

Home School Books –4 December 2015.

### Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

A very busy week this week! We continued with our nursery rhyme theme and our rhyme for the week was 'Miss Polly had a dolly' if you are not familiar with this rhyme you can find it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgsgH0lkQTI>

The children have not only sung the rhyme and acted it out but we also set up a doctor's surgery/hospital in our role play area for Miss Polly and her dolly. We specifically looked at what the doctor would carry in his bag and got our tongues around some very long words like stethoscope, thermometer and syringe.



You can see on the page opposite just what your little one thought their doctor would carry in their bag. Take a look; you might be surprised at what doctors carry around these days! Of course they had great fun playing the doctor's bag game and deciding what to put in it, great activity for developing language, grouping objects and thinking skills. They were given free choice of what to put in, as you will see when you empty the bag!

The children also played a sequencing game, with the Miss Polly rhyme bag. They were given the pictures in random order and asked if they could put them in order of how the rhyme is spoken. We made a paper version for you to play at home, so have a look in the envelope and help your child play the game again.

Next week is the start of all of our Christmas activities in nursery, so apologies now for all of the glitter that you will find everywhere! The children will definitely sparkle and shine when they come home!

Just a quick reminder, could you please provide Indoor shoes/slippers for your little one if they are coming to nursery in boots or wellington. This is something that you can leave in nursery underneath their coat peg.

We have a number of children coming to nursery and asking to eat their snack very early because they are hungry. If your little one does not eat breakfast before coming to school then please let us know. Snack is normally at 10.30am so they may need a little something before they arrive at 9.00.

If you are intending to leave early for the Christmas break and your child will not be here for the Christmas show on the 17<sup>th</sup> December, please do let us know straight away.

That's all for this week, until next week, have a great weekend and don't forget to discuss our talk topic this weekend, 'Who is Santa Claus?' Where does he live?'

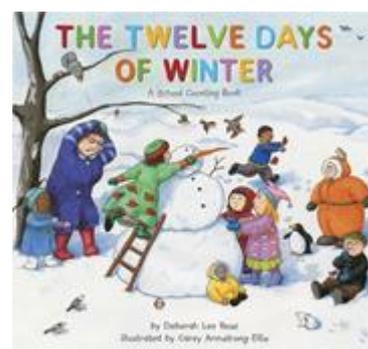
Thank you

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

### Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This week we have started our winter topic and our focus story, which we will continue looking at next week, has been 'The Twelve Days of Winter' by Deborah Lee Rose. We have already read the story but we are slowly making our way through the book completing activities based on the different pages for our classroom display.



This week in phonics we have learnt the sound /ow/ as in snow. The children enjoyed using puff paint and their photos during an activity to help them remember this sound. We have also written a list of the different things birds need when they stay throughout the winter.

We have spent this week reviewing our prior knowledge in mathematics. The children have looked at 2d shapes, more than, less than and numbers to twenty. As our focus story is also a counting book, the children created their own counting books. They spent a lovely afternoon creating these and worked very hard.

In P.E. this week we played some new winter themed outdoor games, these included waddling like penguins and dressing snowmen.

In French with Mrs Scharf, it has been a Saint-Nicolas week! We have been singing, drawing pictures and getting ready for a possible surprise visit .....

Finally, for Talk Topic on Monday the children can choose any animal that lives in the snow/cold and share what they already know about their chosen animal. We will be encouraging the children to think about possible ways their chosen animal is adapted well to life in the cold, therefore, we ask that you do not think of this as research homework but simply talk with your child about which animals they could choose and what they already know about them.

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,

On a dark, dark street there was a dark, dark school and in the dark, dark school there was a dark, dark cellar... where year 1 went for some storytelling! This week we have used the Funnybones stories as our inspiration across the curriculum. In our literacy lessons we have practised telling the introduction of the story from memory using pictures to help us. We then used the Funnybones story for our big writing lesson with some children retelling the introduction and others writing what could happen next in the story.

Also in literacy we have practised reading and writing words containing the /igh/ and /ar/ sounds in phonics. We made our own sentences using these words and tried to spell words with these sounds accurately. We also read different funnybones titles such as 'Skeleton Crew' and 'Ghost Train'. We discussed the stories in detail and related them to our own experiences. In circle time we discussed what we were worried about and how we can overcome worries. We read a story called 'The huge bag of worries' and the children discussed what happened in the story.



In numeracy this week we have learned all about money. We started the week with work on coin recognition and worked on recognising all of the coins up to 1 euro. We compared the value of the different coins and talked about which coin was worth the most and the least, trying to remember that 1 euro is 100 cents. We practised counting coins in 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s and adding mixed sets of coins. We played coin bingo too and worked out different ways to make different amounts in the funnybones pet shop.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, it has been a Saint-Nicolas week ! We have been singing, drawing pictures, writing letters to him and getting ready for a possible surprise visit .....

In art we learned all about warm and cold colours and the work of an American painter called Mark Rothko. The children mixed their own palette of either warm or cold colours and then painted in the style of Mark Rothko, using big bold blocks of colour to fill the entire paper. And that was our week!

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 this first week of December, we have again been very busy in Year 2.

In mathematics, our focus has been counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, especially in the context of counting money and making jumps along a number line. We made the connection between counting in 2s and repeated addition of 2, and we investigated repeated addition further, drawing rows of dots (arrays). In this way, the children are developing an understanding of the concepts of multiplication and division. Next term we will work further on this, including counting in 3s, and beginning to learn the multiplication facts.

In literacy, we looked again at connective words, and openers, before using our Big Writing session to write some wonderful stories. The theme was an adventure in our time-machine. The children planned their stories in advance, with Mrs Keogh, choosing characters and summarizing their ideas for the story. They will bring their stories home to show you.

Our art and design lesson on Tuesday was spent using recycled materials (i.e. old boxes, cartons and pieces of string) to create gadgets to enhance the time-machine. This was a very useful session, in which the children showed both their imagination and their skill in designing and creating an object to meet a particular purpose. The creations include handles clocks, lamps, maps, a screen, a rescue kit, and many other things. We plan to begin playing in the time-machine this week during golden time.

In computing this week, the children planned and began to write their own apps. The most difficult part of this was keeping our ideas simple enough to be achievable. We will have another session working on these apps, and your child should be able to explain to you exactly what happens in the app (what or who does what).

As part of our dinosaur topic, we are learning the names of the world's continents and oceans, and finding out which dinosaurs were found in which continents. This led to some interesting (and not yet resolved) discussion about how there come to be penguins in South Africa. It would be helpful if you could talk with your child about this week's talk topic: How would you most like to travel around the world?



In French, we dedicated our week to Saint Nicolas. We described his clothes, the way he comes to visit the children and we sang well known traditional songs related to the celebration of Saint Nicolas.

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,

It has really been a busy week but we have come through it all the wiser and are now looking forward to the end of term show.

In Literacy we chose 2 words of the week - superior and inexplicable. We then did a lesson on connectives and I was so proud when one of the class picked up on a previous word of the week as a connective: meanwhile. We also put these connectives into use by doing work on the iPad and sharing it to me. In guided reading one group has finished a book on poetry and the other group is thoroughly enjoying their book about dragons.

In Numeracy we have looked at money and at using the least amount of coins to make amounts of money. We have done this in both euros and pounds. We also played a game called fire to consolidate our bonds to 10. Using those bonds to ten we could work with bonds of 100 showing their importance.

In Science we looked at the food pyramid and built one in the classroom using advertising leaflets and drawings.

In Topic we are almost finished learning about the gods and goddesses of Rome.

In Computing we teamed up with Year 6 and created a poster on Red Nose Day to share to me via showbie. Collaboration between classes is very important and the children really enjoyed working together.

After our work on Red Nose Day we went outside for a game of handball with the Year 6's.

In Art we created fireworks using pastels and smudging the colours. We also added buildings to our Fireworks extravaganza creation. We will finish this next week.

What a lovely Red Nose Day we had. It is good to know we are helping others less fortunate than ourselves.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we read the story of Saint-Nicolas aloud. We played a memory game with all the main vocabulary regarding Saint-Nicolas and practised to ask for something by using "je voudrais ..... s'il vous plaît".

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started the unit "Comment vas-tu?" (How are you?) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We worked on vocabulary related to Feelings and Emotions and for grammar we reviewed the verbs "être" and "avoir".

Our talk topic this week is: How healthy is our diet? Do we eat the right foods?

Have a lovely relaxing weekend,



Valeria Vetter

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

### Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful week. The inspectors were so thrilled to see the children's wonderful work and in turn the children were very happy to show the inspectors their work. The children are working very well and I am very proud of their work. Well done Year 4!



In Literacy this week we looked at a lovely story “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe”. This is a wonderful story. The children did not only get to read a passage from the story but they also got to see bits from the movie too. We then discussed any unknown words and the children answered questions based on the text from the story. In Grammar this week we looked at direct speech. The children completed many different activities using the speech marks in sentences as well as looking at a conversation which had no speech marks and the children had to use speech marks to complete the sentences.

In maths we focused on multiplying two digit numbers by a one digit number. The children have been learning different methods to complete these multiplication sums. One of the methods was the box method and the second method they worked on is the partitioning method. The children also worked on division using the chunking method. The children enjoyed using this method more than the short division method as they used their knowledge of multiplying, taking away and adding too. It is so important that the children know the x tables and that they practise them often as this helps them when they get more challenging problems.

In Science we looked at Plugs. We had a discussion on “What are Plugs?” and “How plugs are wired”. It is important for the children to know the importance of a plug and how to be more cautious if they see a strange looking plug. It has been an enjoyable topic and the children have had the time to understand how electricity works and the dangers it has too.

Building a Castle was the topic for this week. The children learnt about all the different people that had helped to build a castle. We looked at a blacksmith, carpenter, labourers and masons. We also discussed the different people who do other chores in the castle.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we read the story of Saint-Nicolas aloud. We played a memory game with all the main vocabulary regarding Saint-Nicolas and practised to ask for something by using "je voudrais ..... s'il vous plaît".

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started the unit "Comment vas-tu?"( How are you?) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We worked on vocabulary related to Feelings and Emotions and for grammar we reviewed the verbs "être" and "avoir".

As Christmas is around the corner, the Year 4 children began their first Christmas art work. It is always an exciting time for the children and teachers too so the carols play joyfully in the background whilst the children use their talented art skills. You will definitely enjoy receiving the Christmas art work from your child when we close for the holidays.

The children enjoyed swimming as every other week. It was great to see how some children are more confident and secure in the swimming pool.

This week's talk topic is to discuss with your child is "What did you like best about Red Nose Day?"

Have a joyful weekend,  
Mrs Kafouris

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

### Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

What an intense week. The inspectors came to watch us 3 and a half times but seemed to miss our real highlights. They watched us analyse Lewis Carroll's poem from last week and then they caught the end of Science. In this lesson, we did observation experiments to clarify our learning from the recent condensation homework. They saw us play hockey with Y6 and finally they were entertained by our playing Victorian children's games in the playground. (On Monday, we'd learnt about the typical toys of the time.)

What they lost was an ace lesson learning about the canals of Victorian Britain culminating in the children building their own canal in a tray using my daughters' Duplo!! Their construction had to meet the design criteria: be straight, watertight, navigable, strong and, if opting for advanced level, include a lock gate. One group's was a fine engineering marvel; the other's was watertight.



The inspectors also missed the children really enjoying Hot Seating in Literacy. One child had to be a newspaper reporter, the other a character from 'The Walrus and the Carpenter'. The reporter asked the questions, the character (acting the part) recounted what happened on the beach - the murder of the oysters.

Unfortunately, I had to stop their fun and tear them away; their next task was to write a follow up newspaper report of the events on the iPads.

The visiting experts also missed some good maths lessons on dividing which the children made good progress in.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we completed the unit " Tu habites avec qui?" (Who do you live with ?) from our book " Les Loustics". We did a vocabulary revision and the children wrote a post card to their family describing a place that they had visited.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we worked on the present tense of -ER verbs including manger, anger and other similar verbs. We had our weekly dictée of mots invariables and had a test for the féminin des adjectifs. We also did a reading comprehension about Saint-Nicolas.

In assembly, the children also learnt all about the good cause of Red Nose Day. All the juniors showed great understanding and maturity when considering the possible mental health issues of other children.

Today Friday, the children will have worn red, bought a red nose and done a good deed for those that suffer. Let's see how much we raised.

And that was our fun, exciting but tough, observed week.

Have a good weekend.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman

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

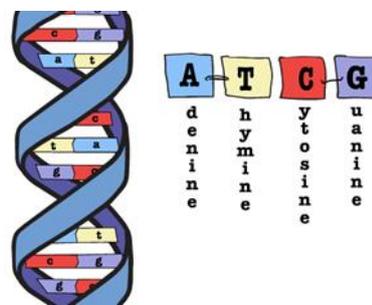
## Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

This has been a wonderful week for the students. They have had many opportunities to share the results of their hard work over the past three months. Laptops, ipads, files, exercise books, and even job applications for MI5, have been transported around the Junior Department to proudly show to the Inspection team.

We began our week with 'hyphens' and the children now appreciate that this little mark of punctuation is vitally important to avoid ambiguity. The students can identify where and why hyphens should be used in a text.

The pupils have been introduced to the 'World of Mr William Shakespeare'. Using books and the Internet, they researched Shakespeare's life, plays, his family, health, houses and clothes from this period and interesting facts about 'The Bard'. All this information has been posted on a giant 'Post-it' board and will later be transferred to a digital wall on Padlet, where we shall be able to work collaboratively to produce the Year 6 guide to Shakespeare.



This week's Open University experiment was thrilling – to extract DNA from a kiwi fruit. I asked the students to research, and post their discoveries about DNA on Edmodo before our Science lesson. All evening, my laptop was emitting pinging noises as the Year 6 Scientists uploaded detailed information about the topic. Armed with kiwis, alcohol wrapped in cold packs, washing-up liquid, salt and water I set up the Year 6 laboratory. After much cutting, mashing, sieving and waiting, we managed to extract the strands of DNA. As we enjoyed this experiment so much, we have decided to conduct a second experiment with a different fruit to compare our results.

With the help of champagne bottles (plastic), beakers and tubes, the pupils were challenged to find the constant relationship between the length of the circumference and diameter of a circle. After having recorded a few measurements the 'light bulbs' began to flicker until the discovery was made –  $\pi$ . So, this week the children have been mastering how to calculate the circumference of a circle and some students are now working on the formula for area.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we completed the unit " Tu habites avec qui?" (Who do you live with ?) from our book " Les Loustics". We did a vocabulary revision and the children wrote a post card to their family describing a place that they had visited. In French with Mrs. Scharf, we worked on the present tense of -ER verbs including manger, anger and other similar verbs. We had our weekly dictée of mots invariables and had a test for the féminin des adjectifs. We also did a reading comprehension about Saint-Nicolas.

Next week, we shall be continuing work on the Christmas production!

Enjoy a relaxing weekend,

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

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

In EAL this week

Reception

We worked on the story The Wind Blew by Pat Hutchins. It allowed us to work on vocabulary connected both to the weather, ordinal number and alternative verbs for take (e.g. the wind snatched and grabbed some of the objects). We are now part way through sequencing the story and are already very good at correctly ordering first to sixth.

Years One and Two

We have started work on vocabulary connected with transport. We named and sorted a variety of vehicles into the categories of – air, sea, road and rail. We also counted the wheels on various forms of transport, but the number of wheels found on a tram seems to vary! Finally we discussed what it actually means to 'transport' things and

tried to use our tenses correctly to convey our ideas as we sort to express more abstract concepts.

#### Years Three and Four

We have focused heavily on /ed/ endings for past tense (simple) regular verbs. Although we already have the ability to use them orally very successfully; in our writing we tend to make errors with their spellings and when we read them we sometime pronounce them incorrectly too. So we worked on the spelling rules and categorised them according to the sound they make (/id/, /d/ and /t/ as in – decided, danced and jumped). We made it fun by playing games and by doing a lot of cutting and sorting too.

#### Years Five and Six

We started work on idiomatic language or sayings. There are so many in English that we have started with the first category of The Body. We succeeded in become familiar with twenty! This was pretty impressive. We played games and acted them out to help us remember them and to retrieve their meaning. Everyone found ‘all ears’ funny as well as ‘itchy feet’. We also share idioms from our home languages, which was really fascinating.