

Home School Books – 18 September 2009.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

This week has felt very settled with the children getting more comfortable with the regular activities of the class. The children have been listening increasingly well to stories and they have enjoyed singing and dancing.

The children are beginning to get to know each other and to use each other's names. They have drawn some pictures of their new friends and they enjoyed talking about them.

The children have used their hands for counting and for drawing around to make patterns on.

We have set up an autumn themed area with conkers, acorns, leaves etc. If you are out and about this weekend it would be good to collect some autumn things there are plenty around!

Next week the children will be centring their work around their family.

Over the next few weeks we are going to start the very early stages of the process of introducing letter sounds to the children. This is part of a whole school programme which has been planned throughout the school.

We will start with listening skills encouraging the children to listen to sounds in their environment.

We hope you have an excellent weekend. On Sunday it is car free day in Brussels. It is a very enjoyable day and great for children to cycle or walk with no traffic.

Best Wishes,

Gail Metcalf, Alison Davis and Donnell Cross
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Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

We have reached the end of another week of school which has truly flown by. We enjoyed meeting many of you at last night's curriculum evening and look forward to our cooperation as this academic year unfolds.

In our “Ourselves” topic this week we have been talking about family. The children had an opportunity to discuss the photos that were brought for the display, and about the kinds of things they enjoy doing with their families. We also read a story called *Families Are Different* which talked about many different kinds of family groups and had a lively discussion afterwards. We have also learnt a wonderful song called *I am Special* and made some lovely self-portraits, which will be displayed in the classroom. In literacy we continue to focus on sounds and the children have done really well on mastering the sounds taught so far. Our focus has been ‘sound talking’ where we say each sound in a word, then try to blend the sounds together to say the word. We have also been “building words” using letter tiles, and the children are becoming very adept at this. Next week our sound table will feature the sounds **g, o, c, k**.

In maths we are learning to name 2-D shapes and we learned a song that helps us to remember each one. We have included the lyrics, so that your child can sing it for you. We also played several shape games to continue reinforcing the shape names.

You may wish to try some of them at home:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/teletubbies/funandgames/shapes/index.shtml>
<http://www.ngfl-cymru.org.uk/vtc/20050114/Mathematicaldev/Earlyyears/Shape/Thebuildinggame/Introduction/default.htm>

In PE we played several games which focussed on following directions, moving safely and working together. The children all have their PE kits now, but please verify that all items are marked with your child’s name.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we’ve been learning the colours and so far we know: *bleu, blanc, rouge, jaune, vert* and *orange*. We also learnt to introduce ourselves by asking *Comment tu t’appelles?* and by answering *Je m’appelle...* We learnt whether we are *une fille* or *un garçon* and we played *Jacques a dit* which is the equivalent of Simon says.

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Shirley Cassidy and Helen Prescott
receptionteacher@telenet.be

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

This week we have been working hard on our listening skills. To help with this, we started talking about our senses - tasting, hearing, smelling, touching and seeing. We discussed that messages are sent to the brain through the senses. We even thought about what can happen if our senses are damaged and decided to take very good care of our eyes, ears, tongues, noses and skin. You may like to continue to reinforce this at home. In literacy, we read some new books and focused on sounding out the letters of unknown words and then re-reading again fluently and expressively. This is

something you can work on at home. Your child should be able to read books fluently at each level before moving up. We tried very hard to form letters correctly this week and focused on c and k (ck). Please refer to the handwriting example sheet sent home last week for the correct formation and practise at home using the guidelines I gave on our Parents Evening yesterday. If you did not attend, your child has a copy in their green folder. We discussed our spelling this week and spelling will now be sent home each week on Monday. Please return the spelling book on **Fridays** so I can check your child's progress. These will be words at your child's individual level and will either be based on the sounds or tricky (only partially decodable) words we are learning each week.

In Maths, we extended our skills to count to 100 and continued counting sets up to at least 30. We focused on adding sets together starting from the biggest number. We used objects and our fingers to add. We are learning to add small numbers to 5 by heart. Most of us need practice with forming numbers correctly so please find time to write some at home. You can combine this with counting backwards from 30 which does need extra attention after observation this week.

In EAL this week, we used five simple stories by *Colin West* as the basis for our discussion work. Each story had a charm of its own and trying to agree on which one was the best, proved a very 'language rich' experience indeed!

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on our book "Alex et Zoé 1". We learned the numbers from 1-10 and we sang the songs "Bonjour" and "La Ballade des Chiffres".

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been following Tourloubanc who will go with Monsieur le Vent to the land of colours. We learnt to give orders (*l'impératif*): *ouvre et ferme, monte et descends, entre et sors ...*

Next Week:

Our focus sounds this week will be ff, ll and ss, found at the end of words like stuff, puff, bell, fall, mess, less etc. We will complete activities based on these letter sounds. Please look for things at home with these sounds in them so that we can discuss them at school. Spelling words may include these sounds. We will be learning how to write invitations and reading some stories about inviting friends to parties. We'll continue to work on reading words using sound knowledge and then again with expression. Please have your child retell the stories they bring home to read. After our meeting last night, I can recommend the following websites for English pronunciation guidance. I hope they are helpful for you:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZc4l0e7FCE>

<http://nationalstrategies.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/node/85357>

In Maths, we will be looking at measurement. However, it is very important that you continue to reinforce numbers to at least 30 at home and practise adding small sets of numbers together using objects and fingers. Once your child is confident with this, you can work on adding without objects (ie mentally). Most children can add to 10 and some are extending beyond this. Over the next few weeks, we will be measuring the length of objects using a range of different things including our body parts. Please

send in a soft toy (teddy) this week so we can measure them. Our teddies will also be invited to attend a 'party' in our class. If you would like to contribute something to our party (e.g. fruit, vegetables or other healthy items please), you can send these in on Friday.

To extend the 'Ourselves' topic, we will be learning about what happens as we grow. We will order events in our lives and create a timeline for ourselves. Can you please look for photos of your child at different stages (e.g. baby, toddler, pre-schooler, Year 1) so we can place them on our timeline. Our topic will be related to our maths as we measure how tall we are and compare heights as we grow. We will continue to discuss our senses and how we use these everyday. Remember the 5 senses to remind your child at home; Seeing, Hearing, Touching, Smelling, Tasting. Have a fantastic weekend. As always, please feel welcome to contact me if you have any queries.

Alicia Baine
year1teacher@telenet.be

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

We have been as busy as the proverbial bees this week.

In Literacy we have been discussing characteristics of dragons and have written a class book together in the style of *A Lion in the Meadow*. We read a poem about a sleeping dragon and have spoken about rhyming patterns in poetry. We have also looked at vegetables and discussed our likes and dislikes as a result of reading *Oliver's Vegetables*. We made an 8 page folding book from instructions and have completed it.

In Numeracy we have been revising the bonds to 10 and played a game where we gave the letters of the alphabet numerical values and then worked out the values of our names. This is a lovely game to play at home and it teaches the children to add lots of numbers.

In Science we looked at habitats and saw how animals are well suited to the places they live.

In History we happily learnt all about Christopher Columbus as an example of someone who has made a famous journey. He is an interesting character to study and the children really learnt a lot about him.

In Geography we looked at the motor car and traced its development as one of the most important land vehicles. As with the train, we tried our hand at drawing a very old car.

In PE we played ball games and tried to invent ways in which to incorporate a hoop in our games. We have been really lucky as the weather has been good for our PE days.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on our book “Alex et Zoé 1”. We learned the numbers from 1-10 and we sang the songs “Bonjour” and “La Ballade des Chiffres”.

In EAL this week, we finished off some work on animals, by listening to and discussing stories written by the author *Colin West*. We were so impressed by them all that it was hard to pick a favourite, but at least it proved to be a very ‘language rich experience’, learning to agree to disagree!

It was good to see you all last night and I would hope that our discussion was helpful.

Have a good weekend as, by all accounts, the weather will hold out.

Valeria Vetter
year2teacher@telenet.be

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

Describing flat shapes using words we remembered from Year 2 (‘pentagon’, ‘symmetry’ and ‘octagon’ for example) along with some new ones (‘vertex’, ‘vertices’ and ‘quadrilateral’ for example) meant we could begin to reflect our shapes more confidently. Using mirrors to help us we reflected squares, hexagons, triangles, and some irregular shapes too.

Searching for adjectives in a treasure chamber described by C S Lewis in ‘Prince Caspian’, we compared our hoard with what we observed in the same scene from the film. We are beginning to get a sense of what creates a good setting, and are also beginning to express our opinions on paper as well as orally. The film also offered an opportunity to think why some stories are best not viewed until one is older (‘Prince Caspian’ has a PG certificate in the UK).

The class is also getting the idea of settling down for ten minutes a day to work in pairs through the Read Write Inc Unit for the week to support their spellings. The soft ‘c’ is in the frame (look for the ‘e’, ‘i’ or ‘y’ following) along with the ‘ay’ sound (written in variously as ‘a’, ‘ai’, ‘ay’, ‘eigh’, or ‘a_e’). Changing reading books is a task the class is gradually knuckling down to when asked.

Continuing to chew over the ideas in the ‘Teeth and Eating’ unit lead to us looking at incisors “cut, cut, cut”, canines “grip and tear, grip and tear”, and molars “grind, grind, grind, grind ...”, and then the inevitable swallowing “gulp”. We will be considering what makes our teeth change and decay.

Google map allowed us to drop in on Brussels, Goa and Oxfordshire; harbours, ferries, fields, forests, and sheep near Folkestone. Why? Well, with the help of a simple map to consider what urban and rural land is used for.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we listened to the first four dialogues of our course “Cascade” and learnt to introduce ourselves. We also wrote the important words we used in those dialogues.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on our book “Alex & Zoé 2”. We did vocabulary and grammar activities and we also studied the poem “Petit Bonhomme”. In grammar we practised some verbs in the present tense.

A busy and productive week during which we enjoyed our swimming, also keeping an eye on the online egg-timer to aid our listening skills.

Kind regards,

Tim Gill
year3teacher@telenet.be

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

Electric!

In Literacy, we have been looking at the ins and outs of adverbs and focussing on how characters in stories behave according to their surroundings. On the computers, we made imaginative descriptions of characters.

In Maths, we found pairs of numbers which make 100 and 1000. We started softly with multiples of 5 and 50 then we went hell-for-leather with mixed bonds, e.g. $63 + 37 = 100$ and $425 + 575 = 1000$

In Science, we discussed features of mains electricity compared to the battery-powered circuits we use in school. Then we watched some electricity safety videos so turn off the toaster before going about poking a knife in it, folks.

In History, we studied portraits of Henry VIII and posed questions based on them. We looked at historical sources to try and answer some of those questions.

In Geography, we recorded and mapped noise levels here in the Junior department in order to compare them with our predictions made last week and in ICT, we practised the skill of cutting, pasting and dragging when word processing.

In Art, we drew storyboards for a dream sequence we will photograph next week.

All sorts of creative ideas were borne out of the task and we are all looking forward to 'shooting' next week! Anete showed herself to be a potentially top-class snapper and as a group we confirmed that the spiral staircase here with all its shapes and different lights really does make for some cracking images.

In dance, we watched Charlie Chaplin in his silent movies to look closely at the exaggerated movements of the actor in the storytelling. The children then made their own silent dances to the Ride of The Valkyries.

Swimming was great again this week. Well done to Trisha in particular, for really 'finding her fins' in the water and also to Zain for remembering his swimming trunks. It was nice to see you this Thursday at the Year 4 open evening. Parents' evening in November is not too far away.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on our book "Alex & Zoé 2". We did vocabulary and grammar activities and we also studied the poem "Petit Bonhomme". In grammar we practised some verbs in the present tense.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we listened to the first four dialogues of our course "Cascade" and learnt to introduce ourselves. We also wrote the important words we used in those dialogues.

Have a good weekend.

Tim Stedman
year4teacher@telenet.be

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

Our class novel at the moment is 'The BFG' by Roald Dahl. It is an exciting story, full of adventure and comedy and the children are enjoying the wonderfully hilarious vocabulary of the Big Friendly Giant. We will be studying the author and his famous children's books in literacy this half term. If your child has any books by Roald Dahl at home, they are welcome to bring them in to show to the rest of the class.

In maths this week we focused on division. It was a challenge for many members of the class, but I have been hugely impressed with their attitudes and everyone thoroughly deserved their success.

In science we are thinking about how to keep our bodies healthy through good nutrition and safe exercise. The children are very knowledgeable about this topic and will be producing some posters, leaflets and songs to share this knowledge with others over the coming weeks.

Our Rivers topic has made a real splash with the children this week as they have been getting stuck into making papier maché models of parts of rivers in our art sessions.

They are looking pretty good at the moment; I can't wait to see them finished next week!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, the francophone group started to read a book and answered some questions on it and we corrected their work on homonyms. The other group discovered the first dialogue of their new course and acted it out. They also worked on "être".

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started the second unit of our book "Fluo 1" with the theme "Life at school". We did vocabulary and grammar activities and we started our first reading story called "Il était une fois Philémon".

In EAL this week, we have done a lot of work based on the topic of *food*, including creating our own menus and serving in a make shift café in the library. We are making excellent progress with our English '*speech sounds*' and I can see the evidence of this, when we read aloud.

Lastly, it was lovely to see lots of you supporting your children's learning at the curriculum meeting yesterday. I have sent home the handouts with your child if you were unable to attend.

Have a great weekend,

Kate Stevenson
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Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

This week began with our action thriller Stormbreaker; we finished our story boards and then went in to 'best copy' of our version of what happened to Alex... remembering to include stylistic features such as sophisticated connectives, adventurous vocabulary and the short sentence for dramatic effect. We also began to watch the film version; comparing and contrasting this with the book. The next episode in this dramatic thriller will immerse us in SAS training followed by Alex spying at a top secret factory. Our thinking skills were challenged by the story the Sweetest Fruit in the World where the king finds himself in a no-win situation – a position that everyone experiences at some time.

We have been working on the multiplication and division of numbers with decimal places. This proved to be quite a challenge at the beginning of the week, but everyone has made pleasing progress and most children are reasonable secure in the methodology of solving this type of calculation. Our mathematics focus next week will be fractions.

The volcanoes were given a final coat of paint and made ready for the big day. The children are now challenged with investigating how a selection of kitchen ingredients

caused a spectacular lava display. Continuing with our mountain theme, the children are in the process of investigating endangered flora and fauna in the Himalayas; they will be producing information leaflets.

Tennis always proves to be a tense and exhilarating with the children becoming increasingly competitive towards the end of the session.

If anyone has any 35mm film containers that they no longer require, would you kindly send them in to class, thank you.

In EAL this week, we have done a lot of work based on the topic of *food*, including creating our own menus and serving in a make-shift café in the library. We are making excellent progress with our English '*speech sounds*' and I can see the evidence of this, when we read aloud.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, the francophone group started to read a book and answered some questions on it and we corrected their work on homonyms. The other group discovered the first dialogue of their new course and acted it out. They also worked on "être".

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started the second unit of our book "Fluo 1" with the theme "Life at school". We did vocabulary and grammar activities and we started our first reading story called "Il était une fois Philémon".

Wishing you all a pleasant weekend,

Beverley Tranter
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