

Home School Books – 22 January 2016.

Home School Book – Nursery

Excitement, excitement! It finally snowed! Just a little bit, but enough for the children to build some tiny snowmen indoors! We collected all of the snow we could into bowls and brought it inside, to see how long it would take for it to melt. We had a great science lesson, with lots of ‘why’, ‘what’ and ‘how’ questions. Of course the best thing about the whole activity was, IT WAS FUN! Some of the children have never played in, or even seen snow before, so it was a great experience for them. We also brought in a big block of ice with leaves and sand toys trapped inside; it was just like the ice age! Some great discussions and the photographs will be on the nursery web page soon.



Our story for this week was ‘Goldilocks and the Three Bears’. We looked at the Bears’ cottage and talked about what materials we might use to build a cottage, specifically looking at what a thatched roof was made out of. This leads into our story next week which will be, ‘The Three Little Pigs’. Then we can take a look at the variety of building materials used by the pigs to build their houses.

We also incorporated the three bears’ story into our home school book activity and talked about sizes, as part of our math skills. If you look opposite, you will see the three bowls of porridge, the one that was big, the one that was small and the one that was tiny. Talk to your little one and see if they can remember what size the chairs or the beds were in the cottage.

In our smart board activity we watched a lovely version of goldilocks and the three bears and each of the bowls had a letter, D for daddy, M for mummy and B for baby. We all listened to the sound of the each letter and decided which bowl belonged to which bear. Remember we always talk about the individual letter sound, during our phonic sessions, not the name of the letter.

Our talk topic this week is: Ask mummy or daddy to tell you the story of the three little pigs. What do you think the wolf’s house is made of?

Until next week, wrap, up warm and take a lovely walk in the park, see if you can find the three bears’ cottage!

Have a lovely weekend

Thank you

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

Our focus story for this week has been Ian Whybrow's and Adrian Reynold's 'Harry and his bucketful of dinosaurs'. We have also been watching Discovery Kids dinosaur videos, looking at the different types of dinosaurs. Their videos are very realistic and engaging for the children who really enjoyed them.



This week in phonics we have been using our sounds to help us name a variety of different types of dinosaurs. Despite the long names the children were beginning to be able to identify the different dinosaurs and what sounds they should look for in their names. We had one, very exciting, snowy morning. We spent a short part of the morning outside writing sounds and words in the snow.

In maths we have begun to look at estimating. The children were quickly able to get into the habit of making an estimation of how many objects in a handful, before going on to count them. We discussed the importance of making sensible estimations and the children caught on fast and turned out to be very good estimators.

In Reception we are enjoying our dinosaur topic. The children are all showing engagement in the many dinosaur based activities and have shown enthusiasm in the numerous dinosaur discussions we have had.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we have started our new projects:- animals. We have learnt lots of new animal names, the noises they make and songs with animals' names. We also played guessing games and we learnt how to draw some of them.

Finally, we would like to congratulate all of Reception for their participation in the winter production. The children have worked really hard learning the songs, dances and timings of the show so a big round of applause to them all.

Talk topic for Monday will be sharing our favourite dinosaurs and giving reasons 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,

I'd like to begin by congratulating all of the children for their super performances in our Winter Show. I thought they were fantastic as I'm sure all of you did too. They sang beautifully, did some lovely dances and actions and also spoke very well. It was a great way to feel cheerful on a cold January day!



The children are continuing to progress in their swimming skills at the pool and the children in class are learning some basic floor work in gymnastics. This week we practised the teddy bear roll and the pencil roll and I was impressed by their progress.

In literacy we have continued to talk about the story 'The Three Little Pigs'. This week the children wrote their own stories based on the structure of the story. They came up with their own characters and decided what their houses would be. Some super stories we had included 'The Three Little Unicorns and the Big Bad Dragon', 'The Three Little Brontosaurus and the Big Bad T-Rex' and the 'Three Little Rabbits and the Big Bad Fox' to name a few! Also in literacy we looked at the /or/ sound and the /ear/ sound. The children practised reading and writing words with those sounds.

In history we continued with our topic, 'A Street Through Time.' This week we looked at how bathrooms have changed over the last 100 years. Also on the theme of housing we did some super artwork based on Kandinsky's colourful street paintings. We also did a collaborative circle collage. Look out for our new Kandinsky display in class coming soon!

In maths we have been very busy continuing to practise counting on. We also reviewed the 3D shapes – cubes, cuboids, cylinders, spheres, pyramids and cones. We started to learn a great new song to remind us of the names of these shapes and their properties. We also practised counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have resumed our new story "Une maison de musiciens" and started by learning parts of the body. We sang "tête, épaule et genoux, pieds" and other fun songs which helped us memorise more easily all new vocabulary.

And that was our week!

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Patrick Tranter

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

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

Congratulations, and very well done to all the children on their great performances in the winter show this week. Also a very well done to the children who sadly had to miss the performance because of being sick: you also put great effort into learning your parts, and you performed extremely well in the practices.

On Tuesday 2nd February, the class will be making a visit to the park in Wezembeek. We will travel by bus, sharing the bus with the Year One swimming group. We will leave school at 10:55 and return by 12:45. We will need one or two adult volunteers to accompany us on the trip – please let me know by Thursday 28th January if you are able to come with us. Thanks very much.



This week in mathematics, we looked at mental addition, using the bonds to 10 (the pairs of numbers that make ten). To solve $37 + 8$, for example, we first brought 37 up to the next ten (by adding 3), and then added the remaining 5. The children then wrote these steps as $37 + 8 = ?$, $37 + 3 + 5 = ?$. In maths we also revised finding the difference between 2 numbers by counting up (either in our heads, or using a number line), and used this skill to calculate change in euros and cents.

In literacy this week, we looked again at using commas in lists, and then writing lists as part of sentences. We had fun making lists of, for example, dinosaurs, people in our families, electrical devices and colours. Our phonics focus over the last two weeks has been on alternative pronunciations of graphemes (letters and groups of letters), and the homework at the moment includes some work on this.

In computing this week, we worked on coding at the <http://www.code.org> website. We used the links on the Year 2 page of the school website (www.bisb.org) to find the coding site. I have recently added other links to the Year 2 page – please encourage your child to look at them. They also include the link to our dinosaur videos.

In French, we continued working on vocabulary related to Food. We talked about how we make a sandwich and what our favourite dish is. We also had a great time singing the song "J'aime les fruits!" (I like fruits) and "Je suis une pizza" (I am a pizza).

Please remember to send your child's library books back to school with them every Wednesday: they will not be able to borrow new books unless they have returned their old ones.

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,

What fun we had this week. Finally there was a bit of snow for us to enjoy and we did just that.

In Literacy this week we have been writing a report on our outing to Bozar on Tuesday. We are doing this on the iPad and are able to insert some of our photos that are to be found on the school website. In Guided reading one group began to read *The Popcorn Pirates* while the other group are finding out about the dark alongside Plop, The Owl who was afraid of the dark.

In Numeracy we have been revising the first term's work. It was fun because the children could choose which pages they wished to revise and it gave them responsibility for their own learning.

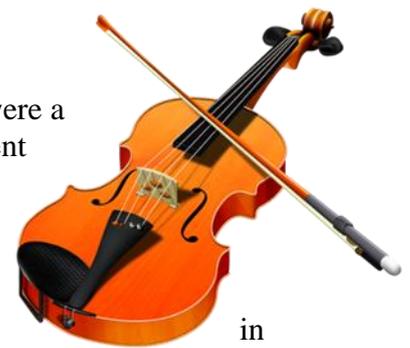
In Topic this week we carried on our look at the Vikings and will begin to concentrate on the more famous pirates next.

Leading on from this, our boats are coming along nicely with most of the class finishing the paper maché and beginning to paint their masterpieces.

Our PE this week was with Mr. Stedman and the class played handball.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on the unit "Qu'est-ce que tu vas faire?" (What are you going to do?) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We did a vocabulary revision and practised expressions in the Future Tense (Futur Proche). In French with Mrs. Scharf, we learnt to use "J'aime" and "Je n'aime pas". We also revised the 12 months of the year and we watched the story of "Ernest et Célestine".

Our trip to the Bozar on Tuesday was wonderful. The children were a credit to our school and we focused and followed every movement along with the leaders and the many other children who were there. What an experience it was to see a full orchestra and listen to such wonderful music.



Our talk topic this week is: Which is your favourite instrument in the orchestra? Why?

Have a super weekend.

Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

This week was very musical. The children took part in an orchestral workshop where they had to make body movements following the orchestra that was playing in the background. The children were absolutely amazing. It was hair rising to see how the children synchronised together with other children from other schools to make this all work perfectly.



This week in reading skills we looked at writing a book review on a book called “BABA YAGA and the stolen baby”. The children read the book silently in the classroom. We then had a class discussion about the book. The children then started working with their book reviews. This was a great opportunity to help the children learn to write a book review making sure they had all the information needed when reading a book review. The children enjoyed this lesson and shared their reviews with rest of the children. In Grammar we had a small revision test. The children did well and were given clarification if needed during the assessment if something was not clear. Next week we will continue with the next unit in our Grammar text books.

The children worked on a variety of lessons in maths. In the beginning of the week we started working on mental multiplication and division where the children had to work out problems by either multiplying and dividing by 10 or 100. The children worked at the very best by working out these sums in their head mentally. During the week we also looked at fractions. Our first few lessons were on fractions of amounts. The children worked on easy amounts like $\frac{1}{2}$ of 46 and then moved onto fractions like $\frac{3}{4}$ of 68. Once the children understood quantities of amounts we looked at equivalent fractions for the rest of the week.

As we have been working on the digestive system in humans, this week in Science we looked at different animal diets. We talked about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores and the differences in these animal diets. We looked at a power point giving us information about these different diets. The children completed some classroom work in their notebooks.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on the unit " Qu'est-ce que tu vas faire?" (What are you going to do?) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We did a vocabulary revision and practiced expressions in the Future Tense (Futur Proche). In French with Mrs. Scharf, we learnt to use "J'aime" and "Je n'aime pas". We also revised the 12 months of the year and we watched the story of "Ernest et Célestine".

The children begin their new art project on weaving wool on paper plates. The children worked on planning how they would paint and design their paper plate making a forestry background. They then used their plan and began painting on their paper plate using water paint. This will of course be continued next week where the

children will begin weaving their plates. We are all super excited to complete this art project.

This week's talk topic to discuss with your child is: What are the animals called that only eat plants? What is the reason why they only eat plants?

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,

This week, I let Artem tell the story of the week:

On Tuesday, we went to Bozar - an exciting event called MOVE! It was a musical concert with 5 dances that we trained for two weeks for. We also learned about the orchestra. It was so brilliant when the beat boxer made all his sounds. At the end we danced with glow-sticks in the dark; it looked amazing! [Sharing the experience with many, many other schools made the day really memorable. What a noise of positive energy we made! Enough to melt the ice on the roof, I'm sure]



Meanwhile in the classroom, in maths, we learned equivalent fractions and simplifying.

In literacy, we practised using the Passive voice and started thinking about writing a non-chronological report about rivers from our own country.

In Topic, we mapped rivers in Belgium and other parts of the world. [In particular, we used Google Earth to try to locate where the River Zenne enters and disappears under Brussels. A planned trip later in the term to the Sewers Museum should hopefully allow us to see the real thing. Later in the week, we began producing a Rivers Glossary and it's clear that by the end of this term these children will be true experts in their field – potamologists (apparently)]

On Wednesday in P.E, we played hockey. However, from now on, every Thursday after lunch, the Year 5 will go to Mrs. Vetter's class to teach us some art while Mr Stedman teaches Year 3 P.E. This week's artwork was a project on river life and food chains.

Life was also important in our Science lesson as the children expressed their understanding of plant reproduction in an illustration – from seed to sapling to tree or plant.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished our story "le mot interdit". In grammar, we studied l'impératif présent of -ER verbs and revised the infinitive of verbs. We also started a new vocabulary topic: the house.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on vocabulary related to the human face and body. We did vocabulary activities on www.languagesonline.org.uk and we practised how to describe simple health problems using the expression " J'ai mal à...". We also enjoyed reading the story "Va-t'en grand monster vert" by Ed Emberley.

And that was our week. Have a nice weekend.

Best wishes
Tim Stedman

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

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

What a cultural week it has been in Year 6. On Tuesday, we all enjoyed an amazing orchestral event at Bozar. The orchestra treated us to a selection of classical music and a track from Coldplay. There were dancers on stage to guide us through our pre-rehearsed movement routines. It was like being at a rock concert! The finale was spectacular; with the lights dimmed and armed with glow sticks, we 'chilled out' whilst moving to the music. As the sun was shining and the children had been so well-behaved, we decided to go and eat our lunch in the park followed by a visit to the playground. Wearily, we made our way back to school after a 'double outing'.



Within 24 hours, we were preparing for our next outing to see the Brussels Shakespeare Society perform Romeo and Juliet. After school, the children played a game of football, before the Year 6 Pizzeria opened its doors. Goodness me, the children must have been hungry; all the pizzas disappeared as did most of the ice-cream! We departed BISB at around 18.30 and then enjoyed a leisurely walk through Brussels to the theatre, where we met the director of the play. I think that he was astonished when the pupils spontaneously began to recite 'The Prologue' to Romeo and Juliet (14 lines). They then went on to discuss the different interpretations of the play that they had studied. This production was set in the 1990's and the children had their eyes fixed on the stage for the entire two and half hours. At 23.00 we left the theatre to head for home, tired but exhilarated.

Despite our hectic social life, we have managed to continue our work on Algebra and our first spelling crossword turned out to be a real challenge.

In Science, we concluded our Forensic Science module, by learning how to 'lift' fingerprints from drinking glasses. It took quite some time to perfect our method, but armed with cotton buds, paint brushes, make-up brushes, sellotape and black powder paint we succeeded! This morning, the classroom looks like a set from 'Silent Witness'.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished our story "le mot interdit". In grammar, we studied l'impératif présent of -ER verbs and revised the infinitive of verbs. We also started a new vocabulary topic: the house.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on vocabulary related to the human face and body. We did vocabulary activities on www.languagesonline.org.uk and we practised how to describe simple health problems using the expression "J'ai mal à...". We also enjoyed reading the story "Va-t'en grand monster vert" by Ed Emberley.

In computing, the students are writing algorithms. These include (1) to add five numbers together and then calculate the average and (2) swapping the values of x and y.

Enjoy your weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

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

In EAL this week,

Reception

We continued work on the vocabulary connected to comparing and contrasting things. This week, we extended our explanations and included a lot of positional vocabulary such as next to, behind, below etc. We also played some barrier games in which we had to describe to a partner what was in our picture.

Year One and Year Two

We continued work on the fairy tale Goldilocks and the three bears. We sequenced the events in the story and created picture books. We then took it in turns to give a small presentation on a chosen scene in the story using our books to guide us.

Years Three, Five and Six

We finished work on adverbs of frequency by creating our own card game. The whole process was very linguistically rich as we problem solved together a few teething problems with the format. In the end, we created something we were all pretty pleased with and in the process we found increasingly obscure adverbs of frequency as well as hilarious scenarios. We also revised contractions in different tenses.