

Home School Books – 13 May 2016.

### Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

The change in the weather has meant we have tried to go outside as much as we can, so the indoors has moved outdoors! We are enjoying this warm spell while it lasts. To tie in with the clothes topic, we have been talking about sun hats and why we need to wear one when it gets really hot, especially if you are visiting the beach, or are in a place where there is no shade.

The children then made their very own sun hat, which you can see on the page opposite, lots of opportunity to practise their cutting out skills. The children had two hat designs to choose from, a floppy one or a cap, ask, them to tell you why they chose their particular model.

Don't forget to take a look around nursery at some of our new displays, if you look in the book corner, you will see our SOCKY WOCKY DOODAH! display; the children have had great fun putting this together. They are from a book called 'Socks' by Nick Sharratt. Ask your little one if they can remember the story that the illustrations are based on. It certainly caused great hilarity when we read it in nursery!



Thank you to everyone who attended the parent/teacher meetings. We have had some lovely comments from parents and are pleased to hear that your children are getting the very best experiences possible, from the nursery. If you haven't had your appointment yet, don't worry, you will get one.

Please remember not to put too many layers of clothes on your little one in this weather and whatever you do, please label everything with your child's name. When they start taking off jumpers and cardigans, if they don't manage to make it onto their pegs and we find it on the floor without a name tag, it's anyone's guess who it belongs to!

If you wish to put your little one in a pair of shorts instead of the jogging bottoms in the hot weather, then please make sure you buy ones with elasticated waists. Green or grey are best to keep in line with the rest of the school uniform. No cut-off Jeans shorts or ones with belts and buckles. Thank you for your understanding.

Remember it is a long weekend and school will be closed on Monday.

See you all on Tuesday 17th May.

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,

Reception children have been doing a lot of thinking about how day and night happen and what causes the moon to have different shapes. Last week we investigated how the earth moves around the sun by drawing our shadows on the playground and tracking the sun during the day. We then went to the dark computer room to experiment with a torch and a globe which demonstrated that day and night could only happen if the earth rotates. We have many budding scientists in our class.



Our focus story this week was *The Way Back Home*, which is about a little boy who flew to the moon in his aeroplane but he ran out of petrol. On the moon he met an alien whose spaceship had also broken down. The boy offered to go back to earth to get some tools to fix the spaceship and the alien offered the boy some petrol. We discussed the names of tools Mummy or Daddy use to fix things and we wrote about the tools you might use to fix a spaceship.

In maths last week we experimented with our water bottles to see which would be the best shape to take into space. The children were puzzled by the fact that the short fat water bottle could hold more than the tall skinny one. They quickly deduced that it must be the size of the mouth that was important. This week we are revising 2D (flat) shapes and 3D (fat) shapes. On Thursday we looked at the shapes of everyday items we use at home and counted the number of faces each shape had and learnt its mathematical name.

In literacy we have been concentrating on recognising when to use a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark. The children can recognise which one to choose by the tone of voice used.

There will be no work sample in the home school book this week. Instead the children will be bringing home their logbook about the things they have learnt about space. They will also be singing for Year 1 and Year 2 at assembly today. They have spent the last two weeks creating their planet and star costumes.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we talked about the weather every time we met and we have started our new project for this last term : food. We have started with fruit and vegetables plus all the goodies we already know like bonbons, biscuits, chocolat, glace etc.

Our focus topic next week will be the environment and conservation and I will be handing the class back to Mrs Gill as I am completing the wonderful time that I have had working with them.

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Tina Keogh and Aleksandra Hauwaerts

Naomi Gill

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

### Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to meet with so many of you for parent's evening this week and share the wonderful progress your children have made during Year 1. There will also be a written report sent out at the end of the term. If you have any further queries then please come and see us in class or send me an email. We enjoyed the lovely weather this week and made the most of it by going outside when we could. We did some observational drawings of plants in the school playground as part of our science lesson. We also did outdoor games in PE and concentrated on our throwing and catching skills.

In literacy this week we learned about many different types of ladybird. We made a class ladybird spotter's guide with names, pictures and facts about the different ladybirds. We learned that ladybirds can be brown, yellow, orange or black as well as red and that some have no spots at all! Some ladybirds are vegetarian and eat mildew, while others are not and prefer to eat aphids or flies. In phonics we looked at the different graphemes for the oo sound - /oo/ (long and short) /ew/ and /ue/. We practised sorting words according to the grapheme they use and reading and writing words with these graphemes.



In maths we took another look at fractions of shapes and quantities. The children learned that  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{2}{4}$  are the same and they learned to identify one quarter, two quarters, three quarters and four quarters (1 whole) of shapes. The children also practised splitting towers of cubes into two equal groups or halving numbers. We tried this with even numbers and the children identified towers and their corresponding halves.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are nearly coming to the end of our houses project. All the rooms are now ready, we just need to assemble everything now and show you the fantastic results. We have learnt a lot of new vocabulary.

We have also begun practising for our summer show at the end of the school year. The children have begun to learn the words to our songs and actions/instrumental

parts. They have also begun to learn a poem that they will perform, the words of which will be sent home shortly. And that was our week!

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,

We have very much enjoyed this week of sunny weather.

An exciting part of the week has been seeing the growth of the plants that the children planted with Mrs. Flynn, who also brought them a tomato plant each, and explained how we need to pinch off certain leaves to encourage tomatoes to grow. We have spent some time looking at the seeds that the children brought in, noting the differences between them and planting them.



Mrs. Flynn is also helping us all to learn some songs in preparation for our summer show, which will take place in June, in the school playground. The theme of the show is mathematics.

In maths this week, we have been working on doubling numbers, and finding halves, quarters and thirds of numbers, and making connections with multiplication and addition. The children should be able to see, for example, that  $\frac{1}{3}$  of 18 is 6, because we know that  $6 \times 3 = 18$  and 18 divided by 3 is 6. They should also be able to apply that understanding to solve problems such as “We need to make 3 groups, out of 18 children. How many will be in each group?” We also started to look at finding  $\frac{3}{4}$  of numbers.

In literacy, we have looked at verbs, especially adding the ending –ing, and we began to look at adverbs. We talked about newspaper reports, and about interviewing eye-witnesses as part of preparing for writing a newspaper report. The children then interviewed each other as eye-witnesses to the Great Fire of London in 1666, basing their interview questions on the accounts that we wrote in the Big Write session last week. In this week’s Big Writing, we wrote our newspaper reports about the Great Fire of London, including quotes from the interviews.

In science this week, we began to investigate the relative strengths of different materials, starting with different types of paper.

In French, we worked on describing a bedroom and its furniture. We did many vocabulary activities and read the book "La chambre" (The bedroom) on [www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com).

This week's talk topic is What is the highest number? Can we prove our answers? As we are all enjoying using Padlet, I will make a Padlet page (and link it to our Year 2 website), on which the children can write their ideas about the talk topics. This should be in addition to spending time talking about the topic with you at home.

Thanks, and have a good weekend.

Yours,

Kate Read

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

### Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

The sunshine has brought smiles to our faces and fun to our games. Here's hoping summer is here to stay. It was good to see you this week and to discuss your children's progress with you.

In Literacy we have been concentrating on adjectives, adverbs and connectives. We have also written a story plan and a story this week. In Phonics we looked at how to add -ful and -ly to words. In Guided reading we have begun new books. It is always a pleasure to see children enjoying new books and learning about new authors.

In Numeracy we have used function machines and looked at word problems. We have done multistep problems as well. We have also been doing multiplication using the grid method and the column method. A thorough knowledge of times tables is required for this and most children had no problems.

In Topic our tour bus took us to Kolkata. We found out that this grand city had been the capital of India for hundreds of years and that it was a very cultural city. It houses many important museums and its architecture is interesting. We even stayed (virtually of course) in a 5 star hotel whilst there!



In Science we set up our crystal experiments. We have made solutions using salt and sugar and suspended a paper clip into each. The children eagerly inspect these every day and the salt crystals have been forming rapidly.

In Art we have been drawing characters from the wind in the willows. These are coming along nicely.

In PE we played an intense game of cricket with Year 5 and our tennis lessons were as good as usual. Thursdays are definitely energetic ones.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we worked on the unit "Où habites-tu?" (Where do you live?) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We studied vocabulary related to how we give directions and how we ask for information about a place.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have started our new topic: food. We have started by saying what we like and what we don't like. We also made a list of all the fruit and vegetables we remember. Our talk topic this week is: Discuss ways in which you can help to improve the environment.

Our last long weekend is upon us. I wish you a happy and sunny time!

Valeria Vetter

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

## Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

The weather has been fantastic this week. The children had been enjoying the sunshine during break times out in the playground.

As poems are our focus for the Summer Term, we first had a discussion on the types of poems we learnt so far in Year 4 and how they differ from each other.

This week we looked at rhyming couplet poems. The children looked at two such poems called “The Shark and Postcard”. The children enjoyed reading these poems as they had some humour but most importantly their endings rhymed.

Clauses were what we focused on in Grammar. We talked about how in every sentence we have the main subject and the predicate. We worked on a range of activities from the Grammar text book. In Big Writing the children created their very own rhyming couplet using the title SUMMER. The children came up with wonderful ideas and ambitious words in their poem writing.

In maths we worked on multiplying and dividing 3 digit numbers by 2 digit numbers. The children were eager to solve higher level sums. We worked step by step using the vertical algorithm. It was tricky multiplying these large numbers but once again I am delighted to say how well the children are working.

In topic we looked at the main Ancient Greek Gods like Poseidon, Aphrodite, Hermes and many others too. We researched each Ancient Greek God individually, looking at how they all helped in their own individual ways.

In art we learnt about a famous painter called Vincent Van Gogh. We had the great opportunity to look at his wonderful paintings and how his paintings had a huge impact and influence on the 20th century. The Year 4 children sketched one of his famous paintings called “The Starry Night”. They first used HB pencil to draw the drawing and in the next coming week they will begin their paint work.



In French with Mrs Gorgia, we worked on the unit "Où habites-tu?" (Where do you live?) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We studied vocabulary related to how we give directions and how we ask for information about a place.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have started our new topic: food. We have started by saying what we like and what we don't like. We also made a list of all the fruit and vegetables we remember.

The talk topic this week is “Why is it important to be kind and caring towards each other?”

Hope you have a super long weekend!

Despina Kafouris

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

## Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

It was a great week weather wise and Parents Evening meetings and a visit from 2 former members of our class shone rays of sunshine into the classroom too. The good feeling effect of the light has permeated throughout the school and the Year 5 children have been chipper all week.

In Literacy, the children enjoyed writing legends and learnt how to use adverbials, inverted commas and how to open narratives spectacularly.

In Maths, meanwhile, we did a lot of division, learning and revising short form method; e.g.  $3\sqrt{216}$  and then moving on to finding fractions of big amounts; e.g.  $\frac{4}{5}$  of 195

Topic was all about the main focus of our Pyramids theme. The children have to create a mythical, fictitious civilisation in history, set in the country of their choice, describing how that civilisation centred around the pyramids they built.

The class have been very imaginative in their inventions and have enjoyed presenting this on their websites. What they enjoyed most was using the Microsoft Word Shapes function to draw the pyramids.

Science was also a highlight as we explored why the heart beats and what our pulses at rest tell us. One of the class was lucky enough to be the one to put on a cardiometer (heart rate monitor). This person also quickly realised that they could lower their heart rate by making like a sloth and nearly fell asleep. The others had to find their pulse manually in the time-honoured fashion. The results were really interesting as was the theory behind it. Next week, we'll find out how exercise effects heart rate.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have added pouvoir, vouloir and devoir to our list of verbs and we practised using the passé composé and did several of exercises. We also started reading a new story.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we worked on vocabulary related to describing a town. We talked about the different shops, monuments and other points of interest of a town.

And that was our week. It was nice to see you on Wednesday and, with International Day, the Junior School Show and the annual after-school Cricket matches upcoming we should be seeing each other a lot over the next month!

(Incidentally, Year 5 played Year 4 in the Fifteen15 Cricket Cup today. At the time of writing the result is not yet known: let's hope we won and are now in the final!)

Best wishes

Tim Stedman

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



## Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

Rippledawn seems so long ago... What a fantastic and tiring time we had. Thank you very much for supporting the School Council's initiative in creating 'Rippledawn 2016, The Movie'. The film is now in its production stage, and whilst it will not be ready to feature in this year's Cannes Film Festival, we hope to release it within the next few weeks.



This week has seen the start of the Year 6 examination period. Students, to date, have sat the following test papers:

- GCSE Foundation paper 1 – Statistics and Number
- GCSE Foundation paper 2 - Number and Algebra
- GCSE Foundation paper 3 - Geometry and Number
- Key Stage 2 – Arithmetic Paper
- PIRA Reading Comprehension Test
- Writing Task

The examinations will continue until the end of next week.

We have a busy time ahead of us, therefore rehearsing for our end-of-year performance is now a high priority. Actors should now be learning their lines and words for the songs.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have added pouvoir, vouloir and devoir to our list of verbs and we practised using the passé composé and did several of exercises. We also started reading a new story.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we worked on vocabulary related to describing a town. We talked about the different shops, monuments and other points of interest of a town.

Today is 'test free', so we shall be escaping to exotic locations around the world to investigate more of its '80 Treasures'. We shall hopefully finish the last chapter in our course book 'Primary Chinese' and then delve into the world of Jackie Chan!

It is 'Environment Week' next week. The theme for the Junior Department is recycling so this topic will form the basis of our activities and research.

It was a pleasure to meet with you all to share the successes of your child. I know that the pupils are now (even if they might be feeling a little apprehensive) ready for the challenges of Secondary school. One thing that they will not have to worry about is filing! After nine months of 'random' filing, holes being punched in papers at bizarre angles, upside down, back to front, and, on occasions, just 'stabbed' through the worksheets, the children know how to file!

Enjoy the sunshine,  
Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

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

In EAL this week

Reception

The children listened to the story of Roaring Rockets and discussed parts of a rocket, e.g. command module, rocket boosters etc. We then used simple 2D shapes to create a picture of a rocket and described it using the appropriate mathematical words. This week the children have been using simple adjectives to describe an alien. First, they drew detailed pictures of their imagined alien, referring to key features such as parts of the body. One alien even had rainbow coloured scales! We then practised constructing simple and compound sentences using these words and phrases. Though we were able to do this quite well verbally, we will need more practise recording it in our writing.

Year One and Year Two

The children listened to the story of the Bad Tempered Ladybird and retold it in their own words. We discussed what 'bad tempered' means and what kinds of things make us bad tempered. We also named and described the different animals the Bad Tempered Ladybird met on his journey. This week we asked, and wrote, questions we'd like answered about ladybirds (facts). We then watched a short film about Minuscule, a very mischievous ladybird, and retold the story verbally.

Year Three and Year Four

Mrs Perrin and Oskar interviewed the Year 4 children about their trip to Rippledawn. We recorded the dialogue (questions and answers) on coloured card and then organised on the board. We later discussed organisation of dialogue in playscripts and narratives. This week the children have been learning to organise and punctuate dialogue in stories. We discussed how dialogue is organised in playscripts (new line for a new speaker) and how that is also similar when writing narratives. We continued to read the story of the BFG and then ordered and organised a jumbled up dialogue between the BFG and Sophie. Afterwards, we added speech marks and used the thesaurus to substituted the word 'said' for a more interesting and descriptive alternative.

Year Five and Year Six

The children told me all about their trip to Rippledawn. This week, we focussed on the use of prepositional phrases to open sentences in different and interesting ways. We first practised with an imagined 'sail boat', then we wrote sentences (opening with a prepositional phrase) about Rippledawn in our books. Today we watched some footage on Derby Day in 1913 and listened to a song about it. We discussed the events and imagined that we were there with our parents. We described the scene (verbally) opening our sentences with prepositional phrases.