

Home School Books – 20 November 2015.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Did you find a mouse in your house? That was our talk topic last week and during discussion time this week, no one reported a mouse in their house, phew! We did find some mice in nursery though but only finger puppets to go with our nursery rhyme of the week 'hickory dickory dock'.



If you look opposite you will see the fantastic clock your little one created; can you spot the mouse running up the clock? We also looked at all of the numbers and played a game with the hands of the clock to see if we could find one o'clock on the clock face. The children also counted all of the numbers from one through to twelve, trying to remember each number so they can recognize it in other situations.

We carried on with the theme of number recognition and one to one correspondence counting, with a simple math's activity using paper cups and buttons. This is a great activity for you to try at home. Just write numbers from one to ten individually on the side of a paper cup. Then ask your child if they can recognize each written number but not in order of counting. We used buttons but you can use coins or dried pasta and ask your child to put in the cup, the precise number of objects that correspond with the written number, on the cup. Go on give it a try!

Just a couple of reminders: can you please try to bring your little one on time to nursery, especially in the morning session. Many children are arriving up to 15 minutes late. Nursery starts at 09.00 and this is when we have our carpet/ whole nursery discussion time. If your child never participates in this session, they are missing out on an important aspect of the nursery curriculum. Plus it also disrupts the children who are sitting quietly and listening to the teacher, when others arrive late. It is a very interactive session and a lot of speaking and listening skills are practiced during this time. Thank you for your understanding.

We have a lot of birthdays coming up in the next few months. We are happy for you to bring a cake or a packet of biscuits in for your child to celebrate with the other children. However it should be a plain sponge cake or a pack of plain biscuits, with no nuts or chocolate mousse filling. The most important thing is the feeling of belonging a birthday celebration gives your child, not the extravagance of the cake! So please keep it simple and we will do the rest!

Our talk topic this week is, 'have you ever stroked a real sheep?' What did it feel like? What do you think it would feel like?

Until next week, have a great weekend, put on your wellies and go and find some puddles!

Thank you

Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove

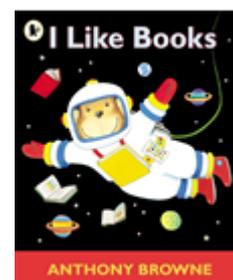
nurseryteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This week our focus story has been another of Anthony Browne's stories called 'I like books'. We have used this story to revisit the tricky word 'like' and to start sorting books according to their genre.



In literacy this week the children learnt two new digraphs, /ay/ as in play and /ee/ as in see. The children have been recognising these sounds in words and have been made aware that there is more than one way to make both these sounds.

In maths we have been learning a collection of new 2d shapes. This week we have been focussing on hexagons but have also covered an oval and rhombus. We have also been looking at these shapes using different orientations, so the children become aware that just because a triangle is upside down, it is still called a triangle.

During our P.E. session this week the children have been playing games that involve following a series of instructions. The children are showing increasing listening skills and an ability to follow multiple step instructions during our P.E. sessions. They have also shown they are able to control their excitement.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we have been counting up to 15 and even 20 sometimes. We did many different games with the counting and listened to all our other songs in order not to forget them. We will also slowly start talking about Saint-Nicolas.

For Talk Topic on Monday we will be talking about how we take care of our toys at home.

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,

Another busy week has flown by in Year 1. The weather has certainly changed, but the rain has provided inspiration for us in our literacy lesson this week as we wrote poetry about what we like to do on rainy and windy days! Also on the theme of weather we looked at how people live in different types of homes according to the climate of where they live. We looked at how people live in houses on stilts in places that flood, igloos and wooden chalets in snowy places and mud huts and houses made of cloth in hot places.



This week in Literacy we have also looked at the consonant digraphs /sh/ch/ and /th/. We have practised reading, writing and putting words with these sounds into sentences. The children are making good progress with their phonics and basic sentence punctuation. They are trying hard to segment words carefully, to leave spaces between words, put a full stop at the end and a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence. The children have also made a fantastic start to their spelling tests; keep up the good work with practising the spellings at home.

In numeracy this week we have looked at language to describe position and direction. We enjoyed singing along to a song called 'in, on, under' and the children have learned to respond to a variety of words including above, below, between, middle, top, bottom, around, next to, in front of, behind, near, far and left and right. We have also practised measuring the length of objects using non-standard units such as paperclips and cubes.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been learning about musical instruments in order to be prepared to listen to our second story "Une maison de musiciens". We also listened to the story of les "Musiciens de Brême" and sang a great song.

In art we have continued our work on colour and the children independently mixed their own colours and painted a picture with them. We added black and white so the children could see what happens when you add these colours to other colours. In Computing the children continued to practise using beebots (programmable toys).

And that was our week!

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Patrick Tranter

Camilla Rutayisire and Patrick Tranter

Year1teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

The big highlight of this week was our trip to the Natural History Museum on Wednesday. The children were very good, and enjoyed a tour of the dinosaur gallery and the insect gallery. They noticed a lot, and learned a great deal, as they showed in the quiz that we held in class on Thursday afternoon. We were all very interested to discover more about the 30 iguanodons that were discovered in a coal mine in Bernissart, Belgium, in 1878.



Our study of dinosaurs over the coming weeks will focus especially on the scientific concepts of how living things need other living things, and how living things are adapted to their environment. We will also see how we can classify living things according to their similarities and differences.

In our Big Writing session this week, the children wrote reports of the museum trip. I am pleased to see their writing developing all the time.

In maths this week, we looked at the vocabulary of position and direction. The children followed instructions, using this vocabulary, to move around the playground and the classroom, and to draw pictures. We also learned to do the Macarena dance, which involves quarter turns. Next week's computing session will focus again on this area of mathematics.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started the unit "Qu'est-ce que tu veux?" (What do you want?) from our book " Alex & Zoé". We talked about presents, toys and objects that we would like to have. We also practised reading on www.readinga-z.com

This week's talk topic is 'What would you do if you dug up a dinosaur in the playground or in your garden?' Thanks for finding a few minutes to talk with your family about this. We will discuss it in class next week.

Swimming Group 2 will continue their sessions until the last week of this term. We will need a parent volunteer to accompany the group each week. We currently have a volunteer for Tuesday 24th November. Please let me know if you or a grandparent/aunt/uncle/big sister etc can accompany the swimming group. Thanks. The children who were in swimming group 1 will stay with me in school on Tuesday mornings, working mainly on literacy and drama.

I wish you a happy weekend.

Kate Read and Tina Keogh

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy but fun time in Year 3 this week. We have enjoyed all of our learning.

In Literacy we have been looking at poetry. We studied poems by Spike Milligan, Brian Moses and Wes Magee. We discussed how they made us feel and the poets' use of language. We also chose our favourite and had to explain why we had chosen it. We also looked at adjectives in poetry and discussed our responses to these adjectives.

In Numeracy we began a look at doubling and then halving. The children really enjoyed learning this even though the halving is a bit more challenging than the doubling. We have been learning how to partition (break up the numbers) double or halve and then put the numbers back together. This led on to our first look at fractions this year. We very happily made fraction strips and found out that the larger the denominator, the smaller the fraction.

In Science we took a look at teeth. We had a look at teeth from a herbivore, carnivore and an omnivore. We discussed the different teeth and what they are used for. We then concentrated on our own teeth and even drew a tooth labelling its parts.



In Topic we are still looking at Roman Gods as it is a huge and interesting subject.

PE sadly was rained off this week but we used the time to do some movement in the classroom.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started the unit " Quel temps fait-il?" (How is the weather?) from our book "Alex & Zoé 2". We did many vocabulary activities and in grammar we practised the negative verb forms.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have continued our revisions and counted up to 50. We also read a few stories, played "Jacques a dit" and watched one story of "Le petit Nicolas".

In Art we have made autumn leaves. We traced around a leaf, cut it out and used the empty space to fill it with autumn colours. It has been a very interesting project and the results will go up outside our classroom next week.

Our talk topic this week is Do you think stories are powerful? Why or why not?

It is getting colder as of now so wrap up warmly.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

The days go by extremely quickly especially when you are having fun!! The children have once again worked well and have put in amazing work in their project work on making models of homes. I was amazed to see the different models and project work that were due this week. The children put tremendous effort and were eager to show their fellow classmates what they had done. I would like to thank you for supporting your child with this project. It was rewarding to see such amazing projects.

The street child was the comprehension we looked at in reading skills this week. It is based on a true story so the children and I had a discussion on what true stories are and the reasons why we read true stories at times. The children liked the story and we had a talk about the boy in the story and the different feelings the boy in the story felt. We then answered the questions orally in the classroom. After that the children then worked in their reading skills books and answered the questions in full sentences. In writing skills we looked at re-writing stories in our own words. The children then worked quietly writing the story in their own words. In Grammar we looked at Nouns (Singular and Plural). We looked at different ways of writing plurals of given words. The children were given many different words and with their partner and had to re write the words into plurals.

Measuring weight was the focus in maths this week. We looked at the differences between grams and kilograms and estimated which products could be measured in grams or in kilograms. We then looked at different ways in which we can write measurements from grams into kilograms.

We continued talking about open and closed circuits in science however this week we looked at bulbs in a circuit and the reasons why some bulbs do not work. The children looked at different diagrams on circuits and the children had to investigate and give a reason to why the bulb in the circuit would not light up.

As I mentioned above, the children made their beautiful models on a type of home. The children have learnt so much on different homes around the world and this week we begin looking at “Castles”. Our topic lesson this week was based on the first castles “The Motte and Bailey Castles as well as “The First knights”.



This week in swimming the children had another great time and did really well.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started the unit " Quel temps fait-il?" (How is the weather?) from our book "Alex & Zoé 2". We did many vocabulary activities and in grammar we practised the negative verb forms.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have continued our revisions and counted up to 50. We also read a few stories, played "Jacques a dit" and watched one story of "Le petit Nicolas".

This week's talk topic is to discuss with your child is: How can we keep healthy? What things are considered important in keeping healthy?

Have a lovely weekend,

Despina Kafouris

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

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

Literacy was dominated by the Titanic and Thomas Hardy's amazing poem, The Convergence of the Twain.

The children were warned to find it difficult to understand but to just marvel in the skill of the vocabulary, rhythm and imagery of the poetry.

They produced excellent artwork from the images the poem conjured up in their heads and used some of Hardy's lines to write their own creative writing. The week culminated in a poem based on the Titanic using all the techniques and strategies (and inspiration) learnt over the past two weeks.



In Numeracy, we multiplied and divided big using known facts; if we know $4 \times 9 = 36$ we can also arrive at 400×9 , 40×9000 , 0.4×9 and $3600 \div 9$ and so on. We also used and compared grid and expanded method for $HTU \times U$ (3-digit \times 1-digit). Some were able to step up to handling 4-digit numbers, $ThHTU \times U$.

In amongst all this the children set themselves maths targets to focus on.

Our Gases Around Us unit in Science came to an end with a test but the next unit, Changes of State is closely linked and will be a good follow on for the children.

In PE, we played football but used it as a platform for learning to communicate on the pitch; what to say in English when you want the ball 'line', 'square' or 'behind', or you just simply want the ball or want to warn a teammate an opponent is coming!!!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished our book "La disparition" and went on working on the feminine of all adjectives and did exercises all together in the classroom. We also read aloud the simple presentations we wrote about ourselves. In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started the unit "Tu habites avec qui?" (Who do you live with ?) from our book " Les Loustics". We worked on vocabulary related to

family members and the children wrote a description of their own family. In grammar, we studied the prepositions of place (devant, derrière, etc.).

And that was our week.

Next week we will learn how children were sent down the mines in Victorian Times and on Friday we'll be going to visit Belgium's mining country in the south.

We are all looking forward to going underground at the Bois du Luc Museum but happily not to work with a pick but to study.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman

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

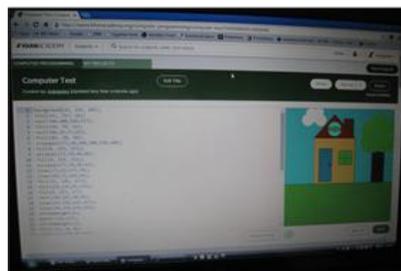
Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

This week began with the UK Primary Mathematics Competition. Many of the Year 6 pupils took part, and I would like to thank Mrs Rajesh Kanaan for preparing the students for this event, and Mr Stedman for organising it.

Practising the ukulele was high on the agenda this week; Mr E Prescott has been putting the year 6 'rock band' through its paces, so that the musicians will be ready for the Christmas production. Also, all actors should know their lines for the play by next Monday!

In computing, the students enjoyed a challenge (using Java Script) to draw a house and garden scene, with clouds and trees and if possible add animation. The results were spectacular; clouds bobbing across the sky and all properties were tastefully painted.



The children endured a grammar test this week, which highlighted some areas that we need to revisit: the passive voice and relative pronouns. We shall tackle these next week. Our new class reading book is 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo; this novel supports our learning about WW1: Edith Cavell, the Christmas Production and our future workshop in January about 'Food and War', when the children will cook a meal using a WW1 recipe.

In maths, some children have been calculating the area of compound shapes; others are focusing on calculating volume, capacity and density. I have asked those students who wish to prepare for CIMT Year 8 syllabus, to create a spreadsheet outlining their preparation schedule for the Christmas holidays. This work is entirely optional and spreadsheets should be submitted to me, using Google Drive, by the 15th, December.

The students prepared their 'ice-cube tray' freezing experiment on Tuesday using :oil, salt water, vinegar and freshwater. On Thursday, the ice-cube trays were recovered and the scientists then had to observe what happened when each cube was placed in its own liquid, including looking at the results using the electronic microscope. Our primary focus is working scientifically, and with each experiment, the skills associated with this are developing.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished our book "La disparition" and went on working on the feminine of all adjectives and did exercises all together in the classroom. We also read aloud the simple presentations we wrote about ourselves. In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started the unit "Tu habites avec qui?" (Who do you live with ?) from our book " Les Loustics". We worked on vocabulary related to family members and the children wrote a description of their own family. In grammar, we studied the prepositions of place (devant, derrière, etc.).

I have put at notice on Edmodo about a forthcoming production of Romeo and Juliet on Wednesday, 20th January at 20.00. I would like to book the tickets by Friday 27th November. This will be a long day; pupils will remain at school and cook a pizza supper in the Year 6 Pizzeria, then we shall make our way to the Theatre. I shall ask for parents to help out with collecting children at the end of the evening (23.00). Please confirm by email (by Wednesday, 25th November) if you wish your child to attend, thank you.

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards,

Beverley Tranter

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

In EAL this week
Reception

We shared the delightful story of Lost and Found and it lead onto some wonderful discussion work about penguins and the fact that they come from cold countries. We revised clothes (for winter) as we decided what we would put in the little brown suitcase. We also made our own penguins for a new display.

Years One and Two

We also shared the Lost and Found story and were just as enthralled! We discussed vocabulary connected with directions as we looked at the markings found on a compass and thought about where the South Pole is located on a map. We created our own penguins out of coloured paper and umbrellas too.

Years Three and Four, Five and Six

In both groups, we carried out some writing assessments to determine the areas of grammar that we need to focus on individually over the next few months. We also started to make some Top Trumps style grammar cards. We awarded 'extra power' if

the verb in question had a tricky irregular past tense form or for unusual adverbs that denoted where or when the action of the verb took place as opposed to simply how it took place.