

Home School Books – 19 February 2016.

### Home School Book – Nursery

Welcome back after the break, we hope you had a good one, despite the holiday weather! Unfortunately we still haven't got rid of the flu virus that we had before the break, although many children are back and recovered from it. However it's still doing the rounds, so if your child shows any signs of a cold or flu, please keep them at home; nursery is not the place for sick children. Thank you for your understanding.

Our new topic on 'the farm' has started this week, with the song 'Old Macdonald had a farm'. If you don't know this song click the following link, for the version we have been singing in nursery <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWhqORImND0>  
The children did a maths activity on counting the different types of farm animals on old MacDonald's farm and then matching each group to the correct number. You can see the paper exercise on the page opposite. Many of the children can count by rote very well but don't actually recognise or match up the number of objects to a written number.



This is a great activity to practise at home, just start off with written numbers one to five on a piece of paper. Then ask your child to count real objects in groups and help them place the corresponding number beside the objects. For example, 5 buttons = the number 5 or 3 spoons = the number 3. This is simple but very effective for enhancing mathematical skills.

We are also looking at opposites, like, night and day, tall and small, open and closed. This is a great way of enriching children's descriptive language ability and introduces a new level of vocabulary. So on your way to nursery see how many opposite words you can use to describe things you see on the street or in the bus or the tram. The farm topic will continue for the rest of the term, so please remember to talk to your little one about all things farm related!

Our talk topic for this week is: 'What is your favourite farm animal, what sound does it make?'

Until, next week, have a great weekend.

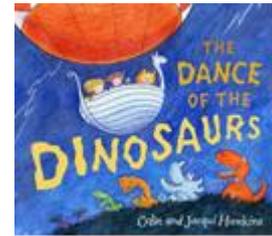
Thank you

Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove  
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Please click [here](#) for our Nursery webpage

## Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This week our focus story has been Colin and Jacqui Hawkins' 'The dance of the dinosaurs'.



This week in literacy we have been looking at rhyming words. The children have been completing activities where they not only have to recognise rhyming words by their endings but also by hearing the rhymes themselves, especially when they sound the same but don't look the same. We have also been continuing our work on sentences. The children are now very confident recognising sentences from simple phrases by looking out for full stops and capital letters.

In maths we have continued looking at addition and also learning a new method. The children have been looking at different number sentences, determining whether or not our fingers can be used or whether a number line is necessary. The children have been practising the counting on method, when the second number is below ten so we can count on using our fingers.

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.

We moved a lot in P.E. this week as it was so cold. The children moved in different ways, carefully negotiating the space around them. The children also completed some balancing activities.

Talk topic for Monday will be sharing what we have put in our rhyming bags.

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,

It has been a busy week as always in Year 1. We have continued with our topic 'A street through time' and continued to learn about toys that children played with in the past. Also in our lesson on design and technology we made teddy bears using paper fasteners to make the arms and legs move. The children practised their cutting skills and joining parts together to make a whole. This is part of a new unit of work we are doing on moving pictures. In the coming weeks we will also



make pop up cards, pull the tab pictures and lift the flap pictures.

Next week will be the last week of swimming for the group 1 swimmers. They have made super progress in their swimming skills and Mr Tranter and Mrs Prescott have been very pleased with their listening and behaviour at the pool. The gymnastics group have also made good progress and can now master some different rolling, travelling, balancing and jumping techniques.

In literacy we have moved on to the next phase of letters and sounds, phase 4, where the children learn to read and write words with initial and final consonant blends. This week we began with looking at words which start with st, sl, sn and sp. We learned to tell a new story, The 3 Billy Goat's Gruff, and we made story maps to show the main events from the story. Also in literacy we talked about how a sentence must make sense and practised matching the beginning and end of sentences so that they made good sense.

In maths we did a lot of work on odd and even numbers. We learned a new song called 'I'm a number cruncher' which teaches the children the rule for odd and even numbers and we made a new display called 'Odd and Even Street' to help us to remember them. We also had a first look at fractions this week. We talked about the words 'half' and 'quarter' and the children practised finding one half and one quarter of different shapes. You can see some of the work they did on this 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 other accessories to dress up and listened to the story of Arlequin.

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,

I am pleased to see the children again after what was clearly an enjoyable holiday for them all. We have enjoyed this first, freezing week.

In mathematics, we have been working on fractions. We have practised finding  $\frac{1}{2}$  of numbers, and we learned to divide shapes into halves, quarters and thirds. We learned how to write the fractions  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ , and then  $\frac{2}{3}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$ . There will be more work on this concept later in the school year,



but it would be helpful if you could talk about fractions when sharing out fruit etc. at home.

We spent two very interesting sessions discussing, in small groups, some key questions relating to our topic, especially the theme of why adults need to provide homes and other things for their young. The children recorded their ideas in a range of ways, on paper, as video, and in written form posted onto a page on the padlet website (which you can see here <http://padlet.com/kread11/v7qvvyhy58xvv> ).

Their ideas were profound, and showed a level of deep thinking of which they should all be proud. One of the questions is our talk topic for the week: Would it be better if we were born as adults, instead of taking time to grow up?

As part of our literacy work this week, we have been practising writing questions. Since September, we have been developing the skills of asking questions orally, in games. Now we are consciously looking at the grammar, specifically the word order, in questions.

In our Big Writing session, we wrote an essay, about one of the key questions from our topic discussion: What do animals need from their parents when they are very young?

In French, we completed our unit about "Clothes". We did many vocabulary activities and we really enjoyed reading the funny story " Je m'habille et je te croque" ( I get dressed and I come to eat you) by Bénédicte Guettier.

Next week, Mrs Keogh will begin taking the class each morning, as part of her teacher training programme. She will be teaching the areas of the English National Curriculum that were planned for this part of the school year. In mathematics, she will work on multiplication (including memorizing the 2x, 5x, 10x and 3x tables, and division). In Literacy, she will teach the children about myths and legends, as well as covering the relevant phonics and grammar.

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

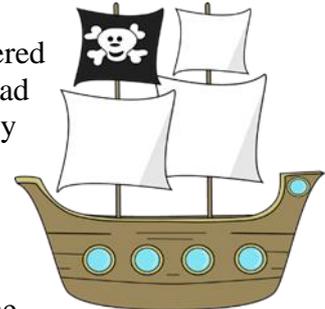
Dear Parents,

It was lovely to see you all back after half term. Although cold, it has been sunny outside and this definitely increases the morale.

In Literacy this week we have been concentrating on singular and plural nouns. We have looked at different ways in which to make plurals and have found out that it is not always easy. In Phonics we did work on syllables and different letters that make the same sound.

In Numeracy we began with a look at fractions and then discovered that our knowledge of the 3 and 4 times table was not exactly up to scratch. So, we concentrated on these instead. The class has no doubt told you of the impending test on Monday and I would like them to practice these facts at every possible moment. In fractions we learnt how to add and to look for a common denominator. We also worked on fractions of numbers.

In Topic we carried on our research into pirates and have discovered that some pirates had a bad name even though they were not as bad as all that. Each child is researching a different pirate so hopefully we will have some results soon. Researching is difficult as we need to be sure of our facts and then produce our document.



In Science this week we wrote up our experiments of the waterproof houses and have put on a little display downstairs. The children worked well in their groups to create these write ups. This was a well done educational project.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on our unit related to Food. We did many vocabulary activities and we learned how to order from a menu at a restaurant. In grammar we practiced the use of the partitive articles "du", "de la", "des". 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.

In Art we finished off our pirate ships and we are very proud of them. We started making a treasure chest and we even made the treasure to go into them.

In PE the children had fun honing their ball skills in the sun.

Our talk topic this week is: Pirates usually had gold and gems as their treasure. What will you put into your treasure chest?

Valeria Vetter

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

## Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

The children were thrilled to return to school. The Year 4 children had time first thing on Monday morning to share their news about their half term holidays. Many children had missed school and were extremely happy to return to school.

In literacy this week we talked about newspaper articles and the importance of reading a newspaper. We also discussed about the different topics that can be read in the newspaper why it is important to read n newspapers. So, in reading skills, the children read a newspaper article called “The 10,000 miles message in a Bottle”. We looked at the newspaper article discussing all the various features of a newspaper article. The children then worked on different comprehension questions about the article.



In Grammar we worked on ‘Possessive’, a noun which tells us who the owner of something is. We had looked at how we write the noun when it has one owner or more than one owner.

We concentrated on fractions and decimals in greater depth. Last time we looked at fractions but this time we looked at mixed fractions and how they can be converted into decimals. We then worked on mixed numbers and tried working out finding its equivalent fraction. The children worked hard on ordering decimals in the correct place value on a number line.

In topic we talked about a famous Paralympics swimmer called Jessica Long. We looked at her biography and how much she has achieved in her life. The children were amazed to see how well she has done and were keen to learn more about the history of her life.

In Science we started our new section on States of Matter. We looked at the differences between solids, liquids and gases and named different things that relate to each one of these matters.

In art we began our Papier Maché Fish. This week the children started the art activity by laying pieces of newspaper on their balloons. The children were super excited and were singing from excitement during the lesson although there were a few that didn’t like the feeling of the water and glue when using their fingers

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on our unit related to Food. We did many vocabulary activities and we learned how to order from a menu at a restaurant.

In grammar we practised the use of the partitive articles "du", "de la", "des".

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: How can you help a people who have a disability in a public area that might need help? List a few things that you could do to help them?

Happy Weekend!

Despina Kafouris

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

### Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

Nearly all the children seemed to have been skiing on holiday last week and they were energised and ready to get back to work.

We started the week with a new Literacy unit on River Poetry and we went about looking for ways in which poets had used personification to bring their rivers to life. Maths on Monday was exploring decimals and their place in the number system. This led to some multiplication work and then an interesting investigation involving tenths and hundredths. In the afternoon Circle Time, we considered what we want to achieve in the short and long term.

Tuesday is our busiest day, however, and to begin, we diligently did the job of finishing our River Reports but also including sections on animals which live in or beside these rivers. The children wrote of wolves, tigers, pink dolphins and eels to name just a few.

It's been a long, painstaking process but the reward has been excellent results and a sense of pride at what they've produced.

In Literacy, we conjured up some personification magic to describe other names for rivers (e.g. creeks, brooks, streams).

In the afternoon, we added decimals and discussed techniques of doing them and then in Science we planted beans to prove some theories about what plants need to grow.

In PE on Wednesday afternoon, the children enjoyed handball keeping moving throughout to battle the cold.

This Thursday at the Castle Club the regular swimming coach was absent and a young lady substituted. With little English on her part but a lot of French on this Year 5 cohort's part, this created the unprecedented situation of a session in the Wezembeek pool entirely in French. There was a lot of focus on technique and this lady helped iron out the children's front crawl 'glitches'. [Note that next week is our final session in the water.]

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 completed our project on Food. We did a survey on what type of food we like and we learned how to make a "Gâteau au fromage blanc et aux fruits" (Cheese cake with fruit).



Finally, today was our scheduled trip to the Sewers Museum. Photos to come shortly.

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,

I do hope that all enjoyed your holiday, wherever you may have been. We began this week with a Maths test and due to sickness before the break, some pupils still had to write their essays about Romeo and Juliet. I think that now, we are all up to date.

Our new topic is about the explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton and his adventure to Antarctica. The first challenge was to track the Expedition, so, the students learnt how to use latitude and longitude coordinates. This activity was extended to include being able to find more precise coordinates, therefore, some of the budding Year 6 explorers are now able to pinpoint locations using minutes and seconds. Using latitude and longitude coordinates listed in the expeditions' timeline, the students plotted Shackleton's journey on the ship, Endurance.



In literacy, the students have been given their new 'Year 6 Book Club' book: 'Mrs Chippy's Last Expedition', which is about the remarkable journal of Shackleton's Polar-bound cat. The pupils also revised: adverbs of manner, time, place, degree, probability and using sentence adverbs to add comment to a clause. On Monday, we shall have the first of our Spag revision tests in preparation for the summer examinations; the topics for this are detailed on Edmodo.

The CIMT group is working on Chapter 8, Year 8 book A: using the 4 operations with directed numbers, multiplying out single brackets, solving linear equations involving

one pair of brackets, factorising expressions using brackets and multiplying out two brackets using a results table. The Year 6 group is focusing all their efforts on conquering adding fractions with the same and different denominators.

We have nearly completed our Open University course on Nutrition. This week, the Year 6 scientists have been evaluating healthy eating advice from around the world, how much water should we drink, the global obesity epidemic and bariatric surgery. They, bravely, watched a video of a surgeon performing a gastric bypass.

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 completed our project on Food. We did a survey on what type of food we like and we learned how to make a "Gâteau au fromage blanc et aux fruits" (Cheese cake with fruit).

One of the highlights of the week, was seeing our classroom on the Taiwan United Daily News website! Also, Mrs Chang (now in Taiwan) emailed to say that the boys were so excited to see photographs of BISB Year 6 in their Taiwan newspaper! My sincere thanks to Ms Angela Hsiao for writing this article about our Mandarin lessons. Please see

<http://udn.com/news/story/6812/1503972> and  
<http://udn.com/news/story/6812/1503976>

Happy weekend!

Kind regards,

Beverley Tranter

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

In EAL this week

Reception

We discussed the holidays and paid attention to using the past tense correctly and to listening and commenting on each other's news in simple sentences. We also continued work on the topic of animals, by sharing the story Brown Bear What Can You See- written by Eric Carle. We sequenced the animals and repeated the whole story out loud together. The simple refrains and repetitive language make it a joy to share!

Year One and Year Two

We continued on our meandering tour through the genre of fairy tales. This week we took in the sights and sounds of Little Red Riding Hood. We compared three versions and were all surprised at quite how gruesome two of them were! In one version both Grandma and Red Riding Hood were cut out of the wolf's stomach! We then embarked on a play script version of the story, which we are all very excited about!

### Years Three, Five and Six

we worked on finding information from texts at a deeper level than simple direct retrieval. We have tackled this before in terms of fiction (inference), but this week we looked at maps and timetables. All the questions were designed to challenge our critical thinking skills as well as polish off some technical vocabulary too. The airport exercises were hilarious, as at times, inadvertently ended up on the wrong flights, as we had not checked carefully enough if they were the direct or indirect flights!