

Home School Books – 4 March 2016.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

The children have had a great time down on the farm with the cows this week. We have had fun finding out how cows give us milk and that it doesn't just come from the shop! We looked at how cows can be milked by machines or how they can be milked by hand and what the milk looks like when it comes out of the cow's udder. We also looked at a calf drinking milk from the mummy cows udder to help it grow big and strong. This led onto a discussion about how milk can help us grow and how good it is for our bones and teeth. A lot of information to process but your children soaked up all of the new knowledge like sponges and had some interesting and funny things to contribute to the discussions!



We also discussed what other food can be made from milk and decided ice cream was a firm favourite and one little chap said, he liked the cow that made the chocolate milk best! We also talked about the cow as a sacred animal and how important cows are in many parts of the world but especially to Hindus in India, some of our children were very chatty about this and were happy to share their experiences with the wider group.

You will find an envelope in the home school book this week with a game of Farm dominoes inside. Everyone has played the game, so they know the rules. Ask them to show you how to play and remember - no cheating allowed! This is a great way of introducing a simple matching game and waiting patiently for others to take their turn, not an easy task for some!

The children also had a great time doing some creative collage work with Mrs. Flynn our voluntary helper in nursery. You may or may not have seen Mrs. Flynn yet, but please introduce yourselves to her when you do. She has been associated with the school over many years and was our school's first music teacher. This collage activity is great for helping the children to become more dexterous with their finger and hand movements, as it promotes fine motor skills which are needed to tear and stick small bits of paper into a recognizable pattern.

It is mother's day in the UK this Sunday, so as we are a British school, the children have made a lovely card for their lovely mummies, which you will also find in their folder this week. Maybe the wonderful daddies can go out and buy a box of chocolates to compliment it and I'm sure your little one will help you eat them!

Next week is all about farm machinery and our talk topic is: 'why do farmers drive tractors? What is the job of the tractor on the farm?'

Until next week, have a great weekend.

Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

What an exciting week in Reception this week with our trip to the dinosaur museum and our first swimming session. We have also started our new topic of families, enjoying a collection of Antony Browne's books, such as 'My Mum', 'My Dad' and 'My Brother'.

This week in literacy we have been reviewing the /oa/ and /ow/ sound and trying to distinguish between the words that use /oa/ as in goat, and words that use /ow/ as in bow. The children also created their own short stories in the same form as Browne's 'My Mum' using a chosen family member.

In maths we have been playing different subtraction games, getting used to the difference between the addition and the subtraction symbols. The children have quickly got used to using their fingers to take away the numbers, and are showing increasing confidence in doing so.

We had a wonderful morning at the dinosaur museum, exploring the dinosaur exhibition. The children used their dinosaur knowledge to compare the different skeletons and fossils. We are hoping to put some photos on the website in the next few days for you to see at home.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we have been revising all our songs and learnt new ones too. We like one in particular "une souris verte" which we have learnt and started making a little book of. We also listened to the story "Lily la grenouille".

We had a successful first swimming session for group one. They tried hard to listen and follow the instructions given by the swimming teacher. We have noticed that some children have the same swimming costumes and towels so we'd like to just remind you if you could make sure everything is labelled to avoid any accidental swapping.

Talk topic for Monday will be sharing our knowledge on how to correctly care for, look after, a baby.

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 we have been thinking about our mums and how special they are to us. The children completed a series of sentences all about their mums and drew a picture of them in their home school books this week. They should also have taken home a little surprise for their mums! In our design and technology lesson we have continued with our work on moving pictures and this week we made 'lift the flap' pictures of the nursery rhyme, 'There was an Old Lady who Lived in a Shoe.' The children learned how to make tabs so the flaps could be opened and closed.



We have continued to think about materials in our science lesson. This week the children did an investigation to find the best material to use to replace the curtains in the three bear's house after Goldilocks had ruined them. They had to test different materials to find one that would keep out the light, hang down and have a nice pattern on it to interest baby bear. You can see the best material that we found on display in class.

We have continued with our phonics and this week we began to look at words with the final consonant blends lp, mp and sp. We also continued to practise writing sentences using dictation and the children are becoming very good at writing the correct number of words, using spaces, full stops, capital letters and spelling tricky words correctly. In mathematics we have learned all about time this week. We have reviewed the order of days of the week and months of the year. The children also talked about their day using time, thinking about what time they get up, have breakfast, lunch and go to bed. They have practised telling the time for o'clock and half past times on both analogue and digital clocks.

This week was the first lesson for the group 2 swimmers. They have made a very promising start to their lessons and we look forward to seeing their skills develop further over the coming weeks. The group 1 children had their first gymnastics lesson and learned different ways of travelling using their hands and feet. Just a reminder to avoid dressing your child in tights on Tuesdays because it makes changing for swimming / gymnastics more difficult.

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 came.

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,

This week, the children have again worked each morning on maths and literacy, with Mrs Keogh, as part of her teacher training.

As part of their phonics, the children are hunting for words in their reading books at home that contain the sound /a_e/. e.g. bake, cake, drapes, crane and also for words that contain the 3 sounds /ea/ makes, e.g., sea, head and great. We will use the words they found to play bingo every Friday.

In our Talk for Write session Mrs Keogh told the story of 'How Cúchulainn got his name'. This is an extremely famous Irish legend. We would very much like you to tell your child a myth or legend from their home country. The emphasis is on story telling rather than using a book. Your child should be able to tell the story in their own words by the end of next week. Our aim is to produce a wonderful display of Year 2 myths and legends from around the world.

In mathematics, the children have continued their work on multiplication. They have seen multiplication in action, looking at arrays of objects which can be counted easily using multiplication. They have used multiplication to count money, and are also learning to solve written story problems using multiplication. Please encourage your child to use multiplication whenever possible. These activities ensure they have a solid understanding of the concepts involved. Clearly, it is also very helpful to memorize multiplication facts, and by the end of Year 2, most of the children should know the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables.



In French, we learned the days of the week and the numbers from 10 to 20. We also sang the song "Lundi matin" (Monday morning) and we read the story's "Le Roi, sa femme et le petit prince" by Mario Ramos.

In our art lesson this week, we began a picture inspired by the amazing bower bird, which builds a beautifully decorated bower to attract a mate. In science, we made posters based on research into different types of animal homes, and we discussed the question Why do animals build different types of home?

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,

Another week has flown by. We have had a full and varied week, once again. In Numeracy we left the world of fractions and began looking at angles. We spoke about right angles being 90° and also found out that there were 360 altogether. That is 90×4 . We also spoke about acute, obtuse and reflex angles. We then looked at 2D shapes and discovered new words such as parallelograms and quadrilaterals. After doing a speed test over 4 days we have found out that we are getting faster and so I intend continuing this exercise. Next week we will be concentrating on division of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

In Literacy we did some pairs reading with Year 4. This is a good exercise as it encourages reading aloud and the asking of questions relating to the books. We also looked at reports and revised what we know about the features of a report. In Phonics we are still looking at the rules governing the adding of suffixes such as –ing and –ed. In Topic we wrote up some of what we have learned into our books. We tried to find a good definition of a pirate, and also a description of one.

Science saw us looking at different items, made of different materials, and deciding if these would float or not. We then split into groups and tested some of our theories. We recorded our results in a table like fashion. Interesting to note that blue tack in a ball will sink but if fashioned into a boat, it will float!

In Art we drew Mole and Ratty in a boat on a river. The results are wonderful and these are soon to go up on the wall downstairs. In Computing we worked on iPads with the Year 4's. We did coding exercises on code.org and then played our activelearn maths games.



In PE we played a very hectic game of football. Our faces were red from exertion and contentment. We have been dodging raindrops a lot this week but keep hoping the sun will appear.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on the unit "Qu'est-ce que tu préfères?" (What do you prefer?) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We did many vocabulary activities related to how we express our preferences and we reviewed the verbs "avoir" and "être" 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. We also played a memory game based on the same theme.

Our talk topic this week is: If you were writing a book for your classmates, what would it be about?

Have a super 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 we only had a chance to work on Grammar and Spellings. Last week the children worked on Possessive nouns. This week in Grammar the children learnt about possessive adjectives. It is rewarding to see how the children are using the correct Grammar rules even in their story writing.

In maths we worked on time, looking at the 24 hour clock talking about a.m. and p.m. The Year 4's had time to practise time by using small individual analogue clocks where they had the opportunity to write the times into digital time as well. We worked on time for a few lessons as time can be tricky.

In topic this week we unfortunately did not start our individual timelines as some children had not brought in their pictures. Could I please ask that all children have their pictures ready in an envelope for Mondays Topic lesson, so that we can start our timelines? The children are very excited about starting their timelines and it also is a very fun task to learn more about each other in class.



In Science this week, we firstly discussed the temperature chart that we completed the previous week. The children were able to see the changes in temperature and how they differ in different times in the day. Science was so much fun for the children as they all took part in the warm water and icy water experiment using their hands to feel the temperature and had realised towards the end of the lesson that touch cannot measure temperature accurately. The best way to measure temperature is to use a thermometer.

The children achieved the hardest part of our art activity the previous two weeks, so this week the children started painting their fish with Mrs Tolentino's help and assistance. The children painted their fish using a colour of their choice. They have worked very well to achieve such a difficult art task.



In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on the unit "Qu'est-ce que tu préfères?" (What do you prefer?) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We did many vocabulary activities related to how we express our preferences and we reviewed the verbs "avoir" and "être" 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. We also played a memory game based on the same theme.

The talk topic this week is “How can you be a good friend? What are the key elements of a being a good friend? “

Have a restful Weekend!

Despina Kafouris

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

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

The terrible weather outside had much less impact on us this week. Abhram’s brilliant playscript, which the class had unanimously voted as their favourite, saw us rehearsing The Further Adventures of Toad every day in the cosy comfort of the classroom.

Putting together this show, together with river poems we’ve learnt and ones we’ve written ourselves alongside songs for Toad we’ve also written, next week’s assembly will be super and a real showcase for these Year 5’s creativity. What it will also show off is just how wonderful these children are at remembering their lines in such a short space of time and, in some cases, other people’s too.

All this, mirrored work being done in Music as Mrs Mayeur is teaching the children the songs to the Junior School Summer Performance – The Wind in The Willows.



On top of this, we also had a look at kennings in Literacy. This gave us a further technique for describing rivers imaginatively. The children came up with gems like rock roller and sediment shifter.

In Maths, we revisited subtraction by counting up (sometimes known as the Shopkeeper’s method; in class, as FROG) and then we had a really valuable lesson on techniques for identifying multiples.

For next Thursday’s fieldtrip, these activities would be of some benefit to the children:

http://resources.hwb.wales.gov.uk/VTC/compass_bearings/eng/Onlineactivity/default.htm

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/keyskills/flash/kfa/kfa.shtml>

(Sorry about the content of this game but it is BBC and the maths is very useful. Play level 1 only; each marking is equal to 10°)

<http://www.flashymaths.co.uk/swf/bearings.swf>

In Science, we ended our Life Cycles unit by drawing posters showing the complete life cycles of certain plants. The children chose plums trees, ferns and lilies amongst others.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished watching "Ernest et Célestine" which we enjoyed very much. We went on working on our new topic : food and did an oral/reading comprehension on how to stay healthy
In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on vocabulary related to The Weather and Clothes. We also had a general revision test on grammar, spelling and vocabulary.

PE was football but a bonus tennis session at the Castle Club was the best highlight of the children's week. We have one more extra session to enjoy on the last day of term.

Have a nice weekend.
Best wishes

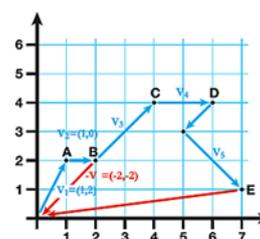
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 5 webpage

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

This week, we have been revising units of measurement: mass, money, time, capacity and length, as well as revisiting the properties of 2-D and 3-D shapes. In addition to this, some students have studied Pythagoras' Theorem, vectors, translations, congruent and similar 2-D shapes. Some pupils practised mental maths examination papers, others worked on GCSE Foundation paper questions.

In literacy, the students completed their second Spag test, which they found easier, as they are becoming used to the style of the questions. Next week, the test topics will be: prepositional and adverbial phrases, using commas, brackets and hyphens, punctuating complex sentences and spelling words with unstressed vowels. All revision resources can be found on our online Edmodo web page.



Making 'Post-it' flipbooks proved to be more of a challenge than the students imagined. Many complicated ideas were very quickly adapted, as redrawing a picture 100 times rapidly became unattractive to some! There are, however, some excellent (and completed) flipbooks dotted around the Year 6 classroom. The year 6 animators have been given a 'Morph' pack-up; their first task is to make a stand for the iPad, so that they can take frame-shots without moving the camera. These stands should be brought in on Monday, thank you.

Shackleton's travel plans have now been submitted, the Endurance has sunk, and the expedition party is preparing to set sail in three boats for Elephant Island. Tough decisions have had to be made about personal items and animals that can be taken in the boats, but Sir Ernest is determined to keep his men alive. The students' final piece of assessed writing this term will be to write a diary entry from either an expedition member or Mrs Chippy's point of view. Next week, we shall be 'constructing' a

replica of the 'Sir James Caird', to enable to us to appreciate the cramped conditions that the men had to endure.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished watching "Ernest et Célestine" which we enjoyed very much. We went on working on our new topic : food and did an oral/reading comprehension on how to stay healthy

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on vocabulary related to The Weather and Clothes. We also had a general revision test on grammar, spelling and vocabulary.

We should finish studying the building blocks for Chinese today; only 'roof and jade' to work on this morning. In Latin, we are about to learn about the Roman army and the command form of the verb, and finally, the Year 6 ukulele rock band is chilling-out to 'Messing about in Boats', in preparation for the summer production.

Have a peaceful weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

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

EAL

Mrs Avis has been unwell this week.