

Home School Books – 5 March 2010.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Books, books everywhere! Book week has really taken off in nursery, the two stories we have concentrated on this week are, “The Cat in the Hat” and “The very hungry Caterpillar”.

The children did some amazing reflective drawings of the cat in the hat; you can look at their great work on the staircase wall in the school.

They have also made their own version of the hungry caterpillar book; this is a very simple story for the children to remember and re-tell. Please look at their little book and see how much of the story and sequence of events in the story they can re-call with you.

To finish off book week the children had a visit from a storyteller and had fun dressing up as a favourite character from a story book.

The children have also made drawings of their favourite animal with pastel crayons; we encourage the children to use a variety of media to express their creative talents. You can see this on the page opposite, please talk to your child about their drawing, you will be amazed at how much they know about the animal they have drawn. Great activity for progressing fine motor skills and introducing new vocabulary and of course it’s fun!

Thankfully although it has been cold outside, it was dry and even the spring sunshine made the odd appearance, so we have had some good outdoor activities with bean bag games and Mrs Cross introduced the Mrs. Crocodile game to the children. Hopefully as the weather gets warmer, we will spend more time outdoors doing gym sessions and games to work on large motor skills.

Our Farm theme will carry on next week; old MacDonald will take centre stage once more!

Until then, have a fun packed weekend.

Ruth Wild, Alison Davies and Donnell Cross
nurseryteacher@telenet.be

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

We’ve had a lovely week. When I told the children that this was a special week dedicated to celebrating our favourite books and stories, one of the children made the

comment: “We always do that!” I couldn’t agree more, every week is book week! But nevertheless we had a wonderful discussion about favourite books and characters.

We continue to look at Eric Carle books and the wonderful paintings he does for the end papers. We have finished our own paintings for the *Bad Tempered Lady Bird* and will soon start another one inspired by his other titles. We also looked at another favourite- *Hop on Pop* by Dr. Seuss and *The Cat in the Hat* by the same author. We then participated in a whole school project, completing a drawing of the Cat in the Hat. This will be on display in the library and it should be really fun to see the progression through the whole school, so have a look!

Another whole school project this week was a collective story about the adventures of a little pink mouse. The Nursery class started us out, and then our class carried it on with an interesting plot twist and some wonderful illustrations. I can’t wait to see how it turns out!

In maths we worked on ordering numbers from 1-20, comparing numbers and using the appropriate language. We also played a game with a coin toss assigning a different value to heads, or tails and the children had to play accordingly. Next week we will continue exploring numbers to twenty, counting backwards, and counting on from any number.

In PE this week, we did the BBC *Let’s Move* program. This lesson was called *Dragon Hunt* which incorporated a contrasting series of movements as the children travel through a variety of terrain. The children loved this story so much that we used it as the basis of our daily captions for the rest of the week!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are exploring our new topic: “les animaux”.

The dressing up day was great fun so thanks to all the parents for your help with the costumes!

We wish you a restful weekend,

Shirley Cassidy and Helen Prescott
receptionteacher@telenet.be

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

Book Week was a great success! We looked at several characters including The Cat in the Hat by Doctor Seuss and Hairy Maclary by Lynley Dodd. We read stories, made an Infant School book and made our own Hairy Maclary character books and wrote excellent book reviews. We talked about non-fiction and fiction texts and how we can tell them apart. We combined our ICT programme and looked at ways we can use the internet to research information about countries. We used;
<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/Places>

to help us with our research and found some very interesting pictures and photos about some of the countries. We also talked about alphabetical order and the importance of this when researching. As well as our book week activities, children were very interested to follow more adventures of Barnaby Bear around the world. We've had some interesting discussions about all the places he has been. So far, Barnaby has been to London, Antarctica, Canada and Spain just to name a few! We tried hard to find and label some of the countries he has been to on a world map. Next week will be a chance for the children to work independently on their country project and learn about different ways we can find and present information.

In maths, we looked at directions and instructions. We used a Bee-Bot to give instructions to move to a certain place. This helped with learning about the directions, forwards, backwards, left and right. We played Simon Says to practice using left and right and moving forwards and backwards. We also looked at where things are and used words such as above, below, under, over, in front of and behind. Please continue to work on these concepts at home next week.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we continued our story "La Maison des Musiciens." We learnt the different elements and vocabulary words in relation with "la maison."

In EAL this week, we worked on improving our presentational skills by recounting the rules of a new board game called 'silly sentences' to some children from another class.

It was a pleasure to see you all for our Parents Evening last night. It was a very informative evening. Thank you all for coming and for all your positive feedback.

Next week in Year One:

Children will be delighted to know that we will continue on with Barnaby Bear's adventures next week. He is the highlight of our days at the moment! We'll be learning about more places that he has been to and discussing people, environments, food, cultures and traditions in different countries.

We will work on our projects throughout the week. If you have any books about countries that we could borrow, we would be very pleased to have them. Thank you in advance. We'll use our projects to help us learn about how to write facts, present information in different ways, label and create diagrams and will be reading lots of non fiction texts this week. If you would like to help your child to collect information about their country, please send the information to school so your child can present it on their project.

During maths, children will be exploring addition and subtraction pairs to ten. All children should be encouraged to know this instantly and should now be able to use their basic facts knowledge to find missing numbers for problems to 10 and to 20.

This week is Gold Star Book week and I will be working with the children on activities to demonstrate their progress over the past months. We'll continue with swimming on Thursday.

I would like to do some 'papier maché' activities in the next weeks and it takes lots of newspaper. If you have any old newspaper, please send it in to school. Thank you.

Have a pleasant weekend and see you all next week.

Alicia Baine

Year1teacher@telenet.be

www.bisb.org/year1

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

Book week has been very interesting and we have enjoyed our look at Rudyard Kipling and his *Just So* stories.

We read the story of the *Gingerbread Man*, sequenced and retold the story. We wrote the finale to the Infant Book week story and what a finale it is too! As usual we thoroughly loved our **Project X** group readers which are both entertaining and informative. Thank you, too, to Rijul's Mom who came in to read to us.

In Maths we have been looking at money, finding out what coins make what amounts as well as working out change. Most children are confident about this now and perhaps you can allow them to buy something when next you go shopping.

The highlight of the week was our Science/Geography experiment on Monday. We fashioned a volcano out of plasticine and proceeded to create an eruption. You can see some photos of this on the [school website](#)

In Geography we have discovered where Tocuaro is and have begun a look at the village. Next week we shall meet the Horta family and learn things about them.

In Science we experimented with small cars and slope to study the effects of gradient on the speed of the cars.

In PE we had fun in the sun using our ball skills to good effect. Please note that PE will be on Tuesdays as of next week.

In French with Mrs. Gorgia, we talked about Breakfast. We learned the main vocabulary related to this subject and we also sang the song "Céréales, beurre et confiture".

In EAL this week, we played a new board game that required us to make a distinction between grammatically correct and grammatically incorrect sentences. We also worked on vocabulary associated with 'the home'.

It was good to see you on Thursday afternoon. Thank you for coming in.

Next week is Gold Star week and we hope to have some super work ready to show you.

Have a great weekend and may the sun continue to shine.

Valeria Vetter
year2teacher@telenet.be

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

I enjoyed meeting you this week, and hope you found the parent interviews informative and helpful.

Bookweek! We accumulated a temporary collection of books and enjoyed reading them as we shared them in the classroom with each other. A short poem from ‘Midsummer Night’s Dream’ offered us the challenge of looking for the rhymes and the rhythm amongst some strange words. Once we had all had a go at reading we discovered the play, some of us explaining the story and deciding it was a comedy rather than terribly serious. We prepared poems from a class anthology for the Assembly at the end of the week, practising our performances for greatest effect. We enjoyed Mrs Lapsley reading to us, also as we read to others, or as they read to us. ‘The Animals of Farthingwood’, ‘The Julian Stories’, ‘The Phantom Tollbooth’ and ‘Chaucer’s Cat’ were entertaining stories read to us by different teachers.

We practised our 2, 5 and 10 times table, and then had a closer look at our 3s and 4s, looking for patterns in both using the number square, numberlines and grouping, as well as by adding the digits in the answers. Dice provided a means for further practice, multiplying 3 or 4 by the number thrown, some of us throwing twice and multiplying these numbers together. We also reminded ourselves how the numbers in a multiplication sum (times, ‘lots of’) can be written in either order, while they can’t in division sums (how many numbers in another number).

We continued our work on magnets, making observations and drawing conclusions, as well as using the Dewey System to locate suitable books to help us find out more about magnets. The Saxon invasion game was played a second time, taking care this time to read why certain tribes occupied more, or less territory. We became Chroniclers, writing our ideas with the help of each other and of our ‘think squares’ - victories, Romans, pagan Kings, Christian Missionaries, cantankerous noblemen, and plague all played their part in each tribe achieving or otherwise their search for wealth, land, slaves or even, some supposed, revenge. Next week we’ll be looking at how Sutton Hoo helped inform us about Saxon life.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started a new unit on Future Plans. In Grammar we worked on the Future Tense (Futur Proche) and for our poetry we studied the poem “Que faire?”

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we're still working on the important verbs "Avoir et Etre."

Our picture frames designs are well on the way to being ready to make. We have themes, lists of materials, and design criteria. The next two weeks will see us making them.

Best regards,

Tim Gill
year3teacher@telenet.be

Home School Book – Year 4

Knights at the museum

Dear Parents,

Our main event of the week was of course our trip to the History museum. We were blessed by fantastic weather and had a really good time. Jacob and Sean were real stars with all their knowledge about the Greeks and the whole class were a credit to the school. Star of the museum apart from the interesting Greek pottery was the 'casse-tete' and the totem pole in the North American native Indian section. Mr Fitch - in his excellent supporting role - explained how the Indians would use the former to bludgeon seals or scalp their victims... so if any children have nightmares please contact... Another priceless moment came in the Romans section. There is a really big floor model of Ancient Rome and Jacob said –ironically I think - 'those poor people, they didn't even have an airport'.

Back at school, it was Book Week. We dived into the world of Ted Hughes' Iron Man and eventually made him with odd and ends. We also added our own chapter to the story and Sanika and Anete each wrote a fine one.

In Maths, we learnt the 7x table and to multiply numbers like 1.75 by 10 while in Science, we got ready for next week's field trip by seeing how different organisms are suited to the habitats they live in. In DT, we compared the money containers we'd brought in and considered what makes an effective one and which types of people use them. In History, our Greek playscripts are coming along nicely and Andres' looks hard to beat when we get to the Oscar ceremony.

In PE, the continuing nice weather was just about warm enough to play an enthusiastically-met game of cricket. We started with bowling practice and ended with the match and Ekram on top score with 86, Max and Sean both taking 3 catches and Zain bowling the most people out.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started a new unit on Future Plans. In Grammar we worked on the Future Tense (Futur Proche) and for our poetry we studied the poem

“Que faire?”

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we’re still working on the important verbs “Avoir et Etre.”

And that was our week.

Have a nice weekend,

Tim Stedman

year4teacher@telenet.be

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

This week we have celebrated books in all their glory. Today was a dressing up day with a book theme, and it was great to see so many of our favourite characters brought to life. Over the week we have written stories and poems; made a class book of modern fairytales; based drama games around characters from books, used the library for research; created and completed quizzes; made works of art based on characters from books, and even calculated how many words there are in a book!

The African animal posters that were created for homework over the past few weeks are amazing. They are of such a high standard and will be displayed around the school for other children to enjoy and learn from. Well done everyone.

Thank you to everyone who has returned the completed forms for the Rippledown trip. If you have not yet completed or returned the forms for your child, please do so as early as possible next week.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on the theme “En Ville” (In the City). We learned how to give and follow directions and role played small interactions on the street. In grammar we studied the verbs “aller”(to go) and “venir”(to come).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are working on our story “Le Grain de Riz” which we’re going to perform as a play. The other part of our group is learning about Belgian Painters.

In EAL this week, we did some investigative work about Egypt and then we took a wonderful detour into the life of *Coco Chanel the fashion designer*. It produced some wonderful discussion and written work.

Lastly, it was lovely to see so many of you at yesterday’s parent’s evening. Don’t forget that you are welcome to contact me anytime using the email address below, your child’s home-school book or in person by booking an appointment through the school office.

Have a lovely weekend,

Kate Stevenson
year5teacher@telenet.be

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful week; sunshine, book week and an outing!

This week we finished our reading of *Private Peaceful*; I think that the children agreed with the review from the Telegraph ‘...a deeply moving portrayal of camaraderie and courage, innocence and brutality’. We finished the newspaper article about the yellow plane, which featured in this book; these have been produced in both manuscript and electronic versions and will form part of a new display.

On Wednesday, we set off in a convoy, on our eagerly awaited trip to the Musée Hergé in Louvain la Neuve; just travelling in the school mini-buses as a class, was exciting enough! We arrived at the Museum at around 11.00am to begin our wonderful adventure detailing the history of Hergé and the comic strip. We met the characters from the Tintin stories and discovered their origins, which were usually based on real-life characters, their physical features and unique peculiarities. Hergé’s work has a scientific flavour which he combined with humour and adventure to create his enchanting and exciting tales. We saw a replica of the ‘rocket’; however, I am convinced that our Class 6 rocket is much better!! We enjoyed lunch in the park and ended the day by watching ‘King Ottokar’s Sceptre’ and went home clutching our shopping bags.

Our seeds are beginning to germinate and grow shoots; hopefully this very welcome sunshine will help them grow more quickly. It goes without saying that the race is on between the ‘his and hers’ seed trays.

In our quest to find the ruby of Agropur, we now find ourselves in the east end of London at the opium den of Madame Chang. Sally inhaled too much of the sweet and enticing smoke and fell unconscious; Mrs Chang was convinced that this wasn’t the first time that Sally had fell under the influence of opium... The reading of this subject matter enabled us to enter into a general discussion about drugs and the real-life problems associated with opium production.

In EAL this week, we did some investigative work about Egypt and then we took a wonderful detour into the life of *Coco Chanel the fashion designer*. It produced some wonderful discussion and written work.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on the theme “En Ville” (In the City). We learned how to give and follow directions and role played small interactions on the street. In grammar we studied the verbs “aller”(to go) and “venir”(to come).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are working on our story “Le Grain de Riz” which we’re going to perform as a play. The other part of our group is learning about Belgian Painters.

It was a pleasure to meet with some of you this week and I look forward to meeting other parents next week.

Enjoy the sunshine!

Beverley Tranter
year6teacher@telenet.be