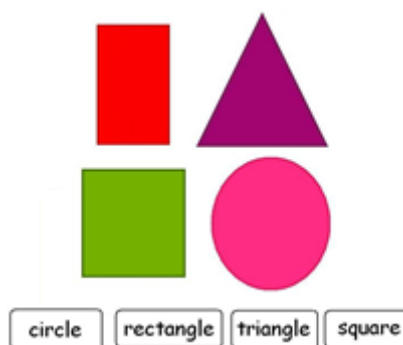


Home School Books –25 September 2015.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Our maths topic this week was looking at recognising and identifying the properties of different shapes. We then combined this with our theme of ‘All about me’ and made ourselves out of sticky shapes, making the link with different parts of the body. You can see the end result on the opposite page; don’t worry if your little one’s figure is slightly disjointed; this is because after all of the discussion surrounding the shapes and what we could use for the head, body, arms and legs, the children were asked to put it into order all by themselves. This was a great activity for finding out how their creative thinking is developing. Some children are visual thinkers, some are not, others have just not reached the stage in their development where how it resembles a real figure is important. Just give your child lots of positive praise for all of their efforts.



In our discussion groups, the children counted their fingers and toes, as they were asked to do in last week’s talk topic. The talk topic for this week is: ‘Do you live in an apartment or a house or something else? Who lives there with you?’

The children have also practised their turn taking and sharing skills this week, with the help of the teacher of course. Carry on this good work at home by creating opportunities for your child to develop these very important life skills.

We have been asked by a number of parents how their child plays and interacts with other children and if they are making friends in nursery. Next week we will be talking very simply about friendships and working together. Most of the children are at the parallel or associative play stage at present and cooperative play will only happen as your child matures and becomes aware of the importance of communication during play. Here is a quick synopsis of the four stages of play, but remember children do not follow a set mould, so they could fit into any of these stages regardless of actual age:

Stage 1: Solitary Play

This is the first stage of play. Babies and toddlers (birth to around two) are in this stage. They love to be with family members and also enjoy time by themselves. They are very busy exploring and discovering their new world. These very young children tend to play alone regardless of whether other children are in the same room.

Stage 2: Parallel Play

The second stage of play begins around the age of two until three. Children play next to each other simply because they are in the same area but they are engaged in their own activities. They play side-by-side, watch and listen to each other. At this age they are interested in the same toys and both see the toys as belonging to them.

Stage 3: Associative Play

At age three to four most children are still playing independently but often do the same thing as other children. For example, if one child puts on a dress-up outfit, another child will put one on also. The children will begin to interact through talking, borrowing and taking turns with toys, but each child acts alone.

Stage 4: Cooperative Play

This stage becomes quite apparent between the ages of four and five, when children have acquired the skills to interact together for the purpose of play. Speaking and listening skills are more developed so children can communicate with each other. Children can share ideas and tell each other what to do. Communication about play is the critical skill of cooperative play.

Hope you have found this information useful, if you have any questions please come in and ask.

Just a quick reminder, when you replace your child's spare clothes, please remember to leave pants and socks as well.

Have a lovely weekend, see you on Monday.

Thank you

Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove

nurseryteacher@telenet.be

Please click [here](#) for our Nursery webpage

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This week seemed to have flown by in Reception as each day has been filled with different activities. Our focus story this week has been John Burningham's "The Magic Bed".

The children are doing really well learning the sounds and are able to spot the ones we have learnt in their surroundings. The sounds we have looked at this week are /g/ as in girl, /o/ as in orange, /c/ as in caterpillar and /k/ as in kangaroo. The children are able to blend the sounds when Sam says sounds orally, and are becoming more and more familiar with the blending process when words are in written form.



In maths we have enjoyed a week full of working with dice. The children have been engaging with a number of math focussed games that involve a dice so they are becoming familiar with the different patterns of dots which make up each number. They are beginning to recognise these patterns without the need to count the dots individually.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we sing new songs every day. Our latest song is about autumn which will be our new topic. We will talk about the weather, the colours, the animals, the food and the clothes we wear in this beautiful season.

During our P.E. session this week the children have been playing games that involve following a series of instructions. For some of the games the children had to practise team work to complete the task successfully while others were carried out as individuals.

For Talk Topic on Monday we will be talking about any visible signs of autumn we see in our surroundings. As we will be focussing on autumn in the next few weeks, we would appreciate if your child brought in autumnal objects, such as acorns, conkers and leaves to school throughout the week. We will provide a box in the classroom for such objects to be placed in.

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Gill and Ivana Julaton

receptionteacher@telenet.be

Please click [here](#) for our Reception webpage

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

In Year 1 this week the children have practised being weather reporters and it could be a future career for some of them! They learned how to use a weather map and symbols to talk about the weather in different parts of Belgium. As part of this activity we also finished making our weather reporter's role play area, complete with maps, symbols, weather decorations and a laptop for researching the weather. I'm sure the children will enjoy increasing their geographical knowledge and practising their speaking and listening skills through using this area in the coming weeks. We have also started completing a weather diary in our geography lesson, which we will complete every day for one week.



This week in Literacy we revisited the c/t/m/p/s/o/a letters and their sounds. The children continued to practise reading and writing words with these sounds. We also went on a high frequency word hunt to practise reading all the high frequency words we have covered so far this year. This week we read and discussed a story called 'On the Sand'. The children wrote about their favourite part of the story and practised matching the beginning and ending of sentences from the story and reading them to check they made sense. Also in literacy we have started working on alphabetical order and correct use of capital letters in our grammar lesson.

In Numeracy we have practised counting in 10s to 100 and revised 1 more than numbers to 20. We have also looked at number bonds including pairs of numbers that make 5, 6, 7 and 10. The children did some work on this in their home school books this week.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been listening to the story of Tourloubanc who is now in the country of colours and discovers lots of animals. This gave us the opportunity to revise/learn animal names in French. We sang all the songs we learnt last year on animal themes.

The talk topic has been going really well in class with all children eager to participate and share their views on how the weather makes them feel. We also started show and tell this week, where each child has a turn to share their news with the class or show them something that they brought in from home. Every child has a turn to do this once every 2 weeks, we follow the list that I have put on the Year 1 classroom door, and we also remind the children when their turn is coming up. It was lovely to see the children speaking so clearly, listening well and asking thoughtful questions, well done to all the children who have already had their turn.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Patrick Tranter

Year1teacher@telenet.be

Please click [here](#) for our Year 1 webpage

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

We have had another very productive week in Year 2.

The children completed a science investigation, using magnifying glasses, and skills of close observation, to examine samples of different plants, in order to find



hawthorn. We noticed the similarities as well as some very small differences between the leaves, stems and berries of the different samples. After this activity, the children cleverly spotted a hawthorn tree growing directly outside our class window, in front of the school.

Our interest in hawthorn sprang initially from the discovery of a hawthorn shield bug in the playground in the first week of term. Now that we have had a close look at hawthorn, we will check the playground to see if any hawthorn is growing there.



The main writing activity for the week was the story based on the cartoon woodlice characters that the children drew last week. They took time to plan the stories, using a 3-part model (the opening, the main problem and the ending). All the stories were

very imaginative and enjoyable to read. The woodlouse adventures included camping, shopping, swimming at the beach, and quite a lot of fighting. I am delighted to see the children writing fluently and with enthusiasm. We are focusing at the moment on using full stops and capital letters. In this week's story, the children also tried to use three paragraphs.

Our first spelling test of the year went well. Please help your child to use the spelling practice sheet to practise her/his spellings at home. (This sheet, with the new spellings on, is sent home with the homework each Monday.) The test will be on Monday each week.

In mathematics this week, we continued to use simple number bonds to solve increasingly complex calculations, including addition bridging over 10. (We saw, for example, that we can solve $27+5$ quickly, by seeing it as $27+3+2$).

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we talked about our family and we learned how to introduce our brothers and sisters. We also continued reading alphabet books on readinga-z.com.

Please take note of this weekend's talk topic (What different things can you do while you are waiting for a bus?), and find a few minutes to talk about it with your child.

Yours,

Kate Read and Tina Keogh

year2teacher@telenet.be

Please click [here](#) for our Year 2 webpage

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy and exciting week as usual.

In Literacy we looked at an extract from a story called the disastrous dog. We discussed the plot and commented on how the piece was written. We all decided that we did not want a talking dog with a bad attitude. We spent some time on practising our handwriting and also discovered who Lewis Carroll was. Guided reading was again great fun and we have been looking at how the author puts points across as well as discovering new unfamiliar words.

In Numeracy we have delved into the 3 times table, looking at multiplication and division. We have also been doubling and halving numbers in the 100 range and beyond. We did some work in our time workbooks and found out that there are 52 weeks in a year which equals 364 days. The great excitement was getting our logins for activelearnprimary and discovering the exciting things to do there. I will be allocating homework on this site from time to time, and these will be game activities that are based on educational topics. As usual on Friday, we did our think tank exercises. These teach us to think differently.

In Topic we learned all about Boudicca and her rebellion against the Roman Army. The children enjoyed learning about this amazing warrior queen.



In science we are growing beans and are excited to see that these are sprouting. Our avocado seed has split but we are aware that this takes much longer to germinate.

In Art, we began creating our Roman shields and even found time to draw a Roman soldier. I think you will agree that these were very good indeed.

We had a lovely long swimming session this week and the children worked very hard in the pool.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been working in our book "Vitamines". We have described our classroom and learnt typical expressions used in the classroom and wrote them down in our books. We also worked in our exercises books.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started the unit "Dépêche-toi" (Hurry up!) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We worked on vocabulary related to everyday activities and for grammar, we continued practising conjugation on verbs in the Present Tense.

In Computing we logged in to our coding classroom and worked on Disney exercises.

Have a peaceful, calm weekend.

Valeria Vetter

year3teacher@telenet.be

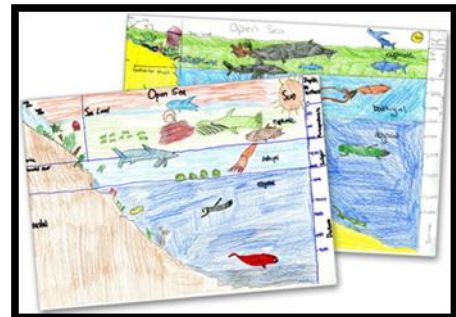
Please click [here](#) for our Year 3 webpage

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

The first day of the week was beautiful. The sun was shining brightly and the warmer weather was great.

In Literacy this week the children worked on a non-fiction text about ants. The text was very interesting for the children as they had learned many unknown facts. The children worked on questions about the given text. The children are definitely becoming more able at answering in full sentences. We worked on Verbs in Grammar this week. We looked at past and present tenses. The trick to find the past tense is to ask yourself what you did yesterday. The children worked on many words by changing them from present tense to the past tense. We looked at our new spelling words for this week. The children



have been forming neat handwriting making sure they are forming the letters accurately.

Multiples of 5 was this week's target. The children counted in 5's on a daily basis. We looked at number facts from the 5 x table. Keep counting in 5's with your child as their x tables test will be this Monday. Maths was a great thought provoker this week. We looked at consecutive numbers. The children completed many sums however they needed time to work out the problem on their whiteboards before finding the consecutive numbers. Some sums were easy and some were very challenging. In addition to this, we looked at addition and subtraction sums using the partition method. The children first add the hundreds, then the tens and lastly the units.

In Science, we continued looking at marine habitats but this week we focused on the 3 different ocean layers. We named the 3 main layers and then looked at the different marine lives that live in those areas of the ocean. We explored on iPads looking for the different fish and mammals that live in the ocean. In Topic the children began their own individual brochures. They started decorating the front cover of their brochures but before starting we discussed the ways we could make our brochures eye catching and colourful. The children designed amazing front covers and they used detail, colour and drew wonderful pictures.

In art we continue working on our living and non-living art work. We are working on drawing carefully and using more colour and detail in their art work. The children stuck their living drawings on green card and non-living drawings on orange card. They then tied their drawings onto gold string which was then hung onto their hangers. In addition to this, we also designed our library bookmarks that will be used during our library times. The children were focused and were talking happily and listening to Mozart music for children.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been working in our book "Vitamines". We have described our classroom and learnt typical expressions used in the classroom and wrote them down in our books. We also worked in our exercises books.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started the unit "Dépêche-toi" (Hurry up!) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We worked on vocabulary related to everyday activities and for grammar, we continued practising conjugation on verbs in the Present Tense.

Our Talk topic this week is: How can you show a friend that you care? How can you help your friend if they are feeling sad?

Have a great weekend

Despina Kafouris & Tina Keogh

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Please click [here](#) for our Year 4 webpage

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

In Numeracy, we learnt some more multiplication tricks and then spent a fair amount of our time (!) converting am and pm times into 24 hour digital times. We also dealt with timetables.

This is very much a part of the new UK National Curriculum with the target (which I shared with you at our recent meeting) of improving fluency, precision and confidence in mathematics. Time is one of the focal points in the new syllabus.

A couple of games to play at home:

http://www.bgfl.org/bgfl/custom/resources_ftp/client_ftp/ks2/maths/time/index.htm
http://www.bgfl.org/bgfl/custom/resources_ftp/client_ftp/ks2/maths/timetables/index.htm

In Topic, we took a look inside Victorian homes comparing those of the rich and the poor. The Year 5's learnt about Flemish brickwork (which they can spot nearly everywhere in and around Brussels), sash windows (which they will become familiar with at Rippledown House) and bay windows (which they will get a glimpse of if the residential trip to the UK does indeed go to London for the day). The task was to draw and label such a home and the artwork was beautiful. We have artists in Y5.



We started our Victorians PowerPoints with this area of work and will continue adding to them until the end of term when, with any luck, the children will invite you to school and present them to you all.

Literacy introduced us to relative clauses, which aren't as hard as they might sound, and the children enjoyed practising them on the ipad tablets.

More Kipling was read and more conjunctions were played with. We found out how the elephant got his trunk from a tussle with the crocodile and how the African bushman gave the leopard his spots.

We ended the week by writing such a Just So Story.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started the unit " Vive l' école!" (Long live school!) from our book " Les Loustics". We did many vocabulary activities related to school objects, shapes and colours and continued practising verbs in the Present Tense.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had our second dictée of "mots invariables" words that never change their spelling. We also read chapter 2 of our book "La disparition" and revised the verbs être and avoir and corrected the homework on this topic. We also carried on reading the chapter on school vocabulary.

PE was basketball and we learnt how to dribble and make standing jump shots while in Science we considered how a submarine works and what the atmosphere does for us. Golden Time, meanwhile, was a whopping double bill and it was fitting that one of the children invented the term epic-ness while we were outside.

Finally a special mention to Mrs Rytel who exposed the class to more Gilbert and Sullivan; thank you for helping us 'Sail the ocean blue' in our topic.

And that was our week.

Best wishes
Tim Stedman
year5teacher@telenet.be
Please click [here](#) for our Year 5 webpage

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

My head is spinning on its axis with facts and figures about Space. The Year 6 astronauts are bombarding me with quizzes, videos, photographs, websites and information, which are orbiting on Edmodo, Google Drive and in the classroom! We have just over a week to prepare for the 'launch' next Sunday afternoon. The countdown begins!

The spy recruits are now completing their application forms for MI5, The Security Service. They have described the profile of a spy and skills required, as well as creating a 'Spy ID' including a personalised Barcode and SpyCode number. All candidates are required to complete a job application form and provide details of two referees; be prepared to provide a reference for your child.



In our 'Friday News Report', we discussed our 'Talk Topic'; what is the stock market? We were given an in-depth presentation about the financial difficulties within the Chinese stock market.

The quality of answers to the weekly comprehension is improving; students are now including as much detail as possible in their answers.

The 006 'Q' department is busy designing gadgets for Alex Rider; items include: a range of gadget-packed watches, a bike with an ejector seat, a ruler with hidden powers, pens and a toilet brush with modified bristles which can be used to climb walls. I shall be placing a safety notice on the classroom door, next week...

The BISB code-breakers are concentrating on substitution ciphers using the wheel and cipher strips (St Cyr Slides). They have learnt about keys, 5-group letters, including 'nulls' which need to be re-spaced. In Computing, the students discovered Binary maths, and linking '1' and '0' with electric current being switched 'on and off'. Some pupils will be studying Binary Maths in more detail for homework.

We have finished our work on fractions, decimals and percentages and next week our focus will switch to factors, prime factors and base 2. Our new books have arrived for Monster Mental Maths at 13.15, today.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started the unit "Vive l' école!" (Long live school!) from our book "Les Loustics". We did many vocabulary activities related to school objects, shapes and colours and continued practicing verbs in the Present Tense.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had our second dictée of "mots invariables" words that never change their spelling. We also read chapter 2 of our book "La disparition" and revised the verbs être and avoir and corrected the homework on this topic. We also carried on reading the chapter on school vocabulary.

Next Tuesday, we shall be taking ID photographs and spy recruits are asked to bring in their spy clothes; suggestions include 'dark glasses, hat, black T-shirt...' I have a selection of MI5 clothing in the Year 6 wardrobe should you not have anything suitable at home.

Have a great weekend.

Beverley 'Bond' 006

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Please click [here](#) for our Year 6 webpage

In EAL this week,

Reception

We continued with vocabulary connected to the topic of Clothes. We really enjoyed playing simple snap games with photo cards of clothes and describing what a boy and girl were wearing by using the phrases ' he is wearing a...' and 'she is wearing a...' and the negative forms too. We ended the week on a funny note by enjoying the story called Pants by Giles Andreae and Nick Sharratt.

Years One and Two

We have been discussing books either written and/or illustrated by Nick Sharratt. He has such a distinctive style, such that one of the children in the group happened upon an illustrated dictionary in the classroom and realised on closer examination, that the pictures had all been drawn by him! We had to explain which of the stories we preferred (paying attention to the correct use of tenses) and we also remarked on the frequent use of rhyming words.

Years Three and Four

We continued work on instructions. We unscramble a series of instructions for getting up in the morning; only to conclude that the ordering might in fact vary, as some of us get changed before we eat our breakfast and some of us don't! We read and then followed some instructions to make a paper plate fish and noticed that having illustrations means that instructions to not need to be quite as precise as they might do otherwise!

Years Five and Six

We have conjugated verbs in the (simple) present, past and future tenses (I will/shall..... eat/drink etc.) both orally and then in writing. We paid attention to the fairly consistent spelling rule of doubling the final consonant after a short vowel sound (stopped, dripped etc.) and to past tense irregulars (wrote, ate etc.). Not to mention the present tense addition of an 's' for the he/she/it form (he runs, it hides etc.). Grammar all the way this week.... but we had some fun by playing games with all this new information too!