

Home School Books – 5 February 2010.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

The children have been back to the moon this week in their specially designed space boots. You can see one of them on the opposite page; unfortunately the other one got stuck in a moon crater! The purpose of this activity was to help the children develop their fine motor skills using a threading action.

Some of the children may have mentioned the name William to you this week, he isn't a new child in the nursery but is a student doing some work experience with us. The children helped William make the beginnings of our space cafe in the role play area and we will carry on making the rest next week.

The children were also introduced to Mrs. Ruth Wild this week; she will be Mrs. Metcalf's replacement until her return in September. She will start in the position of morning. Nursery teacher on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February.

I will work alongside her on Monday & Tuesday, to make the transition smooth for all of the children and then I will go back to my normal afternoon only teaching. Of course Mrs Cross will be here full time as normal.

It has been a pleasure working with the all of the children full time for a while and I am sure they will still see me for the odd morning session throughout the year. Please join me in giving Ruth a warm welcome to Nursery.

Next week is our last week before the carnival holiday and on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February there will be a P.T.A. cake sale in school, if you would like to give 1 euro to one of the nursery teachers, we will buy each child a cake and have it at snack time on that day. We'll send a reminder out closer to the time.

Until next time, have a relaxing weekend.

Alison Davies and Donnell Cross  
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Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

It has been a bit warmer this week, so hopefully the worst of the winter is behind us. We have been as busy as ever. We finished the story about Roy the Zebra, which the children really enjoyed and were delighted when he found his herd. We received a letter from Roy with a small toy zebra as a gift for us to share and look after. You might like to read the story at home with your child, they would be delighted to share it with you, it can be found at:

[www.roythezebra.com/guided-reading-story.html](http://www.roythezebra.com/guided-reading-story.html).

We continue to enjoy our literacy and the children are becoming increasingly confident at using their blending and segmenting skills to write captions for pictures they have drawn. We had our new sounds ay and oy this week and next week we will be consolidating the sounds we've learned so far.

In numeracy we continue to practise addition in different forms. This week we used a number line to count on from a given number, e.g. start at 4 on the line and count on 3, is another way to work out 4 add 3. We have continued working through our Abacus maths workbooks which's something all the children enjoy. Your child should be able to teach you the song that is in their home school book this week.

We have looked at different animal patterns and have been busy making a giraffe mask which we will put on the wall against a backdrop of the different patterns we have painted.

For P.E. we have continued with our dance topic inside as the weather is not great for P.E.outdoors. It isn't very easy for the children to move freely outside when they are wearing coats, scarves, gloves etc. This week the theme was opposites and the children had to work together with a partner for some of the activity. This is an important skill for them to learn.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we've been playing games on the clothing theme. The children now know the names of most pieces of clothing and we had lots of fun. We will now be talking about carnival.

Next week is the last week before the half term break and on Friday we will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school this year. There will be a cake sale to raise money for Bananule School in Uganda. We would be very pleased to receive donations of cakes to sell on the day and also please let your child bring one or two Euros to spend at the sale.

Enjoy the weekend,

Helen Prescott and Shirley Cassidy  
[receptionteacher@telenet.be](mailto:receptionteacher@telenet.be)

### Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

It was another chilly week with the snow fall on the weekend. We are all looking forward to Spring already! It has come to my attention this week that some of the children are not forming letters correctly. I have included an example letter formation sheet in the home school book for your reference. Please help your child to practise beginning letters in the correct place and forming them the right way. It is very

important as we are linking (joining) letters in handwriting now and it can be very difficult to join if the letters are not formed correctly. I will send home linked handwriting practice books after the mid term break. Thank you for your support.

This week in Literacy, we worked on different pronunciations of letters such as i, c, o and g. We tried reading words and sorting them into different groups. We will continue on with this work for the rest of the term. We read poems and looked at how colours can represent objects, feelings and emotions. We wrote some interesting sentences using colours such as 'Blue is like bubbles popping' and 'Black is like a storm coming'. We combined our PSHE lessons on People who help us, with ICT and Literacy and wrote sentences on the computer using a picture of someone who helps us we found with Clip Art. You can see the results in the home school books.

In maths, we learnt all about shapes. We discussed the difference between 2D (flat) shapes and 3D (fat/solid) shapes. We learnt the names and some of their features. 2D shapes have sides and corners and 3D shapes have faces, corners and edges. Please reinforce these concepts at home. An excellent site for practising is;

[http://www.ngfl-cymru.org.uk/vtc/castle\\_shapes/eng/Introduction/default.htm](http://www.ngfl-cymru.org.uk/vtc/castle_shapes/eng/Introduction/default.htm) From here, children can practise identifying and sorting shapes, labeling and counting edges, faces and corners (vertex/vertices rather than corner is used in this activity).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we learnt to say "j'ai mal...", "c'est à moi" and "j'aime et je n'aime pas". We can't wait to see what's happening in our story "la Maison des Musiciens."

In EAL this week, we started to think about different sources of 'sound' in our environment by playing a number of 'listen and name games'. We also worked on some basic vocabulary, such as *soft* and *loud*, *high* and *low*. We then played a number of 'barrier' games to sharpen our descriptive skills as we (using prepositions, directions etc) had to describe different features in a picture to discover if we had the same picture as the other player.

### **Next week in Year One:**

We will carry on with our sounds unit and will be discussing using hearing to keep ourselves safe. We'll look for ways we can keep safe when we listen for such things as cars, people, natural and man-made hazards. We will specifically focus on road safety so please reinforce listening while walking near/on roads at home this week. This will tie in with our PSHE unit on Keeping Ourselves Safe. Please review with your child what to do in an emergency and identifying the uniforms of police and emergency workers. To appeal to the scientists among us, we'll complete some experiments; What happens when we hear sounds far or near? Do we first see or hear something drop to the ground from a distance? What happens when we cover one ear? Stay tuned and you may find out the answer!

In Literacy, our focus will be on traditional and fairy stories. Using several traditional stories, children will learn about characters, settings and sequencing stories. We will retell stories we have read using words such as first, next, after that, then and finally.

In maths, we will be looking at odd and even numbers and number patterns, including addition patterns. This will also be a week of review. Can you remember everything we have learnt over the last 6 weeks????

On a special note, next Friday 12<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. We will be completing lots of activities based on this theme. For homework this week, can you please help your child to create a hat on 100. E.g. It could be decorated with 100 things, have numbers written to 100 on it, or been made out of 100. Be creative! I would also like to do some counting activities so please send in 100 small items in a small (e.g. zip lock) bag. These could be seeds, sticks, cereal pieces, lids etc. We will then count and sort them into groups of 100 and each child will make their own bag of 100 things to bring home and count with you.

I wish you a great weekend!

Alicia Baine

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

[www.bisb.org/year1](http://www.bisb.org/year1)

## Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

I would like to say a great big welcome to our new classmate Rijul (and his family) who joined us this week. We hope you will be very happy here in our class.

This week has been slightly warmer if a little wet.

In Literacy we have had such fun. We have been researching dinosaurs and are currently finalising a poster each. When these have been finished they will go up on display in the classroom. Group reading carries on being very beneficial to all children.

In Numeracy we have finished our section on 3D nets and have turned our hands to multiplication. We already know the 2 and 10 times tables and will do the 5 times table next week.

Science was fun this week. We learned all about circuits on Monday and experimented on Wednesday. We found out that circuits only work when complete and that using 2 bulbs will make the light dimmer. Next week we will try our hand at using switches and buzzers.

In Art we made a class castle to replace our island and painted castles. The results are very interesting.

In French with Mrs. Gorgia, we started a new unit on clothes. We did many vocabulary activities, we sang the song “Promenons-nous dans les bois” and we read the book “Je m’habille et je te croque!”

In EAL this week, we read an interesting story together and then discussed it in detail. I then wrote a question about it and a response was written. Thus it took the form of a 'written dialogue', in which I could model good sentence structure and 'scaffold' it in order to make the response easier to give. I can already see a lot of progress, as orally the grammatical structure of sentences is becoming clearer and less muddled.

Next week sees the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school and we shall be doing lots of activities related to this. One thing will be our collection of 100 items – we have chosen empty yoghurt pots so please do not throw these away – send them to school instead. We will be doing lots of other activities too.

Swimming was super once again and I would like to thank Parth's mother and Rijul's mother for accompanying us.

Music was very exciting as we got our little ocarina and are learning to play it. We got to take them home **ON THE ASSURANCE** that they would be back for music so **please** remember to send back the ocarina on Monday for music.

Have a happy weekend.

Valeria Vetter  
[year2teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year2teacher@telenet.be)

### Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

Recipes, instructions, lists, ingredients, utensils, chocolate, eggs, sugar, flour, and the smell of cooking cake wafting through the air as we worked on our Read Write Inc books. During the week we had already sorted instructions into the correct order so that we were able to make a Pop-up card, comparing two other sets to decide how to make such instructions as clear as possible. Watching a video without sound was the starting point for our own written recipes for Chocolate Brownies. Listening and then reading what the website provided was what had led to the fragrant Thursday.

We returned to place value, adding and subtracting two and three digit numbers with the help of 'splits', number facts and numberlines. Numbers in the hundreds meant we were also able to add pounds and pence, and Euros and cents. Estimating things that are heavier than 1 kg saw us gathering and weighing chairs, books, a bag of flour, boxes of K'nex, and a set of maths cards. A little disc weighing 1 g challenged us. Is there anything weighing less? Certainly not a rubber, nor even a tissue. Fragments of paper? Perhaps a hair? Using weighing scales helped us to successfully measure out the ingredients for the Chocolate Brownies.

Using two stars and a wish to assess each other's posters on the Romans, we proceeded to read some reasons why, having settled in Britain, they left. We built pyramids of these reasons, the most important at the top. We didn't all agree, some of

us thinking the most popular explanation (that Barbarians were always wanting to plunder the Roman Empire) was less important than the fact that the Roman Army was less able to fight off invading tribes.

The sun didn't shine during Science so we resorted to an Igloo drawn in a Concept Cartoon. Do igloo dwellers need lights? We investigated how transparent, translucent or opaque different substances in the class are, deciding that snow is probably the best material for igloos. One of us considered igloo dwellers don't need lights during the day because the sun will melt the ice letting the sunlight in. Which word best describes the ice blocks used to construct our whiteboard igloo? During P.E. the whiteboard helped us practise the ChaCha Slide moves as we counted to the music. A waltz overheard on Monday suggested some music where we had to count and step differently.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we worked on expressions related to feelings. We studied how to say "I am sad, cold, hungry," etc. (Je suis triste, j'ai froid, j'ai faim, etc.) and for that reason we reviewed the verbs "avoir" and "être". We also studied the poem "C'était un petit bonhomme."

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we started working in our books (Vitamine) again and began a new unit based on animals and learnt a lot of them and classified in alphabetical order.

Best regards,

Tim Gill  
[year3teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year3teacher@telenet.be)

#### Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

#### **Working water**

Literacy was very exciting this week. The children had to create their very own website! The task was to make an internet fact file based on a 'curious creature'. Anete, Ekram and Sanika went for polar bears, Jacob and Zain for ssssnakessssss, Max went on safari with lions, Andres swam with the dolphins and Sean did gorillas – what a little monkey!

The children explored the internet for information and pictures to include on their web pages.

If the children bring home their passwords, the children can see (and continue to top up) their work by logging on at:

<http://www.hamiltonweblearner.com/site/login.php>

Meanwhile, Maths focussed on the points of the compass, right angles between those points and Venn and Carroll sorting diagrams.

In Science, we looked at the complexities of the heart and blood, visiting this interesting website: <http://www.blood.co.uk/pages/bbits.htm> and Jacob passed the Blood Highway Code theory test. Plus, we found out a bit about the main organs of the body albeit remotely.

In History we started learning about Zeus and his team of gods.

In ICT, the children continued making their own sorting games but Andres, Max and Zain got to the stage where they could test out the success of their games on other pupils.

Thank you for helping the children bring in their plastic bottles to school for Geography. We looked at the process of water treatment and we even made our own attempts to purify some water. We considered how we make water usable and the children had the task of following the instructions to make a filter. I collected water samples from our roof and the children then tested their home-made sewage works! After filtration, not much was left to drink and that left behind was obviously not fit to drink so a valuable lesson was learnt in the value of the clean drinking water the tap gives us. The children loved the activity too.

In PE, we played basketball learning how to dribble, to shoot and chest pass. Sean was a 2-point genius although, despite no wont of trying, no-one managed a 3-pointer. And that was our week.

Incidentally, the children in the class who attend Map and Compass Club began learning to give and find grid references. Any practice done at home by all the year 4s would be hugely valuable as this is also a part of our Maths syllabus and will be into Year's 5 and 6.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we started working in our books (Vitamine) again and began a new unit based on animals and learnt a lot of them and classified in alphabetical order.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we worked on expressions related to feelings. We studied how to say "I am sad, cold, hungry," etc. (Je suis triste, j'ai froid, j'ai faim, etc.) and for that reason we reviewed the verbs "avoir" and "être". We also studied the poem "C'était un petit bonhomme."

Have a nice weekend.

Best wishes,

Tim Stedman  
[year4teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year4teacher@telenet.be)

## Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

This week we finally finished reading the epic story, ‘Gilgamesh the Hero.’ We followed Gilgamesh through his many adventures and enjoyed his unswerving quest for immortality. We also focussed on prepositions and were amazed at just how useful they are even though they usually go unnoticed in our writing.

In maths area and perimeter were our focus of interest. We began with rectangles and extended our learning to other 2D shapes. We ended the week by using our knowledge to solve some tricky word problems.

In art we have been investigating the unique patterns of African animals such as zebras, giraffes and cheetahs. The children drew and coloured these patterns in the natural colours and then got creative with some crazy colour combinations. The results are beautiful and will be used to decorate the front covers of our Africa topic books.

We also began our latest class novel. We are reading ‘Wolf Brother’ by Michelle Paver, which tells the story of an orphaned boy surviving and fighting evil in ancient times.

In EAL this week, we continued to alternate between work on the *Titanic* and the topic of *Africa* in order to consolidate work being done in years five and six. We designed and then made a game that was conceived entirely by the group called ‘Wireless Operator’. It produced some excellent oral and written work, as we used the higher language skills of: persuading, hypothesising, explaining and predicting. We then tested the game on the year five class. We were pleasantly surprised with the success of the game and the positive feed back from them.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we did a grammar revision on the articles, adjectives and verbs. We also started a new unit on clothes.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, the francophone children have been working in their grammar book revising quite a few grammatical rules and were tested on expressions based on fruit and vegetables.

The other children are still working on their topic “Faire les courses” with lots of vocabulary around the theme of food + all the grammar that goes with it.

Have a great weekend,

Kate Stevenson  
[year5teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year5teacher@telenet.be)

## Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

Sadly, the Titanic is in her watery grave at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. We are investigating the catalogue of errors that contributed to her demise; the children are making posters depicting the sequence of the sinking; some are being challenged to investigate how Mr Andrew's calculated the time it would take for the ship to sink.

We have been studying glaciers and icebergs in depth. As world detectives, we wanted to discover how geologists work out where glaciers have been. With the help of our own mini-glaciers made from angular gravel and water placed in a plastic cup and frozen, we replicated the effect of a glacier by scraping our mini-glaciers along a smooth piece of wood.

The children have been working on the order of operations in maths this week, and are making pleasing progress; they are now solving calculations involving brackets, division, multiplication, addition, subtraction and letters.

Our second experiment this week involved ice balloons. This was a scientific enquiry activity into the properties of ice. The children were asked to make observations about their ice balloons under different conditions; torch light and in water, as well conducting a range of experiments using sugar, salt, food colouring, nails, hammers and toothpicks!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, the francophone children have been working in their grammar book revising quite a few grammatical rules and were tested on expressions based on fruit and vegetables.

The other children are still working on their topic "Faire les courses" with lots of vocabulary around the theme of food + all the grammar that goes with it.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we did a grammar revision on the articles, adjectives and verbs. We also started a new unit on clothes.

In EAL this week, we continued to alternate between work on the *Titanic* and the topic of *Africa* in order to consolidate work being done in years five and six. We designed and then made a game that was conceived entirely by the group called 'Wireless Operator'. It produced some excellent oral and written work, as we used the higher language skills of: persuading, hypothesising, explaining and predicting. We then tested the game on the year five class. We were pleasantly surprised with the success of the game and the positive feed back from them.

For the Titanic Tea Party on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>, gentlemen are expected to wear collar and tie, for the ladies, a long dress or skirt and blouse; hats and gloves may be worn. Guests are required to bring a china (not the family heirloom!) cup and saucer. The children will be preparing the food in the morning; should any parents wish to send in any additional supplies, I am sure that these would be appreciated! The children will only require a light lunch on Wednesday.

### **First Class Titanic Tea Party**

1.30p.m Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February in the Class6 Dining Room

Smoked salmon and cucumber sandwiches

Ham and cheese sandwiches

Currant Buns (from an original Titanic recipe)  
Mrs Catuogno's scones with jam and clotted cream and  
Mrs Jahjah's selection of cakes  
Teas from around the world served with either lemon or milk  
Fruit Juice and Champagne

With kind regards,

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