

However, this week we have finished off our theme on clothes and have ended it with some super fun 'superhero' counting. Everyone has caught the superhero bug and we are practising our 'superpower' for getting to know our numbers really well. If you look in your child's home school book you will see their great counting, number recognition and number writing efforts, the comment at the top of the page will give you an idea of how to help your little one to hone their number skills to 10.

As an extra piece of work and fun activity to do at home, each child has a superhero I Spy mat; help them to circle and count all of the different superheroes and then write the answer in the box on the back of the sheet (you can write this for them if they are not writing numbers just yet). Remember it is meant to be fun so don't spend too long looking at it. 10 minutes each day over the weekend is enough. Bring it back to nursery on Monday and we will see who counted correctly, especially who got the correct number for the superhero dog!

Our favourite song all about clothes throughout this topic was 'The clothes song'. Take a look at the following link and have a great time singing along together; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFQxBCvgx70>

Talking about singing, the nursery Christmas show will take place on Thursday **12th December at 11.30am in the infant department**. The performance will last around 20 minutes, so please put the date in your diary. The children are working really hard on remembering the words to the songs and it is going to be fabulous! You don't need to provide any costumes because Santa's Elves, who look remarkably like Mrs Davies, Mrs Nagy and Ms define, are making them.

One quick reminder, if you are intending to take your child out of nursery before the Christmas holiday officially starts on 18th December, or you will arrive back later than 6th January after the holiday, please let us know by email as soon as possible.

Until next week, enjoy your weekend and while you are out and about discuss our talk topic which is, 'Were the clothes you wore inside this weekend different to the clothes you wore outside? Why were they different? If they weren't different why was that?'

Thank you

Alison Davies, Anna Nagy and Vanessa diFine

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Reception

Dear Parents,

It's unbelievable how quickly time is going, and we are now already at the end of November! Time to get ready for all the Christmas activities in the classroom and our Christmas show.

Just a quick reminder regarding the show. It will be held in school on **Monday 16th of December at 11:00**. The children should come dressed in their school uniform as usual and anything they need for the show will be provided by the school. You are invited to take your child home after the show as usually all the excitement around it just wears them off but if you decide to leave him/her in school don't forget to send their lunch.

This week we have been working on woodland animals' habitats. We have talked about the different homes these animals have, how and where they build them, and what they are called. You will find in your child's home school book a woodland scene in which the children had to find the places where different animals live and stick them appropriately. Some of those scenes have been beautifully coloured, so well done to all our little artists!

In Maths the focus was on one more/one less number than a given one. This activity is still a bit tricky for some children because it involves recognising all the numbers from 1-20, knowing the correct order of them and understanding the concept of one more than and one less than. It is a good idea to practice it at home too, first with numbers from 1-10 and then onto numbers from 1-20.



In Phonics we have introduced the new letter sounds j and v, and we have been working a lot on blending sounds to read short three-letter words such as: can, put, bag, hen, etc. You can play at home with your children by saying the individual letter sounds and asking them to blend them together to make the word.

In our art sessions we are finishing our last Autumn pieces of art and we will be soon starting winter and Christmas activities and crafts. By the end of the term you will receive all the work the children have been doing since September, and just be amazed by what your little artists have created.

In P.E. we have had Mr. Wolf and Mrs. Crocodile games which have been a blast. We could see the children playing them in playtimes, having a really good time and enjoying themselves. So, we'll be having them again soon!

The talk topic for next week is: *What other colours would you like to see in Autumn leaves apart from red, orange and yellow?*

Have an excellent weekend and we look forward to seeing everybody back on Monday.

Mrs. van Wassenhove and Mrs. Julaton

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French

In French with Madame Scharf, we have been talking about Saint-Nicolas : the clothes and the colours he wears, the stories that are told about him, what he brings, etc. We looked at pictures of him and drew our own. We started singing a song about him and we also learnt to say : "Bonjour, Saint-Nicolas, je voudrais des bonbons, du chocolats, des biscuits s'il vous plaît".

Year 1

Dear Parents,

The excitement continues to build as we prepare for our show - the costumes and hats are ready, the props are made, and the backdrop scenery is almost finished - now we just have to fit it all on the bus next Thursday!

Normal work continues, of course: Our 'sounds of the week' were /ear/ as in 'near' and /oi/ as in 'coin'. The latter sound follows the pattern the children learnt for the /ai/ sound a few weeks ago, in that it does not appear at the end of words - when we hear this sound at the end of a word, the /oi/ becomes /oy/ (as in 'boy'). In 'Tiddler' this week, we re-read the story, but in 'poetry rhythm', in order to accentuate rhyme. We collected all the pairs of rhyming words, remembering that rhyme is all about the sound, not the spelling. Then, after a quick discussion of the best parts of the story, we had a 'free writing' session, where the children could re-tell their favourite scene. In Grammar, we had our first look at using the word 'and' as a 'connective', to join two ideas or phrases (eg. he is tall and strong, she went to her table and sat down).

Our Maths focus this week has been on money and coins. We looked carefully at the different coin denominations, both in Euros/Cents (for local knowledge and use) and in Pounds/Pence (used in our workbooks and assessment papers), and learnt that although the coin sizes and colours are different, the important things - the numbers - are the same on both sets of coins. The children practised making small amounts of money using multiple coin values, and learnt that there are several ways to make, for example, 6c (6x1c, 5c+1c, 2c+2c+2c and so on). We went on to select the correct coins to use when 'buying' items (eg. which two coins do we need to buy a 12c toy?), and then practised making amounts using the fewest coins possible, which is important when the amounts of money become larger - it is much quicker to make 16c with a 10c, 5c & 1c coins than it is using only 1c and 2c coins.



You will hopefully be aware already that we will all be going to the park on Thursday 12th December - in order to ensure the children's safety, we do need parent volunteers to come along to look after small groups of children. Please let us know if you are willing and able to help.

Finally, our Talk Topic for next week will be "What do you think will be the best part of our exciting day at the theatre next Thursday?"

Enjoy the weekend.

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru

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French

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have started talking about Saint-Nicolas and his various legends. We looked at pictures of him and described his clothing. We also drew pictures of him and learnt a song. We also started rehearsing a French song for the Christmas show.

Year 2

Dear Parents,

This week we were pleased to receive a lot of costumes for the Christmas show. If your child has not yet brought in their costume, please make sure that they bring it on Monday morning! Our Christmas show is next Thursday so the children have been busy practising all week long, and are very excited for you to see them on stage next week!



This week in maths we focused on adding, subtracting, doubling and halving 2-digit numbers. We used our understanding of place value and our number squares to help us work with all these big numbers. By focusing on first adding or subtracting the 1s, and then adding or subtracting the teens, we found out that it is rather easy to add and subtract 2-digit numbers! Almost as easy as working with small numbers. We also played some math games this week to help us learn to work with 2-digit numbers and the children all made very good progress!

In literacy we focused a lot on poetry, and we read some very different poems. We have already learned that poems have certain things in common, such as the fact that they tend to have some rhyming in them, they tend to have a rhythm to them, and they can be quite short. By reading many different poems, the children are starting to see that even though they are quite similar in some ways, they can also be very different. This week the children even wrote their very first poem! They all did really well and we were super impressed by their brilliant ideas and their commitment to their poetry writing!

The Talk topic for the weekend is "What was my favorite thing I did at school this week?". And finally, it's the Stars of the Week! This week they go to; Ishaan for his brilliant poetry writing, and to Dhriti for her great performance in adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers! Well done both of you.

We wish you all a lovely weekend, we're looking forward to seeing you next Thursday at the theatre!

Elin Hafstein and Ena Tolentino

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French Year 2

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started preparing and singing our French Christmas song '**Clic Clac dans les mains**' for the Christmas show. We also talked about other important Belgian celebrations like St Nicolas. We learned many things and words associated with St Nicolas and a beautiful song.

Year 3

Dear Parents,

We've started to put the whole performance together in our rehearsals for the Winter show. The children are all getting more confident at singing, acting and dancing and I'm sure the show will be great. They have continued to help with making the considerable number of props needed. The children also made Christmas decorations and have started to make some beautiful Christmas cards. They are impatient to take them home because they look so lovely!



In literacy we did our spelling lesson on Monday, the children are now a lot more familiar with adverbs, what they are used for and how they are formed according to the ending of the root word. There are just two weeks left for spelling this term, can't believe it's going by so quickly. There will be no spelling test on the last Monday of the term. I will send out the new spelling lists and test dates at some point before the Christmas break, so look out for it in your child's bag.

In maths this week we revised topics covered in the second half of the Autumn term. In particular this week we revisited the times tables we've covered so far – the 2 times table, 3 times table, 4 times table, 5 times table and 10 times table.

Mrs Tranter informed me that the children had a great session at the NATO pool. They went into the deep end for the first time showing that they are clearly making progress with their confidence and skills.

Thank you to everyone who has already sent in a costume for their child for our winter production. Please let me know as soon as possible if you have any queries about this or are unsure about what to bring. They will look great when they are all dressed up on the stage!

Kind regards,

Camilla Rutayisire

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Year 4

Dear Parents,

An exciting week with a spot of everything.

On Monday, winter brought ice to the classroom as we (tried) to measure the temperature of beakers of ice covered with various insulating materials. I say tried because some of the children forgot to take measurements at the designated times. We shall try again but the class currently believe that the wraps cause the ice to melt faster. We will set out to try and prove or disprove this.



In Numeracy, we explored adding strategies, weighed stuff and drew bar charts. Mass concerned the all-important process of converting measures (g-kg) and a few children struggled with this. Before we plotted bars on graphs, the children had to collect data from a Christmas text to put in frequency tables. Everyone did well, although deciding on scales on the Y axis is always found to be tricky.

Maths was always evident because, in Topic, we calculated the money savings had by installing home insulations. Following this, was learning about home-buying fees. We found out that it's not cheap either!!! The children were told moving home is one of the most stressful things they may do, but finding 12% of 6-digit numbers proved sufficiently stressful for the time being.

Tennis was very successful, as usual, and photos, courtesy of Mrs Tolentino, are on Edmodo if you haven't seen them already. My group, meanwhile, played handball and a great match we had. Half of the children haven't done much sport before and so learnt (very quickly – I was thrilled) how to move, find space and support teammates going forward. Everyone made progress in some way.

The Abacus end-of-term test is likely to be on Monday 9th, covering everything done since Halloween and the plan is to have a class party in the final week. To my surprise, last year's Y4 remembered it fondly in the Yearbook so apparently, it's not to be missed. More details will be coming soon.

Our Talk Topic for this week is: What is your character in the play like? Are they like you?

Best wishes

Tim Stedman, Mrs Tolentino & Mrs Irakoze

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

Years 3 &4 French

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started practising our French Christmas **song 'Noël, c'est comme un rythme de jazz'**, and we talked about the traditional Belgian Festival - St Nicolas. We discussed the vocabulary and words related to St Nicolas. We sang two beautiful songs and explored the meaning of the lyrics.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been revising the verbs être and avoir in the positive and negative forms : "j'ai un chien / je n'ai pas de chien" and "je suis grand / je ne suis pas grand". We also started rehearsing a French song for the Christmas show.

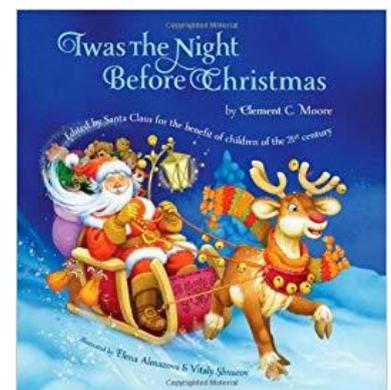
Year 5

Dear Parents,

It's been much wetter this week although slightly warmer. Please remember that we go out in all but the heaviest of downpours.

In Literacy we did our spelling test as usual and this week's words are adverbs of possibility and frequency. The rest of our literacy has been a comprehension and lovely new words to add to our working vocabulary. A few examples of these include consume, contemplate and peeved. The next time we write creatively, we will be able to use these words to add a degree of sophistication and complexity to our stories. We did a Christmas pudding conundrum and had to work out who the guilty elf was. Twas the night before Christmas was our comprehension of the week.

In Numeracy we began by rounding whole numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000 before moving on to decimal rounding. We also learnt how to write a decimal as a fraction and



then simplify it to the lowest possible fraction. We are honing our skills in preparation for our test on Monday. All the children need to do is brush up on their bonds to 10 and 20 as well as their multiplication tables.

In PE we happily found a time between rain showers to do some exercises before coming inside to the library.

For our Marvellous Map work we learnt all about grids and how to find things on the maps using these grids. We had a lot of fun doing this.

Play rehearsals are still in full swing. All costumes should be in school by now but if not, please make sure they are at school by Monday at the latest. Reciting words and learning prompts is still ongoing so please help your child with this at the weekend.

The talk topic this week is: Why do you think it is important to have legible handwriting? Discuss.

Enjoy your weekend.

Mrs Vetter

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Years 5 & 6 French

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started practising our French Christmas song '**Noël, c'est comme un rythme de jazz**', and we talked 'in depth' about the traditional Belgian Festival - St Nicolas. We discussed the vocabulary and words related to it. We sang beautiful songs, and we explored the meaning of the lyrics. Then, we worked in small groups and summarised everything we had said about St Nicolas. After which, we got to be St Nicolas and gave a presentation in French about himself, his companions and what St Nicolas wears and does once he arrives in Belgium.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been reading facts and figures about ostriches and polar bears in order to be able to do the same with an animal, of our choice. We also started a reading comprehension about the blue whale. The children chose an animal and will present it in class. In grammar, we revised the possessives.

Year 6

Dear Parents,

As you are aware, we are practising furiously for our show; thank you for sending in the costumes so promptly. To complicate matters, we are now being attacked by a winter sickness 'bug', which makes rehearsing more difficult. Hopefully, everyone will have recovered by next week!

Huge excitement for Greenlight for Girls this Saturday, I look forward to hearing all about their experiences on Monday.

<http://www.greenlightforgirls.org/calendar>

The maths homework of last week was most revealing. The ability to deal with calculations is obvious, however, what is lacking is using and applying these skills to multi-step word problem solving. Mathematical ability is of no help if you don't read (and think about) the question! Students need to be proactive in resolving this problem. We worked through a selection of word problems, which I hope made the need to work methodically and carefully crystal clear!



The (optional) Christmas homework schedule is on Edmodo (you may start now) – with a focus on maths, science, spelling, punctuation and grammar. Students should create an excel spreadsheet detailing their homework plan for the festive season.

We finished Point Blanc! Unputdownable is the only word for this second book in the Alex Rider series. What a dramatic ending to our adventure project. I am now in the process of creating a brand-new Year 6 project for 2020 (my festive homework plan!) – watch this space!

News reporter Suhas produced an excellent weekly report and I am looking forward to learning about 'Black Friday' from his colleague Aahil. Thank you to Tala for creating a fantastic display for our work on Black Holes.

We have another workshop at the House of European History about protesting next term, so, with Mrs Still, the students began to investigate what causes people to go out on the streets to protest.

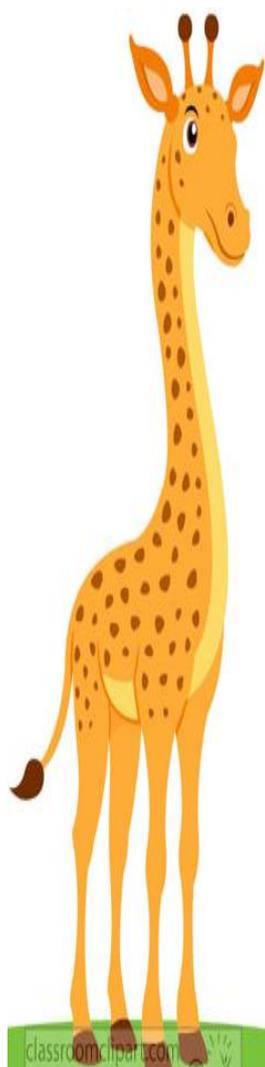
<https://historia-europa.ep.eu/en/educators-teachers/guided-visits-workshops/protest-workshop>

Talk Topic: How did we survive without mobile phones?

Happy weekend,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

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English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Dear Parents,

This week, the Junior Department EAL group read *The Gruffalo*, finding a wealth of new vocabulary, including interesting adjectives, applying their phonics knowledge to decode these new words, and practising using different voices for the different characters (with the aim of developing awareness of our own intonation and expression). We also worked with the connective words *so* and *because*, practising forming sentences using them, and noting the different way the two words affect the order of things in the sentence.



The Year One and Two EAL small group continued to have fun with Year 1's class text, *Tiddler*, writing sentences from the story, and picking out rhyming words. We read another rhyming story by the same author and illustrator, *The Snail and the Whale*. We continued to practise reading and writing the tricky words *I you no go to be me we she he my they all are was the her into*.

The Reception EAL small group combined our on-going discussions about animals with the language we need to talk about size. We used the vocabulary: *big, small, tall, long, short* and *the biggest/smallest* etc. The children listened to instructions in the form: *Colour the big ice-cream blue*, coloured a picture following the instructions, and also practised giving their own instructions. We read the stories *Giraffes Can't Dance* and *Tall*.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

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