

Sinterklaas

Tomorrow, (Sinterklaas) will be visiting our school with his helpers (Pieten).

We are sending you the correct map (see attachment). The designated standing spots for each class will also be written on the ground in chalk.

Friday, December 5th

Time	Activity
08:30 - 08:45	Children are to be dropped off in the schoolyard at their designated spot (see attached map) with their classroom teacher. Parents/guardians and children should not go straight to the classroom, but should gather in the schoolyard. If children have a backpack, they should wear it on their back.
08:45	Arrival of Saint Nicholas and his helpers (Pieten) in the schoolyard. Parents are welcome to attend the arrival, but are kindly requested to stay behind the barrier tape and not stand on the pre-school playground.
09:00	After the arrival, the children will go straight inside. Parents will not enter the school at this point.
09:00 - 12:00	Saint Nicholas celebration at school.
12:00	Groups 1 through 8 are dismissed for the day.

Children do not need to bring a snack or drink this morning.

Let's make it a festive day!

Kind regards, on behalf of the Saint Nicholas Committee!

Library Membership: Working Together for Strong Readers

As a school, we heavily invest in reading development because we believe it is important that our students graduate as proficient readers who can fully participate in our society. The faster a child becomes technically proficient at reading, the more space is available in the working memory for learning new things. Furthermore, a skilled technical reader often develops a better vocabulary and consequently becomes a stronger comprehending reader. Reading aloud, reading independently, and listening to books all contribute to this important development.

Did you know that children up to the age of 18 can become members of the library for free? We strongly encourage you to schedule a regular time to visit the library together and pick out a nice stack of books. With a membership, children gain access to many extra benefits. We highlight a few valuable options below that you can easily use at home.

Bereslim

Bereslim supports children from 2 to 8 years old in their (language) development. With fun, educational games and beautiful digital picture books, children playfully work on learning behavior, story comprehension, and vocabulary. Additionally, Bereslim offers engaging AVI titles (Dutch reading levels) that strengthen technical reading. Children can practice both on paper and digitally. The online material is well-organized, adaptive, and playful. Children watch and play independently and receive help when necessary from 'play buddies' who give positive feedback. Bereslim demonstrably helps improve basic skills and prevent language deficits. It is featured as a promising approach in the Intervention Card for Improving Basic Skills by the National Education Program (NPO) for good reason.

De Voorleeshoek (The Reading Corner)

De Voorleeshoek contains hundreds of read-aloud videos for children from 0 to 10 years old. Suitable material can be found for every age category. It is an accessible way to enjoy stories together at home and stimulate language development.

E-books and Audiobooks

As a member of the OBA (Amsterdam Public Library, *often used as a general term for 'The Library'*), your child has access to thousands of e-books, audiobooks, and digital magazines. Ideal for children who enjoy reading or listening digitally, while traveling in the car, or just comfortably on the couch with headphones.

Makkelijk Lezen Plein (Easy Reading Corner)

Approximately one in ten children in primary or secondary school has a reading problem, a reading delay, or difficulty with spelling. For these children, there is the Makkelijk Lezen Plein (MLP): a special facility for children from 8 to 12 years old in the youth section of the OBA. The MLP focuses on children with reading difficulties such as dyslexia or concentration problems (e.g., ADD or ADHD). Here, they find a carefully selected range of attractive books that increase reading pleasure and make reading more accessible.

De Waanzinnige Podcast (The Amazing Podcast)

De Waanzinnige Podcast is a cheerful and inspiring podcast for and by children aged 6 to 12. In episodes of about ten minutes, a child enthusiastically talks about their favorite book, including a short read-aloud fragment. This is contagious: after listening, one in three children wants to read the discussed book themselves!

With these excellent facilities, reading becomes not just easier, but most importantly, more fun. We hope that you and your child will utilize these wonderful opportunities offered by the library. Do you need help registering your children with the library? Boris Krajenbrink (Parent and Child Advisor) is happy to assist you. He is at our school every first Wednesday morning of the month. You can walk right in to see him.

Together, we can increase the reading pleasure and reading proficiency of our students.

Wishing you much reading enjoyment!