



The British International  
School of Brussels

BISB Home School Book : September 18<sup>th</sup> 2020

## EYFS Nursery

Dear Parents,

What a fun and interesting week we have all had in nursery continuing with our 'Here We Are'... story and all about me related topic work. We hope you had a chance to take a look at the book on Youtube and share it with your children, it is such an amazing account of life on Earth. One of the Nursery's favourite pages from the book is "**People come in many, shapes, sizes and colours. We may all look different, act different and sound different... but don't be fooled, we are all people.**"



This ties in with our Personal, Social and Emotional curriculum area, which we work on throughout Nursery. It is so important to teach our children how to be kind and to respect other people's feelings and life choices, as they are growing up in a wonderful, cosmopolitan world where everyone has the right to flourish. We have a feelings wall in Nursery which asks "**How do you feel today?**" By using illustrations of different facial expressions and, of course, by making them ourselves, it gives everyone the opportunity to express how they feel or how another child might be feeling about a particular thing, even if they may not yet know the right words to use to describe feeling sad, happy, angry, scared etc.

We have also talked about ourselves again and in particular, who we are, where we live and how old we are. This was then extended into the piece of work you can see in your child's home school book. The end result was the birthday cake and candles, and the question was "**How old are you now and how old will you be on your next birthday?**". This link crosses over into the maths curriculum, with each child counting out how many candles they had on their last birthday cake and then adding one more for their next birthday.

**Our talk topic this week is: "How old would you like to be and why?"**

Every term in school the children are asked to produce a piece of unaided writing work. Nursery are also included in this, but at an appropriate level. The children did their first one yesterday. It was linked to a short animated film called '**Soar**', which you can find on the following link; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDkpVwrhYfo>

Take a look at the whole film and see what your little one can remember from the discussion we had about the story - another great opportunity to use English words to describe what they can see in each scene. Ask in particular about the facial expressions of the girl and the tiny boy, using words like, sad, surprised, scared, amazed, thoughtful, anxious etc. and see if they can describe how they might feel in a similar situation.

To finish off the week, and to tie in nicely with our home school book activity, we made some vegan chocolate cupcakes. We hope your little one enjoyed not only the end product, which of course they shared with you ! But also the whole experience of making and baking their own little cake. Again there are some fabulous mathematical language opportunities in looking at, and reading together, the recipe, weighing out the ingredients, deciding what size bowl and spoon was needed to mix the ingredients and what consistency was

the cake batter was before it was cooked and after it came out of the oven. Most importantly, of course, it was just sheer fun to do!

**Just a quick reminder, can you please keep your child's home school book and library book together in their plastic wallet when you return them to Nursery . It makes life much easier for checking books back into the library. Please remember they need to be brought back no later than Wednesday each week.**

Have a good weekend enjoying the last remnants of summer temperatures, hopefully autumn temperatures will return soon!

Thank you.

Alison Davies, Anna Nagy & Vanessa diFine

## EYFS Reception

Dear Parents,

This week was another fun week. We are still discovering 'Here We Are', which is full of interesting ideas. We have been concentrating on topic work related to the family. Through 'Here We Are' we have learnt about parts of our bodies, similarities and differences between people, and all about the different, amazing things we find on our planet Earth. We talked about different cultures and learnt interesting facts about them. We know that in Morocco, their 'hello' is 'Salam', in Brazil 'Ola' and in India 'Namaste'! We know we are all unique and talked about what makes each one of us unique. You might like to watch this online story <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jscfDEjEjic> , which explains about different people and what makes everyone special. We even drew our unique selves! This is a very important topic as we have found out how to respect all people, no matter how different they may be from us. The



subject of the topic runs through our expressive arts and design, understanding the world, literacy and maths. Here is another book to enjoy online - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPPQdDwTUvE>.

In Maths, we worked on sorting toys, and counted with blocks up to 20. We also matched numicons of the same amount, continued a pattern and created our own patterns with objects. We had great fun counting down from 10.

We have now learnt the sounds of the letters 's,a,t,l,m,o,p and n' through fun indoor and outdoor games, jolly phonics songs and we even wrote all the letters! It would really help to remember to practice these sounds at home.



We practised sharing and being fair to each other through play. The highlight of the week was when the dogs came to visit us at school! We found out all about them by asking lots of questions.

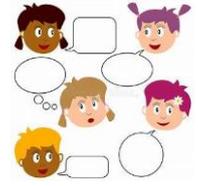
**Talk Topic: What is the difference between living and non-living things?**

Have a lovely weekend,

Sharmini Nathan and Ivana Julaton [receptionteacher@telenet.be](mailto:receptionteacher@telenet.be)

## EAL

This week, in the Acorn building, the EAL small group enjoyed the chance to talk about the dogs they met at school. We made sentences in the form *Dogs can...*, *Dogs are...*, *Dogs have...*, *Dogs like...* and we used words including *paws*, *muzzle*, *collar*, *lead*. We read the story: *Let's Get a Pup*.



We also talked about different foods, after the children experienced food-tasting in class. We discussed where different foods come from (*... comes from milk*; *... comes from a tree*), and we practised using the plural form of words. We played a lotto game to practise the names of different types of food.



In the Bilingual sessions in Reception class, we took the time to talk about dogs, about how dogs can be a part of a family, and how dogs are all different. We played a matching game, where the children asked each other *Who has the small, black dog?* etc.

We read two stories about dogs, including *The New Dog*, in which a family choose a very friendly new dog, Floppy. The children will read many books about Floppy and his human family, and this is the first of those books.

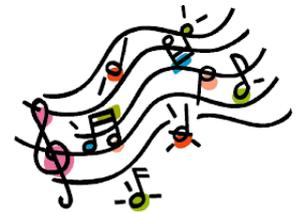
Please be sure to take the time to look at a book with your child as often and for as long as possible, and to talk together in your child's preferred

language.

Please contact me at the email address: [ealteacher@telenet.be](mailto:ealteacher@telenet.be) with any questions about EAL.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kate Read



## Music - Acorn Department (EYFS, Years 1 & 2)

### Nursery

This week in music, we started to learn our very first song: "Every day I grow a little bit". We also continued discovering various percussion instruments and played along with the music.

### Reception

This week, we had the opportunity to listen to the sound of the violin that Mrs Mayeur had taken to school. We talked about high and low sounds and we tried to spot the difference between those two extremes. We also continued our song "when Mummy says get ready" and practised our rhythms with percussion instruments.

### Year 1

This week in music, we learned a song about the Planets of our solar system. We also had our first encounter with basic body percussions with the action song "Bim Bum".

### Year 2

This week in music, we started to learn a song about a friendly Alien. We also had the opportunity to hear Mrs Mayeur's violin and to ask all sort of questions about this instrument and its family.

## KS1 Year 1

Dear Parents,

Wow what a fun week we have had exploring our new writing method, 'The Write Stuff' with Jane Considine (Mrs C)! As part of this method we have had two experience days this week related to the topic theme of 'Feast'. The first day was when we had three gorgeous dogs visit us – Benji, Milou and Luna.

We asked lots of questions about the dogs including 'Why do dogs have black noses?' 'Why do they have big ears?' 'What makes him bark?' and 'How does he learn to fetch?' We learned about what the different dogs liked and disliked and watched them run and play. Most of us were happy and excited to see them and we noticed lots of details about the dogs such as their different colours, breeds and sizes. We imagined what it would be like to have a dog and talked about the things that would be fun, such as going for walks and stroking them, and the things that wouldn't be – clearing up their mess for example!

For our second experience day we had our very own feast in the classroom. There were lots of foods to try, some were healthy, some less so. Some food tasted sweet, sour, salty, crunchy, creamy and watery. Some food felt squishy and soft, some felt rough and hard. We tasted food that reminded us of the top of ice crystals or bouncy spheres. One thing was for sure, it was great fun developing our vocabulary!

In our phonics lesson we reviewed the short vowels /a/ /e/ /i/ /o/ /u/. We learned a song to remember them and a mnemonic – Angry elephant In Orange Underpants! We practiced reading and writing them and hearing and identifying them in the middle of words. We also started to talk about which sounds were consonants. For our 'Here We Are' topic we spent some time this week exploring our outside environment and read the poem 'Out and About' by Shirley Hughes. We then discussed what we did when we were 'Out and About'.

In maths we have worked on our knowledge of number bonds.

Earlier in the week, we focused on bonds (pairs) that make 4 and 5. Then we progressed to exploring pairs that make 6 and finally pairs that make 10 by the end of the week. We have learned some very catchy songs to help us remember the number pairs that make 10 (e.g. 5 + 5, 6 + 4, 7 + 3), such as the superheroes song. You may well hear them being sung at home! We made 10 using the numicon, towers of cubes and pegs on a hanger.

**Talk topic: If you were planning a feast, what food would you choose?**

And that was our week! I hope you have a great weekend,

Camilla Rutayisire and Smita Bandaru

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



## KS1 Year 2

<b>Milou</b>		09.00 – 10.00  Acorn	10.00 - 10.00  Oak
<b>Benji</b>		9h30 – 10.30  Acorn	10.30 – 12.30  Oak
<b>Luna</b>		Afternoon visit	After lunch Oak  Then Acorn

This week has been such an exciting week in Year 2. It started with a bang with our very first 'Experience Day' – a visit from three quite different, and very lovable canine friends; Benji, Milou and Luna. We were able to touch and pet the dogs and the children enjoyed being able to walk the dogs on their leashes, throw the balls for the dogs to fetch and groom the dogs with the special brushes. The children learned all about the different personalities, habits, routines, and preferences of the four-legged visitors and asked some thoughtful questions.

Following this exciting day, we launched into our new Literacy learning, with Mrs. C's English lessons being broadcast into our classrooms each day. The lessons follow the short animation 'Feast', and its main character, Winston, through a story point each day. As the story progresses, Winston tastes, for the very first time, a range of new foods and this story point led us into our next 'Experience Day' – a tasting experience where the children touched, smelled and tasted a variety of new food stuffs in order to produce word banks of descriptive words which would feed (no pun intended) into our writing lessons. The teachers and pupils have been impressed by the quality of the language produced by the children during these hands-on, experiential events. Both Experience Days and the writing outcomes can be viewed in photographs and videos taken throughout the week via links on the class Edmodo page.

In Mathematics, the children have been learning to use the basic number facts they learned in Year One to apply to larger two-digit numbers for addition and subtraction. During our weekly problem-solving Maths lesson, we discovered that Cruella Deville had stolen the puppies we met on Monday and had hidden them at a secret location. Each week, the children will be presented with problems to solve in order to gain a clue as to the whereabouts of the puppies! This week we solved subtraction word problems to earn the clue to the continent on which the puppies were hiding.

We have continued with the class text; **'Here We Are'**, in Literacy lessons. The children posed some interesting and insightful questions about the world around them. We then used the safe search engine, Google Kids, during our Computing lesson to find answers to some of their questions; learning how to use search bars and key words effectively to aid their searches.

In Science we explored different climates around the world and how these climates are being affected by rising temperatures and an increase in extreme weather conditions because of climate change.

During our Art lesson we took to the playground to continue our Topic work about plastic pollution in the oceans. We thought of ways we could re-use plastic bags found in our homes and decided upon the creation of plastic bag kites, just like those in the story, 'Someone Swallowed Stanley.' Although we did not quite have the wind needed for uplift, the children had great fun running with their kites in the playground. Links to the photographs and videos of this activity can be followed through the Edmodo class page.

This week I would like our **Talk Topic discussion point to focus on the description of food – the appearance, taste, texture, and smell of food**. Please use mealtimes as an opportunity to think of adjectives and phrases to describe the food you are eating. It would be wonderful if your children could come to school with some new, exciting, and ambitious vocabulary for use during our Literacy lessons throughout the week.

We hope you have a lovely weekend,

Kind Regards,

Gabriel Bird and Ena Tolentino [year2teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year2teacher@telenet.be)

## French - Acorn Building : Reception, Years 1 & 2

**Year 1:** In French with Madame Scharf, we are still listening to our story "Un pays blanc" in which Tourloubanc has now reached the country of colours. We have therefore been revising/learning colours but also other sentences like : "Je vais chez Vihaan" meaning "I go to Vihaan's house" and we added "Tu viens avec moi ?" (Do you want to come with me ?). We learnt to use the imperative tense (which we use to give orders) : ouvre (open) / ferme (close) la porte ; monte (go up) / descends (go down) etc ...



**Year 2:** In French with Madame Halvorsen, we learned how to use 'C'est' (this is/ it's) to introduce, point or talk about a person, an animal or an object. We talked about feminine and masculine nouns and the use of the indefinite articles 'Un&Une (un garçon, une fille, etc..) and the use of possessive adjectives 'Mon &Ma'. From there, we embarked on playing a fun game to introduce, tell or imagine the names of some members of 'ma famille': C'est Ma Mère, Elle s'appelle Nina.... C'est Mon Père, il s'appelle Sam.

## KS2 Year 3

Dear Parents,

This week has been full of new experiences and challenges! We began our new Literacy scheme on Monday with an 'Experience day' involving visits to school by two very friendly dogs! This was a great opportunity for us to gather dog-related vocabulary, in preparation for our first online lessons with 'Mrs C' on Tuesday and Wednesday. In these lessons, the children worked at pace on gathering and noting down their thoughts and ideas, and then had to compile a number of sentences to re-tell the story of Winston the puppy. Mrs C calls this 'sentence stacking', and we have begun to stack our sentences on the classroom window, as shown in the



photo. The children coped very well with this completely new approach and produced some excellent work, which we hope will continue over the next 2 weeks.

In Maths this week, we have revised place value (hundreds, tens and units) and inequality signs (greater than, less than) and we have practised more addition and subtraction. We started gently, adding/subtracting 10s numbers to/from 2-digit numbers (eg  $78-40=38$ ), moved on to adding/subtracting 2-digit numbers ending in 1 or 9 (ie close to 10s numbers – eg  $27+29=56$ ), then applied the same method to any 2-digit numbers - the children are becoming quite confident with this type of sum, and also in remembering the effect on the 10s number of sums such as  $56+37=93$  or  $73-35=38$ .

The children had their first painting session this week, and they produced some super pictures of animals for our 'Here We Are' topic. Each continent is represented, and most habitat types, so we will eventually have a super display to represent the diversity of animal life on our planet.

Our Friday 'activity afternoons' are very enjoyable, and each week the grumbles about walking to the park seem to become fewer... This week, having quickly learned the basics of cricket in PE on Tuesday, Year 3 made their debut in the Oak Building cricket competition. Even though we lost our two matches, we enjoyed the game, and we do have some promising players. We will be back!

Maths homework for next week (allocated on Sunday) will be Treetop Topple 3.3.

**Talk Topic: Ask yourself: what can I do to help Year 3 waste less time in the classroom and at playtime?**

Wishing you a relaxing weekend,

Patrick Tranter [year3teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year3teacher@telenet.be)

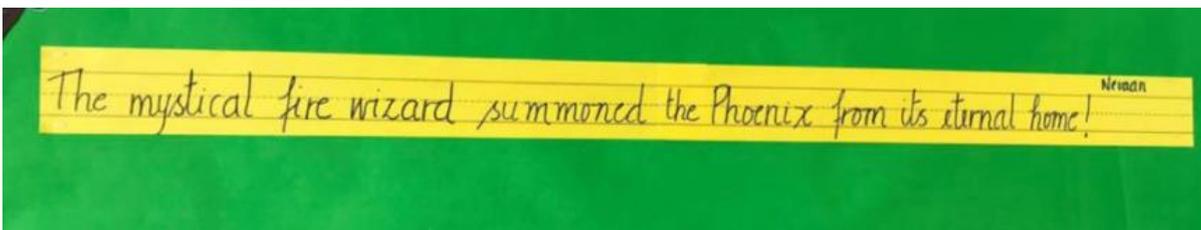
## KS2 Year 4

Dear Parents,

The end of another fantastic week of learning in Year 4 during which the main theme of this week was: working independently.

We had ended on a real high last week with some fantastic golden sentences to introduce the first steps of an imaginary story. We used all the adjectives and adverbs we could think of to convey emotions, setting and characters in a description based on Wagner's famous 'Ride of the Valkyries'.

Congratulations to Nevaan for coming with a golden sentence!



And after all that amazing learning, Monday brought us some furry, cute visitors! The children were so excited to meet the animals that it was difficult not to want to write about them straight away. We also started our online collaboration with Mrs C, who introduced our new writing scheme, and the children loved it. The work they produced was of incredible quality and imagination.

On Thursday, we put ourselves in the shoes of little Winston and had a 'Feast' of flavour to blow our tastebuds and create the feelings and emotions that the little puppy might have felt on moving into a brand new, cosy and welcoming home.

I am incredibly happy to see how the children's descriptive vocabulary is developing every week. Well done year 4!

We had a break from basketball this week in PE. Instead, we practiced our cricket skills in preparation for Friday's competition. It was a very intense session with a lot of strategic talk, technical vocabulary and above all, teamwork!

In topic we explored more aspects of nature and our impact and duty to protect and preserve it. With information we collected, Year 4 collectively wrote a letter to Prime Minister Norendra Modi asking him to intervene and to make India a world role model for tackling environmental issues! The children then worked on their own individual letters. They are extremely excited at the prospect of sending them to the Prime Minister. Who knows if he will respond!

In mathematics we expanded our knowledge of place value by comparing, ordering and organising numbers with reference to place value. We also challenged ourselves with small mathematical riddles, using a range of solving strategies.

Well done to all!

**Talk topic: We have been learning all about sound. What is sound? What is it made of? Can you think of natural sounds and man-made sounds?**

Have a good weekend,

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

## KS2 Year 5

Dear Parents,

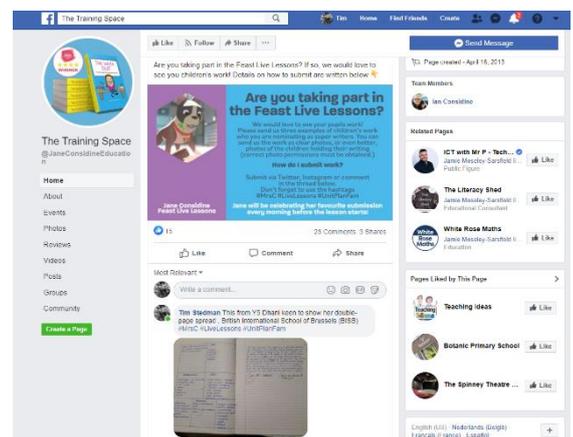
This week was a really full week and we're now up to full-ahead, top speed.

It's been curious to see how the holiday (and not lockdown learning) has changed some of the children. Some who were quiet have burst out of their shell and some who were strong characters have matured and become wiser and more contained. Whatever has happened, progression is evident, and the children have stepped up a level without a push, with eagerness.

This week, I'm sure you must have heard about Mrs C, the Write Stuff and her live lessons. If we didn't manage to always go live with her, we went and enjoyed being almost live and the 2 hours we spent with her had us all on our toes and pouring out our creative writing.

The children proved they were up to her lively writing challenges and thrived with those demands, producing super, super work!

The stimulus for all this creativity you will most definitely have heard about, as the dog('s) visit will last long in the memory. The children were cock-a-hoop to have live dogs in the playground and this may have been



even more of a hook than the food-tasting session on Wednesday. There is a lot more of Mrs C's Sentence-Stacking to come!

Elsewhere, we met Kipling's mongoose, Rikki Tikki Tavi, inspiring some fine dialogue writing, made our range of addition and subtraction strategies flourish, plotted the planets outside and played some entertaining and competitive cricket.

We also wrote a letter to Prime Minister Modi (and Wilmes) asking for ways to keep the gains from Lockdown unexpectedly earned from such harsh conditions. The children know that, briefly, we had clean skies, empty streets, a quieter environment, a little less bustle and more of each other. And nature re-established its right to blossom.

**Talk Topic: What are the Earth's two most important solids, liquids and gases, and why?**

And that was our week.

Best wishes

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

## KS2 Year 6

Dear Parents,

Our park trip last Friday was terrific – something for everyone: an aviary, mini-farm and goldfish. Not to mention a full-size football pitch field and fun-packed playground: it was a sunshine-filled, happy and energetic afternoon for all.



Thank you for keeping our dog experience day a secret – it was canine capers throughout the day. The children were beside themselves with excitement and joy, as our furry friends inspected classrooms, sniffed their way around the school and endured hours of ball-fetching in the playground. Using tyres, and anything the pupils could find, obstacle courses were quickly constructed to challenge the happy (and by now, exhausted) hounds.

I do not know who is more excited about this opportunity to participate in an online, three-week, scheme of work delivered by the educational consultant, Jane Considine? Her work has always inspired me, and to have her virtually 'in the classroom' teaching us, is an educational chance of a lifetime. Word-collecting, thesaurus thinking, the fantastics, writing rainbow, kind calling out are just some of the skills that the students have already mastered. They have produced some outstanding sentences for our class 'sentence stack' using a variety of sentence structures, new vocabulary and stylistic features.

We do need to revisit long multiplication and division. As the pupils' work has indicated that their methodology is not yet secure. Also, there are too many careless errors with times tables, transposing digits, omitting decimal points and not using placeholders. This week we have powered our way through addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of negative numbers. Homework must be carried out slowly, using a number line and referring to the examples in CIMT Tear 7B chapter 15.

The responses to this week's spelling quiz were encouraging – we are on the right track!



With all the excitement of 'Feast' and having to follow a specific broadcasting timetable, we are going to be fully occupied until the end of September and then our focus will turn to our Night in the Atomium and the residential week at Cornimont.

**Talk Topic: Child Labour - Nearly 1 in 10 children – some 152 million – are in child labour, almost half of whom work in hazardous conditions. Discuss.**

Happy weekend,

Beverley Tranter, Ena Tolentino and Cristina Salgado

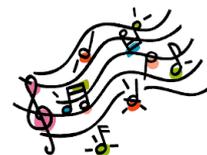
[year6teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year6teacher@telenet.be)

## Music - Oak Building : Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

In the Oak building, this week saw the return of the much loved recorders!

Children in Y3 could hardly hold their excitement and, when the day finally came, they showed a promising start to a long journey ahead!

Y4, Y5 and Y6 showed their teacher how hard they had been practising over the last 6 months, and that was such a pleasant surprise!



## French - Oak Building : Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

**Year 3:** In French with Madame Halvorsen, we practiced reading and role-playing the Introduction and Greeting dialogues in our French book Vitamine. We also worked on the use of common adjectives and the adjectives of colour to describe nouns and see how they agree in gender and number. We had very exciting presentations on 'My favourite animal' and 'My imaginary name'. These fun presentations allowed us to observe and understand the position of the adjective in a phrase.



**Year 4:** In French with Madame Halvorsen, we worked on the use of common adjectives and the adjectives of colour to describe nouns and see how they agree in gender and number. We also had funny and creative presentations on 'My favourite animal' and 'My imaginary name'. These fun presentations allowed us to observe and understand the position of the adjective in a phrase, and the use of 'Un and Une' with the appropriate noun. Then we learned how to use the prepositions 'à/en/au/aux' with cities and countries while playing the game 'Où habites-tu? J'habite à Bruxelles or j'habite en Belgique, J'habite au Danemark.. We also got to work and do exercises and activities in our French book Vitamine.

**Year 5:** In French with Madame Halvorsen, we worked on the use of articles (indefinite and definite) and we saw how we particularly use the definite article 'Le' with 'les couleurs' as in 'j'aime le bleu' (I like blue) and with languages as in 'je parle le français'. We also talked about how to use the prepositions 'à/en/au/aux' with cities and countries while playing the game 'Où habites-tu? J'habite à Bruxelles or j'habite en Belgique, J'habite au Danemark etc.. Then, we had brilliant and exciting presentations of this week's project 'Qui suis-je'? They really got to show, draw and talk about everything they've learned.

**Year 6:** In French with Madame Halvorsen, we worked on the use of articles (indefinite and definite) and we saw how we particularly use the definite article 'Le' with 'les couleurs' as in 'j'aime le bleu' (I like blue) and with languages as in 'je parle le français'. We also talked about how to use the prepositions 'à/en/au/aux' with cities and countries while playing the game 'Où habites-tu? J'habite à Bruxelles or j'habite en Belgique,

J'habite au Danemark etc.. Then, we had brilliant and exciting presentations of this week's project 'Qui suis-je'? They really got to show, draw and talk about everything they've learned.

**Years 3 & 4 :** In French with Madame Scharf, we are still practising how we meet someone and how we introduce ourselves and how we ask how old you are "Quel âge as-tu ?" and once we know each other how you ask how you are doing "Comment ça va ?" with all the different kinds of answers. We also revised/learnt counting up to ten. Together with Madame Halvorsen, we revised the names of animals as part of our the "Who we are" project. We presented the animal we chose by saying : "Je suis un beau papillon rose et je m'appelle Papi" which also allowed us to revise/learn the colours.

**Year 5 & 6:** In French with Madame Scharf, we have been working on reading the time and on describing the various activities of the day from the moment we wake up to the moment we go to bed in the evening. We learnt to use pronominal verbs and to conjugate them.