

Home School Books –9 October 2015.

### Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

We have continued with our theme of 'family' this week. In small group time we have discussed who is in our immediate family, do we have a brother or a sister, how many people are in our family etc. To help the children who do not yet have a good command of English, we used a lot of visuals to help establish what the word 'Family' means. The children were very surprised to hear that the teachers also had a mummy and daddy! One little girl pointed out that we were a bit too old to have parents!

You can see on the page opposite, how your little one has created their own family; this was drawn free hand with no help from the teacher, so you can see what stage of creative development your child is at by looking at the drawing. Here is a quick guide to the different stages of drawing:



*Controlled scribbling. Your child begins to develop some control of his fine motor abilities, and the scribbles gain some direction and control. After some experience with controlled scribbling, a child may name his picture a "motorcycle" or a "big wheel" although there appears to be no resemblance. This is an intellectual accomplishment for your child, an indication that he is taking his first step toward being able to do representation.*

*The face. The next major development is for the circle to become a face. Arms and legs. The circle "person" develops stick arms and legs, which protrude from the circle, or the head; there is no body yet. The body. The human figure begins to acquire a body. Gradually, more and more body parts are added (hands, feet, hair, ears, etc.).*

Our story for this week was 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell. Ask and see what your little one remembers about the story; see how much they can retell, then follow the link to hear it all over again:

<http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Dear+Zoo+Rod+Campbell&FORM=VIRE5#view=detail&mid=2C10BFEC4DDF1A0E22E72C10BFEC4DDF1A0E22E7>

We also discussed our talk topic from last week and discovered most of us don't have a pet at home but if we could choose one it would range from a toy dragon to a snail! So watch out, you might find some surprises coming home one day!

Just a quick reminder, it is an important part of the nursery life, encouraging and progressing independence skills, so please help your child to be as independent as possible at home also. You can do this by encouraging your child to feed themselves at meal times, put on their coat and hat etc. when going outside. They may not be able to do this quickly at first but practice really is the key!

This week's talk topic is 'What do you play with at home and who do you play with?'

Remember it is photograph day next Wednesday 14th October, your child is still required to wear school uniform on that day, as group photographs will be taken of each class. More details will follow soon on the photograph arrangements, timings etc., for the afternoon parents and children.

Until next week, have a lovely weekend and if you are out and about, maybe you could collect some lovely autumn leaves and bring them into nursery.

Thank you.

Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove

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

### Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

We've had a fun, bear-tastic week in Reception. Our focus story for the week has been Michael Rosen's "We're Going on a Bear Hunt". Alongside this story we have also been continuing to look at autumn and the effects it has on our surroundings.



In Literacy this week we have learnt five new phonemes, /b/ as in boot, /f/ as in flower, /u/ as in umbrella, /e/ as in egg and /l/ as in leg. The children have been using whiteboards this week trying to segment and write simple cvc words. We also made bear hats where the children had to cut, order and stick events from our focus story into the correct order. They could use these hats to help them retell the story at home.

In numeracy this week we have continued our work on 2d shapes and have started to look at prepositional words. We enjoyed singing songs to help us remember the different positional language and tried our own practical and written activities.

In P.E. this week we enjoyed acting out 'We're going on a bear hunt' in the playground. The children listened to the story and imagined they really were doing all the things in the story. The children loved this activity, especially when a bear would chase them all the way home at the end!

In French with Mrs Scharf, we are still talking about the weather as our continuing topic. We are singing all our songs and learnt new ones about a fruit of the season : la pomme (apple). We even tasted apples in the classroom. We are still producing our colour books in order to revise the eleven colours we have learnt.

It would be very helpful if you could choose a keychain or small animal with your child to attach to their school bag. This will help the children to recognise their bag

quickly and avoid any potential mix-ups when snack and lunch boxes need to go into the correct school bag.

The Talk topic for Monday will be answering the question ‘what is your favourite season and why?’

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Gill and Ivana Julaton

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

### Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

In Year 1 this week we used the ipads in class to look up the weather forecast for the day and the weekend using the BBC weather website. Fortunately there will be no rain, and there might even be some sunshine on Sunday! We have also continued to talk about seasons in science and in their home school books this week the children have drawn a tree in each season of the year. The children also tried to put all 12 months of the year in order; it was a challenge but the children were very successful.



This week in Literacy we have been learning all about double letters /ss/l/zz/ff/ at the end of words and how they still make one sound e.g. bell and kiss. The children learned a song to help them remember the letters that can double at the end of words and practised reading, writing and sorting words with double letters at the end. Also in literacy this week we read the story ‘A cat in the tree’ and then practised writing instructions for how to get a cat out of a tree. The children showed me that they have learned how to write some high frequency words from memory, how to write short sentences using capital letters, full stops and spacing between words and how to use their sounds – great work!

Numeracy this week has been all about shapes and symmetry. We discussed what ‘symmetry’ means and the children made their own symmetrical butterflies. They also looked at a series of butterflies and made decisions about whether they were symmetrical or not. We also revisited repeating patterns using shapes and colours and the children described the properties of common 2D shapes and sorted them according to whether they have straight sides, curved sides or both.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still listening to the story of Turloublanc who is yet in the country of the colours but in the meantime the colours have disappeared and

the animals are sad. They are looking for them and discover that the black bird stole them. More prepositions and pronouns like moi, toi, lui, elle.  
Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Patrick Tranter

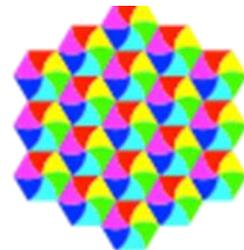
[Year1teacher@telenet.be](mailto:Year1teacher@telenet.be)

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

## Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

In Year 2 this week, we have continued to investigate 2D shape. We have furthered our understanding of right angles, and we will revisit this rather difficult concept in the coming months. We have begun to learn the names of some polygons, notably pentagons, hexagons and parallelograms. The main learning point is that shapes can be sorted according to the number of sides and corners they have. We have learned that some shapes tessellate, i.e. they fit together with no gaps, as bathroom tiles do. We have also revised doubling, and considered how to tell whether a number is a double.



Our art lesson this week involved right angles. We looked at some examples of paintings by the Dutch artist Piet Mondrian, noting his use of primary colours, straight lines and right angles, then made an attempt at painting our own pictures in this style.

Thursday this week was National Poetry Day in the UK, and we took some time to read poems. Each child chose a poem from the poetry book that s/he borrowed from the library, and copied part (or all) of the poem, illustrating it and commenting on it. We all enjoyed the range of poems, and the children made some very good observations about poetry. We will continue to look at poetry next week. The children are well-motivated in their reading, and continue to do well: please keep encouraging them to read to you each day.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we learned how to answer to the question "Qu'est-ce que c'est?" (What is it?). We also worked on vocabulary related to school supplies ( un crayon, un live, une gomme, etc.) and we really enjoyed singing the rap song " Prends ta gomme!".

Please note that Swimming Group 1 will continue their Tuesday sessions until the last week of this half term. After half term, Swimming Group 2 will begin their sessions. Many thanks to the parents who have kindly accompanied the swimming group. We always appreciate having one parent volunteer each week.

Here is a link to a useful online spelling practice activity.

<http://www.ictgames.com/lcwc.html>

I wish you a happy weekend.

Yours,

Kate Read and Tina Keogh

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

### Home School Book – Year 3

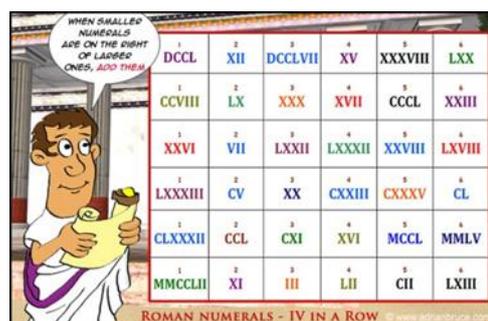
Dear Parents,

In Literacy this week we have been looking at direct speech. We discussed the use of speech marks and the fact that we use a new line every time a new person speaks. We are still coming to grips with the use of speech bubbles: when to use these and when to use reported speech. We looked at a non-fiction text about telling the time earlier in the week. We revised what we know about non-fiction texts and discovered sub headings. Our text also mentioned a water clock which we then tried to make in DT this week. Guided reading is still being enjoyed by all and we regularly discuss the author's intent as well as enjoy the story. Esio Trot is finished but Mr Majeika is still marvelling us with his magic.

In Numeracy we are still doing time. This week we have been comparing digital and analogue times. We have been learning that digital time counts the minutes past the hour and analogue counts minutes past and to. We love our think tank on Fridays and have already completed 2 levels. These are exercises which encourage both thinking and problem solving skills.

In Science we are still looking at our beans. We try to write about our beans daily and have enjoyed watching them grow. Some have grown up to 6cm in a day!

In Topic we learnt all about Roman Numerals and had fun doing sums and converting numbers. Mrs Tranter came to visit us and we impressed her with our new found knowledge.



In Art we painted a sky for our rainy day pictures. Next week we will try to finish these. Leading on from our text in literacy we tried our hands at building a water clock using a 2 litre bottle. It was fun for the children to see how it worked.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been working in our book "Vitamines". We have completed a little Vitamine booklet with personal information. We had a test in our exercises books on what we have learnt so far and started a new unit on animals.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we practiced telling the time and started the unit " Tu aimes l'école?" ( Do you like school?) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We talked about the subjects we like or don't like and reviewed the verbs " aimer", "détester", "adorer". Our outing to the Space exhibition was fun and we were lucky to have a sunny day.

Our talk topic for this week is: Why do you think that our beans are growing towards the window?

Have a lovely sunny weekend.

Valeria Vetter

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

## Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

It has been a real pleasure returning to school this week. I would like to thank Mrs Prescott and the teachers who helped while I was away for a few days the previous week. The Year 4 children had a wonderful week doing all sorts of different things that associated with Space for Space Week. . The Year 4 astronauts were thrilled to complete their space rockets ready to launch into space.

In Literacy this week we looked at a fiction text about ‘Goodbye Earth’. This story fitted in perfectly for space week and the children thoroughly enjoyed the text. They imagined that they were ‘Cecil’ the boy that was whisked away into the spaceship and had to imagine how they felt if they were in Cecil’s position. The children used their imagination and came up with brilliant ideas. They then continued answering the questions about the text for better understanding and full sentence structure. In Grammar we looked at comparative and superlative adjectives and how adjectives change in a sentence.

In maths this week we looked at fractions. We looked at fractions and what they are as well as looked at the difference between the meaning of the numerator and denominator. We then looked at fractions of amounts and solved them step by step. The children learnt to divide the denominator by the amount and then multiply the answer to the numerator. The children loved fractions this week as it was challenging.

In Science the previous week the children studied the different groups that animals can be classified into (Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians, Birds and Fish). This week we concentrated on food chains and looked at the process of a food chain. We looked at new words such as producer and consumer.



As mentioned above we had fun completing our rockets from the plastic bottles. I would like to thank you for sending a plastic bottle with your child for this art activity. The children completed their rockets by adding wings, colour and different designs to their rocket. The rockets were whisked into space twirling between the luminous planets.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been working in our book "Vitamines". We have completed a little Vitamine booklet with personal information. We had a test in our exercises books on what we have learnt so far and started a new unit on animals. In French with Mrs Gorgia, we practiced telling the time and started the unit " Tu aimes l'école?" ( Do you like school?) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We talked about the subjects we like or don't like and reviewed the verbs " aimer", "détester", "adorer".

Tennis was great fun one again. The children took part with great enthusiasm into the games given by the coach.

Next week's talk topic is to discuss the changes in the Autumn weather and the differences from the previous season.

Enjoy the weekend

Best Wishes,

Despina Kafouris

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

### Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

This week we made lots of giant leaps.

The Year 5s thoroughly enjoyed writing, editing and finishing off their Just So stories on the iPads but were equally enthused to read them to our selected audience - the Reception class.



Visiting the Infant building, the girls read with gusto and found the 5 year-olds 'really cute' and spent some time stroking their faces while the boys were more circumspect and lamented not only their perceived story's awfulness but also how difficult their target listeners were; 'they just pointed and told us stuff about what was on the walls!'.

A great thanks to Ms Gill for kindly having allowed us to visit but Year 5 felt they might have over pitched their storytelling given the youthful audience. It was agreed, then, to seek an older listener and Year 3 might be just the ticket. We duly hypnotised them with our great and grand tales. Visiting the class's old teacher from last year, Mrs Vetter, was a smashing treat too!

In maths, we subtracted large numbers using the column and shopkeeper's/Frog method and in Science we found out that air is just about everywhere including in a third of soil (roughly). The experiment we undertook with soil samples was quite simple but the concept of a fair test and what results to collect and how to collect them was quite hard for some.

PE was back to hockey in the rain and in circle time we considered what a good friend is.

In topic, meanwhile, we explored what children and adults did for pleasure in the 1800s finding out about Victorian games and toys.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on the unit " Vive l'école!" from our book "Les Loustics". We talked about our favourite activities at school ( lire, écrire, compter, etc) and the games we play in the playground. In grammar we worked on verbs in the Present Tense and reviewed the Negation.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had our fourth dictée of "mots invariables" words that never change their spelling. We watched the beginning of a film Zarafa. We started working on describing a person with the help of adjectives which lead to l'accord des adjectifs qualificatifs.

Today, however, was our Junior Department trip to the Space Expo which we readied for on Thursday. We looked at newly released photos of the Apollo lunar mission, found out why Space Week is celebrated and got to know the first living organism to enter space - Laika the dog - while listening to a background of spacey music.

And that was our week!

Best wishes

Tim Stedman

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Please click [here](#) for our Year 5 webpage

### Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for your support last Sunday afternoon at the Belgian World Space Quiz. Even though our three teams did not make it to the second stage, I think that they 'stole' the 'show' with their enthusiasm, knowledge for their age group and excellent behaviour. The presenters and judges obviously enjoyed interacting with our pupils and one of the winners, kindly gave his prize to us! We all enjoyed a first-class tea and I could see some of the children tucking into the 'Milky Way' chocolate bars with relish.

Continuing with our Space theme, this week the children were asked to design a mission to Mars. In this fun, interactive card game, the students experienced the fundamentals of the engineering design process, with a hands-on authentic critical approach. Using collaboration and problem-solving skills, they had to develop a mission that met a budget of \$250 million, with mass and power constraints as well as having scientific value; deadline for submissions was Thursday 12.00. Finally, after the teams had produced their master plans, they received a 'special event card' which was either an increase in budget or a system failure...they then had to explain how this rogue' card would affect the mission. Two days of high-octane fun and learning!



The Space fun continues with our visit to Brussels' Expo today.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on the unit " Vive l'école!" from our book "Les Loustics". We talked about our favourite activities at school ( lire,

écrire, compter, etc) and the games we play in the playground. In grammar we worked on verbs in the Present Tense and reviewed the Negation.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had our fourth dictée of "mots invariables" words that never change their spelling. We watched the beginning of a film Zarafa. We started working on describing a person with the help of adjectives which lead to l'accord des adjectifs qualificatifs.

Next week, we shall be given a presentation by Mr Morelle (a grandparent of one of our pupils) who was responsible for the renovation of the Atomium, followed by a visit to the Planetarium, and then our overnight stay in the Atomium. Students need to bring in their sleeping bags and overnight bags on Thursday morning (these will be stored at school and brought to the Atomium at 17.30). On Thursday, students will need their school backpack (with the usual items for the day, including lunch and snack); these will remain at school at the end of the day. Lunch, including a vegetarian option, will be provided on Friday. If you need to contact the group (in an emergency), please ring Mr Prescott on 0479 28 61 39.

This has been an action-packed World Space Week 2015, which I am sure that the children will never forget.

Enjoy the weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

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

In EAL this week,

Reception

We started work on vocabulary connected with the topic of houses and home. We discussed the external features of houses such as: the chimney, bricks, windows and walls. We also played lotto and snap games with photo cards of common objects found in the home. We collectively did a large jigsaw of a house and discussed what we could see by using scaffolded responses to simple questions.

Years One and Two

We started work on combining the topic of food with books by the author and illustrator Pat Hutchins. We really enjoyed her story Don't Forget the Bacon, which allowed us to revise rhyming words as well as discuss the need for shopping lists! We wrote our own shopping lists to help the boy in the story and covered a lot of vocabulary connected to food shopping.

Years Three and Four

We have started work on a Pie Corbett story called Lazy Jack. We so enjoyed our dramatic group reading of the King's Breakfast last week, that this seemed the way to start work this week! We have read it aloud a couple of times (after we stopped laughing at the plot!) and we are currently part way through story mapping it.

## Years Five and Six

We have worked hard on food vocabulary, classifying items into categories, such as fish and seafood and dairy products. Uncountable nouns (e.g. butter, sugar, coffee and flour), gave rise to some role play work, as we took it in turns to run a shop and then a café. The prices in the café were really increasingly exorbitant as we took turns, but we certainly got the hang of asking for service and being quite difficult customers too! We also worked on the present tense (continuous) both with written and oral exercises.