

Home School Books – 05 February 2016.

Home School Book – Nursery

This week has been a special week in nursery and we have had great fun celebrating Chinese New Year.

We have talked about all kinds of special celebrations and of course the most familiar one for children is the birthday celebration. It is interesting to hear how different children perceive what a birthday celebration is all about. This also ties in with the Valentine day celebration and you can see opposite your 'little Valentine, look how much they have changed, since the first photograph taken when they started nursery.

Every New Year, in China, is represented by an animal and this year, is the year of the monkey. We also looked at all of the other animals from different years and the dragon was definitely the most popular!



The children watched a little clip on the smart board, showing the dragon dance and were absolutely fascinated by the swirling dragon made of paper. We then coloured in our very own paper dragon and tried to do a little dragon dance ourselves!

So the monkey didn't feel left out, we did a paper cutting activity, for the five little monkey's jumping on the bed rhyme. This also gave us a chance to observe how the children are progressing with their cutting out skills, it is not an easy skill for many to acquire, so please keep practicing at home as well. Just sit with your child and help them position their fingers correctly when using the scissors in hold. It doesn't matter what you are cutting out, pictures from old magazines, shapes or lines drawn on scrap paper, it is the doing that is the important element, not the end result.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Valentine's cake sale; the children definitely enjoyed their purchases and the money will go to a very worthy cause. Details of how much we made will be in the school newsletter. It was also lovely to see so many children dressed in red, it certainly brought a warm glow to the day!

Our talk topic for after the break is, 'look out for interesting things on your holiday, and tell us all about them when you come back to nursery'.

Please remember there is no school next week, so we will see you again on Monday, 15th of February. Our new theme after the half term is all about the farm, we will be looking at every aspect of farm life.

Until then, have a great half term break, enjoy whatever you are doing, wherever you are.

Thank you

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This week we enjoyed a collection of different dinosaur books, some funny and others more serious. Our focus story was Michael Foreman's 'Dinosaurs and all that rubbish'.

This week in literacy we have been looking at how to recognise, complete and form sentences by looking at the capitalised first letter, the full stop at the end and reading it to see whether or not it makes sense. We have also been practising our handwriting, making sure we still remember how to correctly form our letters and the correct orientation.



In maths we have spent the week looking at 3d shapes. We briefly covered 3d shapes before Christmas but we have started looking at them in more detail this week. The children are very good at recognising 3d shapes in their environment, linking them to a certain shape. The children are starting to name some of the 3d shapes, stating which 2d shapes are needed to make them.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we spent the week talking about carnival and all the dressing up clothes. We learnt a new song about a clown and coloured a beautiful mask.

Unfortunately it was a wet P.E. lesson so we stayed inside and played different dancing games such as musical bumps. The children also spent a short time after describing the effects that exercise can have on our bodies.

Talk topic for Monday 15th February will be sharing ideas about how we can help protect the earth.

We wish you a lovely half term break,

Naomi Gill and Ivana Julaton

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

It has been great to see that most children are feeling better and have returned to class this week. Let's hope that we are over the worst of the winter bugs, I'm looking forward to the Spring! In class this week we have been continuing with our topic 'A street through time.' This week we talked about toys that children played with 100

years ago and what toys we played with now. We found out that some toys from the past are still fun to play with even now.

The swimming group enjoyed their lesson this week and they are making great progress. The current group of swimmers have 2 weeks of lessons left after half term before the groups swap over and the second group of swimmers will start. The children who have stayed at school on Tuesdays have been making good progress with their gymnastics skills, with most being able to master the pencil roll and teddy bear roll.



In literacy we have done our PiRA reading tests this week and the children have made some pleasing progress with their reading and comprehension skills. We have also revised all of the phase 3 graphemes in our phonics lessons ready for moving on to phase 4 of our letters and sounds program after the half term break. We looked at the story of Jack and the Beanstalk and the children practised sequencing the events from the story, and putting full stops at the end of sentences. This work can be seen in their home school books this week.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we spent the week talking about carnival and how we want to dress up. We looked at masks, costumes and others accessories to dress up and listened to the story of Arlequin.

In maths we have continued to practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We also practised estimating quantities and then counting large numbers of objects by grouping them into sets of 10. In art we did another piece of work based on the artist Kandinsky. This time we printed using lots of different sized circles, to match the style of one of his pieces of work. Now our Kandinsky display is complete and it certainly brightens up our classroom! And that was our week.

Have a lovely half term break.

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,

I am very pleased that most of the children are fit and well again. I wish a speedy recovery to those who are still unwell. Sadly, our visit to the park had to be cancelled because of the rainy weather on Tuesday. I hope to make this visit when the weather is better, later in the term.

This week, we have spent much time on revision and assessment activities. On Monday, the class completed the Progress in Reading Assessment (PIRA) tests, which showed that progress is being made by all the children.

In literacy, we shared the story of Little Beaver and the Echo, and the children then wrote their own versions of the story. The children enjoy their writing, and are, mostly, beginning to structure their work in paragraphs. They are increasingly trying to use cursive script, which we practise in handwriting sessions, and which will help their fluency in writing.



The children also played a game with Mrs Keogh, involving the vocabulary that we had studied as part of our letters about our wonderful world. After the half term, a main focus in our weekly writing sessions will be to develop the use of wider ranging and more ambitious vocabulary.

In mathematics, we looked at telling the time. This is a hard skill, but the children are beginning to master it. We will keep working on this at school, and all the children should be able to tell the time from an analogue or digital clock, by the end of Year 2. We also revised the main concepts studied in this short half term, especially counting in tens and units, counting money, calculating change, properties of 3d shapes.

In French, we started a new unit on Clothes. We talked about winter and summer clothes, we read the book "On habille Fido" on www.readinga-z.com, and we sang and acted out the song "Promenons-nous dans les Bois" ("Let's Stroll in the Woods").

In coding this week, the children again worked on their own apps, using the Discovery Coding website, to which the school subscribes. The apps are now available for you to see. You can find the website via the link on the Year 2 page of the school website. Please encourage the children to show you this page, and the links on it.

We wish you a happy half term holiday, and look forward to seeing you again after the break.

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,

The weeks are flying by and this has been a really interesting week. We have not really been blessed with good weather but have managed to get by.

In Literacy we finished our stories on Pirate Attack and have also done a story about finding a treasure chest. The children have tried to use interesting and adventurous vocabulary, as well as focusing on correct punctuation.

In Numeracy we have been looking at place value and adding first the units and then the tens. We have done a lot of practice using this method.

In Topic we looked at other pirates and spoke about the lady pirates.

In science we finished our houses and put them out in the rain to check their efficiency. Happily they got rained upon and the toys inside remained dry. This proved to us that we used the correct materials in order to keep the toys dry. What a wonderful time we had constructing the houses.

In Art we are still busy with our Pirate ships. We have made our sails and are finishing off now. We also made Chinese lanterns and masks.

In PE we played football and luckily managed to get a full lesson in between the rain showers.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on vocabulary related to Food. We learned how to make sandwiches, how to read a menu and how to order at a restaurant. We also read a recipe for making crêpes (pancakes).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched another chapter of the film Zarafa and we talked about carnival. We listened to the story of Arlequin and made a beautiful mask. We also continued our new topic : clothes.

Have a lovely half term and if you are travelling, stay safe.

Valeria Vetter

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



Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

This week was full of fun. The children went on a trip this morning to the “Food and War” exhibition. We had a guided tour in the museum as well as took part in a cookery workshop. The children had tremendous fun and really enjoyed the trip. Following to all this excitement, the children also had fun celebrating the Chinese New Year.

In reading skills, the children read the comprehension “The Chinese New Year”. The children had the opportunity to learn interesting facts about the Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated. It was an informative comprehension and the children learnt many new fascinating realities of this celebration. The children are now very capable at answering questions orally as well as answering in their reading skills books. We continued working on sentences in Grammar. The children worked well making sure that their sentences had a subject, verb and an object. We continued working on activities from our Grammar text books.

In maths this week we worked on factor pairs, looking at money as well as money problems. Factor pairs was challenging, especially when looking at larger numbers. The children had to think of a pair of numbers that when multiplied together would give you the answer to the total. An example of a factor number is 48 and the factor pairs for 48 are: 1 and 48, 2 and 24, 4 and 12 and so on.

As we are celebrating the Chinese New Year with the children, we decided to make a Chinese dragon in our art lesson. The children used a variety of materials to design their dragon. They used many different colours designing lovely dragons. I hope you enjoyed them. We also made wonderful Chinese lanterns and Chinese Dragon Mosaic Wands that were ready packed and the children had to follow step by step instructions in order to put it together correctly. Art was crafty and very hands on this week.



In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on vocabulary related to Food. We learned how to make sandwiches, how to read a menu and how to order at a restaurant. We also read a recipe for making crêpes (pancakes). In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched another chapter of the film Zarafa and we talked about carnival. We listened to the story of Arlequin and made a beautiful mask. We also continued our new topic : clothes.

This week’s talk topic is to discuss with your child is: What tradition do you like best about the Chinese New Year?

Have an excellent half term holiday!!!

Despina Kafouris

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

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

Another wet week but nothing dampens spirits more than dreaded tests!!! This week we did our annual spring reading test and finished it with a writing assessment. The composition was a piece based on a river description echoing that of Grahame's wonderful *Wind in the Willows* one. What an opportunity, then, for the children to show off what they could do, descriptively and imaginatively. Anyway, this week's guest-star writer is Abhiram so over to him:

On Monday, we did music with recorders first thing and then we did function machines in maths (+~). Dada (Darius) had a doctor's appointment. In the afternoon, we did guided reading [focussing on finding words or sentences in the text which prove a point] and we did circle time. This is where we had to sit in a circle and play word games [and then discussed why we appreciate our friends]. Following that, we did grammar in French.

On Tuesday, we continued doing a document about a river. You had to do 700 words to finish the document. We all did different rivers.

In Science we did a little experiment of how seed design effects the efficiency of dispersal by air. We had to make a little thing where the seed had to sit in it and we had to drop it from a height [to mirror a tree]. Then we saw whose seed crosses the longest distance and Dada (Darius) won the game. [It seemed the bigger and bulkier the pod, the further the seed inside was carried. This was helped by a shell which opened up on impact]

We did the river document again on Wednesday [but had to think hard about how to finish the thing off skilfully and ensure we had all the features of a non-fiction text]! We played football for PE [practising running with the ball and shooting]; the white team won the match. Then we did problem-solving maths games [including this cracker <http://nrich.maths.org/2727>] before the day ended.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched a new chapter of the film "les choristes". In grammar, we had a test based on all the verbs we have studied so far. As for the vocabulary, we finished our exercises on household chores.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started a new unit on Food. We learned how to set a table for dinner and how to make a fruit salad. We also created a list of drinks that we like and, for grammar, we studied the articles "du" ,"de la" &"des".

What we haven't mention so far is the fantastic visit to the Food Museum and Mill; a very good exhibition about trench nutrition, provided by a super team, finished off with a highly memorable cookery workshop - a brilliant, unforgettable trip.

And that was our week. Have a nice weekend.

Best wishes



Tim Stedman

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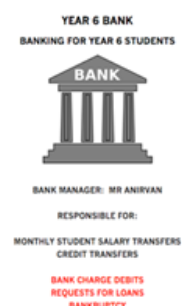
Please click [here](#) for our Year 5 webpage

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

Printing banknotes, setting fire to peanuts and making ‘soldier’s soup’; all in a week’s work in Year 6!

I have discovered how to print money! This week, we have been busy setting up the Year 6 Bank. All the students have their own bank accounts, we have a Bank Manager, and are now creating ‘Terms and Conditions’ which will include debit charges for certain occurrences; not handing in homework on time, being late downstairs at the end of the day etc.. Customers may also be given credit, in the form of Year 6 banknotes, with a redeemable code, to pay into their accounts. We hope to create an online ‘virtual’ shop ‘Sixazon’ where students can spend their money. As part of this banking project, I have arranged for us to visit the National Bank of Belgium on the 15th March 2016.



This week we studied how manufacturers measure and communicate what is in our food and how people with allergies and intolerance make sure that they don’t eat the wrong thing. As part of this study, we carried out an experiment to find out the calorific value of a peanut. This involved, setting fire to a peanut and placing this under a tablespoon of water. After battling against environmental conditions, we managed to ‘boil’ the water in the spoon. Then, using various calculations, the Year 6 scientists managed to work out the calorific value of the peanut. An additional focus of this experiment was to recognise the scientific inaccuracies of this experiment which the students correctly identified.

I am in the process of marking the pupils’ Romeo and Juliet essays which is proving to be an absolute joy; I am so very proud of their efforts.

In Latin, the students were thrilled when they ‘easily’ translated a passage’ Cerberus’ from the Secondary Cambridge Latin Course Book 1. Well done!

<http://www.cambridgescp.com/clc/webbooks/book1/?p=7>

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched a new chapter of the film "les choristes". In grammar, we had a test based on all the verbs we have studied so far. As for the vocabulary, we finished our exercises on household chores.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started a new unit on Food. We learned how to set a table for dinner and how to make a fruit salad. We also created a list of drinks that we like and, for grammar, we studied the articles "du" ,"de la" &"des".

We enjoyed our outing to the Food and War exhibition; you can see all the photographs on the BISB Year 6 website page. I was caught smuggling rations purchased on the 'black market' by Sergeant Stedman and the 'BISB soldiers' made a tasty vegetable purée from raw ingredients.

Today we shall be celebrating Chinese New Year, catching up with the News, learning about another of the '80 Treasures of the World' and finishing off the day with a Junior Department Quiz.

There is homework for the holidays; this is detailed on Edmodo.

Enjoy the half-term holiday.

Beverley Tranter

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

In EAL this week,

Reception

We are a group again- after so much illness last week! We have returned to the topic of animals and enjoyed the story 'Dear Zoo'. We described each of the boxes that the animals arrived in, in terms of size and colour and discussed why each animal did not make a suitable pet. Some of us remained unconvinced that a monkey would not make a good pet but no one wanted to take a grumpy camel home!

Year One and Year Two

Fully restored to our usual numbers, we returned in earnest discussing the genre of fairy tales. We enjoyed the three little pigs and also little red riding hood with the big bad wolf being the common thread in the two stories. We took it in turns to act out the main scenes and we all joined in as a chorus for the popular refrains.

Years Three, Five and Six

Sickness seems to have travelled over to the Junior building and so we revisited topics we have touched on before. We revised adjectives, with a view to really extending our vocabulary and used thesauruses to help us. After a lot of paper based activities we then had a quiz in which we had to demonstrate under quick-fire conditions that we could apply our new vocabulary in different contexts. It was fun, fast and at times frustrating but very worthwhile!