

Home School Books – 29 April 2016.

### Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Our clothes topic has certainly turned chilly this week! In the middle of spring we have had to start wearing our hats and scarves again!

One of our areas of development in nursery is ‘understanding of the world’ and this week as part of our understanding of different cultures around the world and to tie in with our clothes project. We have used the smart board to look at images of people from different parts of the world, wearing traditional dress. We talked about and described traditional costumes from, India, Ireland, England, Spain, Wales, Africa, Austria and Scotland.

Ask your little one if they can remember what the traditional costume worn by men in Scotland was called. We had some very funny answers in nursery!

We have been practising our cutting out skills and each child has attempted to cut out their favourite set of paper clothes to dress their person in. Look on the opposite page to see what your little one chose. There was a lot of fine motor skill involved, some children are still finding holding scissors in the correct position tricky. If you could practice this at home it will really help your child, especially those who are going into school in September. Take a look at how they have drawn the patterns on their clothes and chat to them about the activity; children love to talk about their achievements and also love the praise of doing a good job!

We have gone number crazy this week and the children have enjoyed a variety of activities that encourage number recognition and counting, using one to one correspondence. Many of the children can count by rote but understanding and transferring numeracy into practical maths situations is a different skill altogether. So we will continue bringing numbers to life by making math’s sessions fun and interesting to participate in!



Just one reminder this week; our individual parent/teacher meetings will take place on Tuesday 10 May and Wednesday 11 May. You will find your individual appointment time on a slip of paper in your child's folder. Please sign the bottom of the slip to say if you can attend, then bring it back to nursery.

We have very little scope for changing appointments unless it is absolutely necessary, as we have a lot of parents to see over the two sessions. So please put the date and time in your diary and we look forward to seeing you then.

Our talk topic this week is; what countries have you visited recently? What sort of clothes did you see people wearing?

Don't forget that the school will be closed on Thursday and Friday next week for our half term break.

Have a great weekend.

Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove

[nurseryteacher@telenet.be](mailto:nurseryteacher@telenet.be)

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

### Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

We have had another busy week in Reception this week. Our Talk topic this week was the solar system. We used a model version of the planets to learn the order and some characteristics about each planet. We are planning on singing the solar system song in assembly in a couple of weeks.

Our focus story this week was A Man on the Moon (a day in the life of Bob). The children wrote some sentences about Bob's day for their home school books. Some aliens managed to slip into Bob's spaceship and come to earth. The children used their creative skills to fashion their best alien from green playdough. On Thursday we took a trip to the moon with Mrs Aleksandra, and the children recorded their adventure in their planet log books.



In maths our focus is on weight. The children discovered how to balance scales by making each side equal. For example, 1 toy bear equals 5 plastic cubes, and so on. On Thursday they took their toy animals to the vet to be weighed and measured.

In literacy we have been revising the /ee/ sound and the /oo/ sound to help us with our spelling and reading.

Our focus topic next week will continue to be the solar system, as the children investigate the answers to their own questions e.g. why does the sea not spill off our planet and if we do not look after our planet will it become all volcanic again? Our Talk Topic this week is 'What is your favourite planet in the solar system, and why?'

In French with Mrs Scharf, we carried on talking about spring and the other seasons too. We made a beautiful picture of all four seasons and described the differences: the colours, the fruits, the clothes we wear etc.

We would also like to remind you that group B will start their swimming sessions this Tuesday (3rd May). They will need to bring in their swimming things. There is also a sign-up sheet outside the classroom for any parents who wish to help.

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Tina Keogh and Aleksandra Hauwaerts

Naomi Gill [receptionteacher@telenet.be](mailto:receptionteacher@telenet.be)  
Please click [here](#) for our Reception webpage

## Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

We have continued with our topic 'Down at the bottom of the garden' this week. Despite the terrible weather we made it outside to go on a plant hunt around the school in our science lesson. We found lots of interesting plants including tulips, a cherry blossom tree and a hazelnut tree to name a few. In art we made ladybirds this week and learned about how many spots they can have. We continued to watch the progress of the worms in our class wormery and enjoyed looking at the tunnels they have made through the sand and soil. We also looked at a poem called 'The worm who wouldn't wiggle' and we identified the words that rhyme in the poem.



In literacy we also looked at the /igh/ sound and its alternative grapheme /ie/ and the /oi/ and its alternative /oy/. We practised reading and writing words with these sounds and using these words in sentences. I did a phonics check to see how well the children recognised the sounds we have learned and they all did well. In our grammar lesson we have moved on to questions this week. We talked about question marks and what they mean. We also talked about question words and the children practised using them to formulate their own questions.

In maths we did lots of work on adding three numbers together. We talked about how it is easier to look for number facts such as the pairs that make 10 and add them first. We also revised what 'half' and quarter' means both in terms of dividing shapes and finding half of even numbers such as 8 and 12. We also did a small review of the maths we have done so far this half term and the children showed me what they have learned.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are slowly "building" our houses. We have already done the cuisine and la salle de bains. We have now started drawing le salon/salle à manger.

This week was the last week for year 1 swimming so there will be no need to bring in swimming things for the children on Tuesdays from next week. Congratulations to all children who got swimming certificates for their hard work and progress with swimming, it's great to see so many children gaining confidence and experiencing success with this important life skill. From next week we will continue to do PE on Tuesdays but our focus will turn to outdoor games and hopefully the weather will improve!

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Patrick Tranter  
[Year1teacher@telenet.be](mailto:Year1teacher@telenet.be)  
Please click [here](#) for our Year 1 webpage

## Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

We have had a fantastic, extremely enjoyable and busy week in the Junior Department. The Year 2 children have matured very much over the course of the year, and they enjoyed working and playing alongside the Year 3 children.

In Literacy, we continued to look at nouns, verbs and adjectives, especially at how we can use adjectives to make sentences more interesting. They will have plenty of practice at this in our Big Writing sessions. This week's Big Write was an account of the Great Fire of London, as observed by an eye-witness: the children imagined themselves as someone who lived in London and saw the fire. Thanks to the children's great imaginations, we have heard eye-witness accounts from men, women and children, including an inventor, a prince, a poor schoolboy and many others. Next week, we will begin putting together a newspaper special about the Great Fire, including some interviews with these eye-witnesses.

In mathematics this week, we have been working on weight, weighing objects using balance scales with 100g weights (and other weights), and using kitchen scales. The children are gaining a solid understanding of the relationship between grams and kilograms, and of how to read weighing scales. A particularly enjoyable part of this study was working with Mrs Flynn to follow a recipe for flapjack oatmeal biscuits, weighing the ingredients on kitchen scales.

In French, we started a new unit on describing a house. We did many vocabulary activities and read the poem "La maison des trois petits cochons" (The three little pigs' house).

In our art lesson, we tried out watercolour paints to paint some of the spring flowers that we have looked at.

We especially enjoyed playing cricket with Year 3, during one sunny break in the weather.



Our talk topic this week, please, is What are my earliest memories?

I wish you a happy weekend.

Yours,

Kate Read  
[year2teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year2teacher@telenet.be)

Please click [here](#) for our Year 2 webpage

### Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to have old friends in Year 2 here in the Junior department this week. Such a shame the weather didn't agree, so outdoor play was restricted to periods grabbed between rain and hail.

In Literacy we diverted from the norm and did some preparatory work for today's Puffin Virtually Live presentation based on The Diary of a Wimpy kid. We have predicted the future and our future and worked on adjectives too. Guided reading remains a highlight of our week and we all love reading about the adventures of Mr Majeika and Gruffin, a dragon.

In Numeracy we learnt how to add and subtract fractions with a common denominator. The children found this easy and some have even tried to convert different fractions to a common denominator and then convert back after adding or subtracting. Next week's work involves times tables so be sure to practise them at the weekend.

In Topic we took a virtual tour around India's capital New Delhi. We visited the Lotus temple, the India Gate, Humayun's tomb and the Red Fort. We discovered that it was built in 1648 by Shah Jahan, the same person who built the famous Taj Mahal. We also found out it was built of red sandstone which links to our science topic on rocks.



In Science we tested rocks for their hardness and permeability and also found out that pumice is the only rock that floats. We put an example in water overnight and nothing happened - it didn't sink nor change colour.

In Art we had free painting with water colours. The children really enjoyed this.

In PE we worked hard as usual and had a lot of fun. Luckily due to a rare break in the weather this week, we managed a game of cricket with the Year 2's.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we completed a revision on vocabulary and grammar. We also had the opportunity to watch the movie "Le petit Nicolas" ( Little Nicolas), which is based on a series of French children's books.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had a week without Year 4 and we played games based on vocabulary and watched parts of a French movie "le petit Nicolas" based on a very famous book. We also worked hard in our exercises books.

Our talk topic this week is: How did it feel to be the oldest children in the school this week? Did you enjoy helping the little ones find their way around?

I really hope we have a sunny warm weekend but I fear it is just wishful thinking.

Have a super weekend anyway,

Valeria Vetter

[year3teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year3teacher@telenet.be)

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

*Year 4 / 5 / 6 have been away on their residential week in the UK at Rippledawn House.*