

Home School Books – 26 February 2016.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Our farm topic has really taken off this week and the children have had great fun playing in our role play farm shop. We looked at all of the different types of food you might find on sale in a farm shop and then put them into categories i.e.: dairy, vegetables, fruit, bread and meat. This was a very simple but effective method of helping the children to think through how to mathematically group different objects.



We also talked about where different animals on the farm might live, especially during the winter, when they can't be out in the fields so often. If you look opposite you will see where your little one placed each animal in their farm.

The children enjoyed an interactive game on the smart board, they were given a series of clues and then had to guess the animal that was hidden in the farm yard. This sort of guessing game can also be played at home, without the smart board. Just choose an animal, then use different words to describe what the animal looks like, starting with the less obvious features first. Children love guessing games and it is a great way of introducing new vocabulary.

We also played the, pull a face game, in group time. The children were asked to show which facial expression they would use, if they were happy or sad or scared or angry etc. One of the curriculum areas in nursery is Personal, social and emotional development, so this is a great way for the children to express and talk about feelings.

Just a few reminders: we know the weather has been cold recently and understand parents worry that their child will not be warm enough. However, some children are coming to nursery in so many layers of clothing it restricts a lot of their independence skills, like being able to pull sleeves up to wash hands or layers of tights and trousers down to go to the toilet. Please remember your child is indoors most of the day, so a warm coat plus a hat, scarf and gloves on top of school uniform and one set of undergarments, is all that is needed for outside play. Layer upon layer is just too much for the children to deal with and it doesn't allow them to regulate their body heat, especially when we are doing a PE session outside. Thank you for your understanding.

Thank you to everyone for making a big effort to get to Nursery before the whistle goes at 9am. It really has made a difference to the amount of interruptions during group time on the carpet, which is a very important part of your child's day, as we have explained in previous newsletters.

Our talk topic next week is: 'Do you like to drink Milk?' What food do you eat that is made from milk?'

Until next week, have a great weekend.

Thank you

Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove

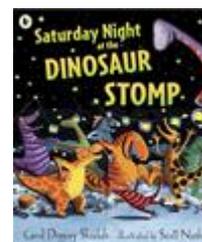
nurseryteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

We have enjoyed our last week looking at dinosaurs, finishing off this topic with Carol Diggory Shields' 'Saturday Night and the Dinosaur Stomp'. The children have been enthusiastic with this topic, showing eager participation in the dinosaur focussed activities and we finished this topic off on a high. Next week we start our new topic on families.



This week in literacy we have been looking back at the digraphs we have learnt so far and looked at two new digraphs /oa/ as in g/oa/t and /ie/ as in p/ie. We have also continued our work with sentences. The children created three dice containing sentence beginnings, middles and endings, the children have been rolling their dice to see what different sentences they could make, both nonsense and real.

In maths we have been continuing our addition adventure, the children can confidently recognise and work out the addition of two single digit numbers. We have also been looking at subtraction and recognising the difference between the addition and subtraction symbol.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we have been learning lots of new songs all based on our animal theme. We also started listening to a story summarising everything we have learnt so far : asking names, colours, counting, animals etc. called "Lily la grenouille".

We would like to thank everyone who has returned their consent forms and money for our upcoming trip to see the dinosaur's exhibition on Wednesday 2nd March, if you have yet to do so please could you bring them in on Monday. You should have also received a letter about the start of Reception's swimming classes for group one on Thursday 3th March. If you have not received this letter or have any further questions, feel free to come and ask.

Talk topic for Monday will be describing a chosen member of the family. For examples, what are their likes and dislikes, what do they look like?

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,

This week was the last week for the group 1 swimmers at the pool. They have all made good progress with their skills and enjoyed their lessons. Next week, group 2 will have their first swimming lesson. These children will need to bring in a towel and swimming costume in a named bag on Tuesday. Please also avoid dressing your child in tights on Tuesdays as it is difficult for them to change out of them. Also we are still looking for volunteers to help on Tuesday mornings with getting the children ready to swim. If you think you can help us in this way please sign your name on the list on the door or send us an email.

We've continued with the story of 3 Billy Goat's Gruff in our literacy lessons. This week we focussed on the character of the Troll and we made wanted posters to try and find him. The children focused on using descriptive language such as sharp teeth, huge ears and indigo coloured skin.



In phonics we have continued to focus on consonant blends such as cl, bl, fl and gl. Also we have finished covering the 100 tricky words in our phonics programme so the children's tricky word book can remain at home now. It is a good idea to ask your children to read the words in the books now and then to make sure they retain their ability to read them.

In maths we have practised number facts this week. We have learned the doubles all the way up to double 10. We practised the number bonds (pairs) that make 10 when added together, then we looked at the pairs of numbers that make 20. The children also did some work on number stories and finding half of different quantities such as 6, 8 and 10.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we carried on listening to our story "une maison de musiciens" and read stories on the theme of the body. We also listened to a song summarising all body parts and we wonder what will happen to the piano in the story because "il est malade" and the doctor must come.

In our design and technology lesson we continued with our theme of moving pictures by making a pop-up card which will be a special surprise for all the mums at the end of next week! We also continued with our science lessons on materials. This week the children used words to describe materials such as transparent and opaque, hard and soft, bumpy and smooth and strong and weak. You can see some of the work they did on this in their home school books this week.

And that was our week.

Camilla Rutayisire and Patrick Tranter

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

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

This week the children have been working each morning with Mrs Keogh, as part of her teacher training programme. In mathematics, she has begun the study of multiplication by looking at repeated addition, and introducing the x sign. In literacy, the class is beginning their study of legends and myths, by talking about what makes a hero. They enjoyed a Big Writing session, writing stories about their own invented heroes. In relation to this work, the children are learning how to include speech in a story, firstly using speech bubbles as in comic strips, then going on to using speech marks to delineate the words spoken. The phonics focus this week was on alternative spellings of the sound ai . Over the coming weeks, the class will continue to look at alternative spellings for different sounds.



The bad weather made outdoor PE impossible on Monday, but that gave us the opportunity to do a retelling of the story Little Beaver and the Echo using musical instruments. The children performed very well, listening, concentrating and awaiting their turns. We also learned the song Land of the Silver Birch, as an introduction to the musical story. We will revisit this activity, and may make a recording of it.

In our science session, we planted lettuce seeds, which we hope will grow in the classroom to the point where we can eat the lettuces. We are discussing the ways in which plants, as living things, are similar to animals (especially in that they grow and need food and water), and the ways in which they are different. In the coming weeks, we would like to look at as many different seeds as we can find, and to plant several of them. It would be helpful if your child could bring fruit for their snack on some days, along with the seeds of the fruit.

In French, we talked about Breakfast. We did many vocabulary activities; we watched the short animation film "Le muesli de Telma & Toula" and sang the song "Céréales et pain grillé".

The talk topic this week is What makes a hero? Please find a moment to discuss this at home. Thank you.

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,

We have, as usual, enjoyed a full and busy week.

In Numeracy we revised what we knew on fractions and then practiced changing fractions to a common denominator. We then found out we could add fractions easily. The next logical step was to talk about decimals and with the class full of eager beavers we investigated further. The children now have a rudimentary knowledge of decimals and can see their relationship to fractions. Our speed tests this week went well with each child improving so for the foreseeable future I am going to carry this on. Next week we will be concentrating on the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

In Literacy we have been enjoying the world of collective nouns and have tried our hand at some pirate related ones. We also read a lovely story about a man and flying books, *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore*, which led to a discussion on what books would do if they came alive. This has laid the foundation for Friday's Big Writing which features books. In phonics we carried on with tricky words and rules regarding adding - d (past tense). In guided reading Plop found out about drawings when he met the Christmas lady.



In Topic we carry on with our research into pirates. Next week we shall be creating a poster with all the facts we have learnt.

Science was again interesting and we did an experiment to determine the strength of threads. We chose some different threads and then tied them to a plastic bag in which we put rocks. We then recorded our findings in our science books. Great concentration and scientific thinking went on in the classroom.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we worked on the unit "Qu'est-ce que tu préfères?" (What do you prefer?) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We talked about our preferences in food, sports and hobbies and for grammar we practised some verbs in the Present Tense.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still working on our clothes topic and have created a book based on the famous rhyme "Promenons-nous dans les bois", which actually helped us to memorise quite a few pieces of clothing.

In Art we designed a Treasure Island style game. We worked on adding moves and activities and then played the games. A lot of creative fun.

We had fun in between showers of varying precipitation playing handball in PE.

Our talk topic this week is: What is your favourite book character? What would you ask them if you happened to meet?

Have a relaxing weekend,

Best wishes

Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 4

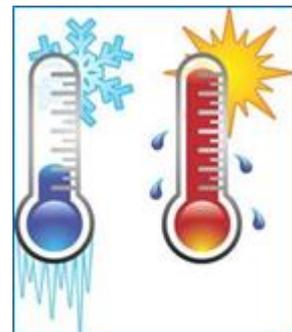
Dear Parents,

In Literacy this week the children used the school iPads to find information about our school from the schools website. The children were tremendously happy to read about the school and of course were overwhelmed when they found pictures of themselves and the teachers. The children carefully looked through the website and jotted down important information. Once they collected the information needed, they wrote their very own newspaper article about our wonderful school. The children used persuasive language making sure the article was eye catching for the reader's eye.

In Grammar we continued working on Possessive nouns. The children completed the other activities given from the Grammar textbook. The children are working so well in Grammar. Well done Year 4's!!

We had worked on Money in Maths this week. The children had the opportunity to recap and look at the different euro coins as well as the euro notes. The children looked at pounds and pennies too. The children practised changing pounds into pennies and vice versa. We worked on adding money and making sure to write the given amounts correctly into the precise columns. The children found adding money tricky at first, only because they were writing the amounts incorrectly in the columns. When we reached the end of the week, the children worked with more confidence and accuracy.

In Science we looked at temperature. We firstly had an important discussion about what temperature is and how temperature changes? The children were eager to learn more about temperature and climate changes around the world. The children had a go at looking at a thermometer and reading the temperature inside and outside of the classroom. The year 4 scientists have been experimenting by measuring the weather on a daily basis and recording their results onto a weather chart.



In topic we continued looking at a famous sport celebrity. As this was the last week for researching on a famous sport player, the children were allowed to research on a sport celebrity of their choice. Many children were happy to research on famous cricket and football players. The children are always interested in finding information and take pleasure in recording what they have researched. Now it's time to write up about themselves so, next week the children will be making their very own timeline about themselves. Could you please find 10 photographs of your child and put them into an envelope with their name on it. The photographs will be stuck on a timeline so, if you would like you may scan them so the original pictures are not used. I would kindly ask you to find one picture for every year since they were born. For example:

The day they were born, their first birthday, the day they went on their first holiday, Christmas in another country, when their baby brother or sister was born etc. It will be a fun activity for the children and each child will learn about each other's lives.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we worked on the unit "Qu'est-ce que tu préfères?" (What do you prefer?) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We talked about our preferences in food, sports and hobbies and for grammar we practiced some verbs in the Present Tense.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still working on our clothes topic and have created a book based on the famous rhyme "Promenons-nous dans les bois" which actually helped us to memorise quite a few pieces of clothing.

In art we continued working on our Papier Maché Fish. The children continued applying newspaper onto their balloons that were dipped into water, glue and flower. Their fish are looking good but the children still have another 3 weeks before the art activity is completed. They will look FABULOUS!

This week's talk topic is to discuss with your child is: What is a thermometer and how does it work?

Have a wonderful Weekend!

Despina Kafouris

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

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

Winter is refusing to budge [like a boss, apparently] but not the rivers we have been looking at. Indeed, Year 5 are beasts [in full flow]! This week we considered how rivers provide livelihoods for people and why towns and cities are founded beside or near rivers.

Now over to Dada who volunteered himself to write this week's round up. In his own words, Dada is writing!

Dada is writing the report again!!!

So, on Monday morning we worked on the iPads and Keynote/Pages to learn and write a poem off by heart. (I chose the easiest one, sorry). Trust me, it was hard to choose because the poems were so good!

[Later in the week, the children had to write their own poems and the imagery they created was good]

When it was the afternoon (I think) we did circle time. We talked about what is a friend (and how we feel when it rains which was apt because it poured the whole day).

Later in the week we did music. We learned to sing songs from The Wind in the Willows [which will be our Summer Show].



Soooo on Tuesday morning, Ishika came back with a broken finger. Well, it looks like she saved the best for last. Ishika worked really hard during the week while I felt gruesome. And she will most likely win the certificate.

On Wednesday PE, we did hockey and Céline sprained her ankle. Also, we created a maths problem for Year 6. It was kinda hard.....[but they all managed to solve it. Well done, Year 6]

As Darius says, Maths this week was indeed problem solving but also more technical addition of decimals, e.g. $12.04 + ? = 19$

In Science, meanwhile, we explored pollination and how it happens but the real test was learning all the parts of a flower – a lot of technical words with lots of different functions.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we started watching a new film based on a famous book for children "Ernest et Célestine" which won quite a few awards. We also started working on our new theme : food. In grammar, we revised "aller au marché / à la boulangerie / à l'épicerie".

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started a new unit on Clothes. We did many vocabulary activities in our book "Les Loustics" and on www.languagesonline.uk.org. For grammar, we studied the gender (feminine / masculine) and the number (singular/ plural) of the adjectives.

And that was our week.

I hope you received my email regarding our trip to the forest in 2 weeks' time. For me, this is the highlight of the year and something I always look forward to. For the children, it slightly divides opinion but what is definitely true: the children never forget this trip. I just hope for warmer temperatures but the rain can stay; when it rains, all manner of surprises come out of the forest.

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,

The Year 6 explorers are finalising their itineraries and budgets for their expedition to Antarctica. Each member has been given a grant of £2,500 to cover: travel, visas, cold-weather clothing, emergency medical provisions and incidentals. The Year 6 Bank Manager will transfer this sum to each of the pupils' accounts, in addition to their February salaries, within the next three days. Should an explorer encounter financial difficulties during the voyage, a bank loan may be requested, however, interest will be charged (terms and conditions apply).

The Endurance is now stuck in pack-ice and Sir Ernest has decided that the ship should become a 'base' until the ice melts. Mrs Chippy, the ship's cat, is quite happy about this situation, as it makes her life much easier. She spends most of the day ensuring that the boiler room is warm enough, she occasionally goes below decks for a work-out involving catching mice, and weather permitting, will venture onto the top deck to stretch her legs!



Our next combined scientific/ design technology/computing project is animation; 'the illusion of movement as the persistence of vision; by presenting a sequence of still images in quick enough succession, the viewer interprets them as a continuous moving image'. Our first challenge was to create a 'flip-book', using post-it notes, of a ball moving, our next flip-book will be more complicated. After this, we shall be creating our own 'Morph' characters; <http://www.aardman.com/work/#filter=.morph> and filming these using the app <http://animate-it.com>

The students have worked hard and endured tests on fractions and algebra, next week we shall begin our revision of shape and space.

Next week's Spag test will cover the following topics: connectives, word structure, onomatopoeia, identifying use of adverts, the possessive apostrophe with plurals, formal and informal synonyms, endings 'tion, sion and cian' and adding vowel suffixes to words ending with y.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we started watching a new film based on a famous book for children "Ernest et Célestine" which won quite a few awards. We also started working on our new theme : food. In grammar, we revised "aller au marché / à la boulangerie / à l'épicerie".

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started a new unit on Clothes. We did many vocabulary activities in our book "Les Loustics" and on www.languagesonline.uk.org. For grammar, we studied the gender (feminine / masculine) and the number (singular/ plural) of the adjectives.

Our topic in Mandarin is parts of the body; the students performed brilliantly in last week's test about 'What are you called? I am called...'. We have received an email from the team at 'Chineasy' congratulating us on our efforts to learn Mandarin. <http://chineasy.org>

We read through the script of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' in Latin, and armed with some bowls, wooden spoons and a blue wig (no blonde one available!), we were just about to act out the play, when Mr. E. Prescott arrived for the weekly Ukulele lesson. Auricoma – to be continued...

Have a great weekend,

Best wishes,
Beverley Tranter
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 6 webpage

In EAL this week

Reception

We rounded our work off on animals, by enjoying the book- Walking through the jungle. We sang it as a song and really enjoyed making up sounds and actions for each animal too. We also played a lot of animal lotto games and named quite an extensive and exotic range of animals! I am happy to report that chickens are no longer referred to as pigeons..... Which is most likely a great relief to the feathered community!

Year One and Year Two

We revisited the story of the Billy Goats Gruff (as our numbers were down due to illness and we were reluctant to start Rumpelstiltskin without them!) and focused on craft activities and instructional and mathematical language. How often can the warning words 'don't cut along the dotted lines!' be exclaimed in vain.....quite often it seems!

Years Three, Five and Six

We finished work on the essential skills of -note taking and summary writing and we really excelled ourselves! Never underestimate just what can be achieved, is my new maxim, as I really was truly impressed by our efforts.