

Home School Books – 20 May 2016.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink! Our theme for environment week throughout the infant department was, you guessed it, 'Water'.

The children in nursery have been talking about, looking at and experiencing a variety of things water related. One of our important discussions was on all of the different ways we can use water for e.g.: washing ourselves, washing our clothes, watering our garden and most importantly, drinking it to keep us hydrated and healthy.

The drinking water discussion led onto how fortunate we are in Belgium to have clean drinking water that comes from a tap because sadly in some parts of the world people do not have this available to them. We then continued to look at some photographs on the smart board, showing children in other countries, carrying buckets of water from the river. Some of the children were very knowledgeable about this and talked about how dangerous it was to drink dirty water because it gave you a very sick tummy.

We then decided that it was a good idea to save water and not waste it because we don't ever want to drink dirty water and if we waste our clean water we might run out! If you look at the page opposite, you will see that one of the ways to save water is to make sure you turn off your taps properly so they don't drip and the water is just sent down the drain.

We then had a very quick and simple look at the water cycle, ask your little one if they can remember where all of our water comes from in the first place and see what they can remember. We heard some very long words like: evaporation and precipitation!

Each child also made a lovely collage of an umbrella and some raindrops, just in case we need to keep ourselves dry, with the change in climate, we seem to get more and more rain in Belgium these days!

It has been an interesting and informative week and we will never take water for granted again! Well, until someone decides to turn on all of the bathroom taps and flood the floor!

If the weather stays warm, we intend to finish off the week doing some water play math's activities outside and maybe one or two water science experiments.

Please don't forget, if you would like to have a table on International day, that represents your country, there is still time to sign up. Just contact the school office and tell them your requirements.

Have a lovely weekend and don't forget to turn those taps off tight, so you can save water!

Alison Davies and Inés van Wassenhove

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This week has been environment week at BISB, and our focus in Reception has been on water so we have completed various water based activities.

At the start of the week we looked at how easily we can get clean water and how in some places they either have to drink dirty water or travel long distances to collect it. As a whole class we tried to clean dirty water, removing as many large items as we could with tongs and a sieve. We then went into smaller groups and made our own water filters out of coffee filters, sand and gravel. Despite this it was still not ready to be drunk, we needed a chemical or special machine for that! As a result we learnt the difficulty of cleaning water and how it is therefore important not to waste it.



In the second part of the week we looked at the water cycle; we enjoyed listening to the water cycle song (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWb4K1M2vts>) introducing the words evaporation, condensation and precipitation to us. The children completed another science experiment where we made a puddle outside and saw how long it took to evaporate. We then went on to discuss the other stages it would go through before being a puddle again. The children tried really hard to correctly pronounce these words and are showing increasing understanding of the difference between them.

In maths this week we started looking at number bonds to ten. The children enjoyed the number bonds game where they had to find their number partner within ten seconds. We used a rainbow to help us learn the bonds, using the colours of the rainbow to join the two numbers together.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we have learnt a lot of new vocabulary pertaining to food and more specifically to fruit. We listened to two songs and we drew beautiful pictures of our favourite fruit. We also played games to remember all the vocabulary we learnt.

For talk topic on Monday we will be sharing our own beach holiday memories.

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Gill and Aleksandra Hauwaerts

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

Even though it's been a slightly shorter week this week we've been just as busy in Year 1. This week has been 'Environment week' across the school and the topic for the infants has been 'water'. We have talked about why water is so important to us and all plants and animals on earth. This week the children wrote in their home school books about what would happen if water was taken away. We also made posters to encourage people to save water and not waste it. We discussed ways of saving water such as switching off the tap, fixing leaks and not using more water than we need. We talked about what happens to water bottles if they are just thrown on the ground and they learned that it takes 450 years for a plastic bottle to degrade or disappear! With this in mind we made a couple art projects using water bottles to recycle them. We made bracelets out of them using felt. We made some large fish models to decorate our classroom too.



In literacy we also looked at the /ow/ sound and its alternative grapheme /ou/. We practised reading, sorting and writing words with this sound and also making sentences with these words. We also continued to focus on reading, writing and asking questions in our weekly grammar lessons.

In maths we have looked at place value and hundreds, tens and units (ones) this week. The children practised making and reading numbers using arrow cards. They also used them to make place value sums. They learned to read and order 2 and 3 digit numbers by looking at the value of each digit and what it represents. They also learned to identify numbers that come in-between any 2 given numbers.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have finished designing our beautiful houses and they look absolutely smashing. We can now finish our story and start a new one.

We have continued to practise for our end of year show. We have started to learn a poem called 'zoo dream' for the show. The children will learn this poem and its actions off by heart to perform as a whole class on the day. We have sent a copy of the poem home with each child so they can also practise learning it at home. 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,

This week was Environment Week, and we have had a busy short week.

The focus for our environmental study was water. We talked about what we need from our environment, where water is in our environment, the different ways in which we use and need water, why we should save water and what we can do to save water. A very important aspect of these discussions, which the children enjoyed thinking about, is the way in which we, and everything in our lives, is connected with the environment, including water. One example is that when we thought about our needs, we thought of our need for clothes. Through our discussion, we worked out that cotton and wool for our clothes depends on a sufficient supply of water, to grow cotton, and to grow grass for sheep.

After these discussions we wrote a report about these issues, and produced some posters to advise people how to save water.

We also learned a little about the water cycle, and in our science lesson, we observed evaporation, condensation and precipitation, using hot water and a cold plate.



In the interests of conserving water, we plan to make a rainwater storage tank, to save water for our plants. Our discussions raised some other interesting questions, which we hope to investigate in the coming weeks.

In mathematics this week, we practised measuring using centimetres, and learned about which things should be measured in cm and which in metres. We also reviewed mental subtraction. The children should all be able to count backwards in ones, to solve subtractions such as $38 - 7$. They should also be able to use the strategy of counting back in tens, then in units (e.g. for $147 - 24$, count back 20 from 147, then count back 4). They should be able to solve the appropriate subtractions (where the numbers are close together) by counting up to find the difference (e.g. for $74 - 67$, think $67 + ? = 74$), and they should be able to select the best strategy to use. The main focus is on being confident and quick with mental maths skills.

This week in French, we completed our unit on "Houses". We reviewed vocabulary related to this theme and we enjoyed reading the book "Le Roi est occupé" by Mario Ramos.

We have been practising songs in preparation for the summer show, and will continue to work on these in the weeks to come.

On Monday 13th June, Year 1 and Year 2 will be making a trip to Technopolis. Details of the arrangements for the trip will come in a separate letter.

Our talk topic this week is How do people around the world get their water?

Thanks, and have a good weekend.

Yours,
Kate Read and Elizabeth Flynn

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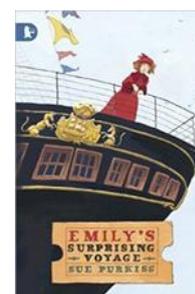
Please click [here](#) for our Year 2 webpage

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

It's been cooler this week but sunny. We have enjoyed the sun streaming into our classroom and onto our plants.

In Literacy we had a lovely visit from Sue Purkiss, the author, and Oskar's grandma. The children were enthralled with what she had to say and could have listened to her for longer. We can't wait to read her books now. We also did some improvements of our stories that we wrote last week. We looked to see if we had added the correct elements into our stories and discussed where we could have improved. Next week, we will be writing another story to see if we have improved.



In Numeracy we began division. We are using a method called chunking (<http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-chunking>) The children have become quite good at this and have enjoyed the challenge of something new. Knowledge of multiplication tables makes this method that much easier and it is good to see that the class have been learning their tables. On Friday we baked muffins and had fun measuring and stirring. Yum, yum.

In Science we are watching our salt crystals grow but have been disappointed in the sugar crystals. They've not grown at all. Our question is why?

In Art we finished our wind in the willows art and had fun with mandalas.

In PE we again played an intense game of cricket with Year 6 and lost. However, the class put in incredible effort and played in a determined and mature fashion. I was very proud of them. We loved our tennis as well.

Our talk topic this week is: Why has our sugar crystal experiment not worked? How can we improve it?

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have are working on our new topic : food. We started by learning fruit and vegetables vocabulary. We listening to two songs and made lists of the most common ones and we told each other what we like and don't like.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we completed the unit " Où habites-tu?" (Where do you live?) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We did vocabulary revision activities and practised the verb "aller"(to go) in the present tense.

For environment week we donned gardening gloves and cleared out the weeds from our planter. We turned the soil, added some compost and have planted our potato and a tomato plant already. We will plant more things in the week to come.

After such a busy week I wish you a relaxing weekend.

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 treating us well. The children have been having fun outdoors and enjoying the warm weather.

We have been exceptionally busy. The children have completed some of their assessments as well as been practising for the summer production. I would kindly ask you to support your child by learning their words by heart. Practising them on a daily basis at home would be a great help.

This week was ENVIRONMENTAL WEEK!! The children had interesting discussions on sharing their beliefs on what is good and bad for our environment. The children happily shared their wonderful ideas amongst each other and thought of excellent ideas on how we can protect the world.

As recycling was the topic in the Junior Department, the year 4 children discussed some of the advantages and disadvantages of recycling. The children then produced amazing posters on recycling and how we can protect the world. They used their imagination and made sure their poster attracting to the reader. It was super fun creating these posters and this is one of the examples.



In maths we worked on finding the area of shapes.

At first we worked on simple examples where the children had to count the little squares in the shape. Later, they worked on more challenging problems where they had to use rulers to measure the sides of the shape before working out the area of the shape. In addition to this we also worked on coordinates. This was tricky for the children however we will definitely be working on coordinates again.

In art the children completed their sketch which they had started the previous week in art called "The Starry Night". Once they had finished their drawing of them, then they started painting using oil paints. The children also drew a wonderful picture about their summer production "Wind in the Willows".

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have are working on our new topic : food. We started by learning fruit and vegetables vocabulary. We listening to two songs and made lists of the most common ones and we told each other what we like and don't like.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we completed the unit " Où habites-tu?" (Where do you live?) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We did vocabulary revision activities and practiced the verb "aller"(to go) in the present tense.

The talk topic this week is "Why is Golden time so much fun? What do you like best about it?"

Bon 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 short week but one full of action, with twists and turns.

In topic, the children thrilled in using Word Shapes again; this time to create a map of their Pyramid-building civilisation city. The class remained glued to their screens and as quiet as mice as they enjoyed creating their diagrams.

In Literacy, meanwhile, the children began a new topic about instructions. By following such instructions, they learnt how to play new card games. After that, we revisited semi-colons but used them this time in bullet-pointed instruction lists. Great fun was had with these as they concerned original inventions like the escalator. Get this:

- when you lift the telephone receiver, listen to see if the person's voice is the one you are expecting;
- greet the person and announce who you are, for example 'Hello, this is Mr Bean speaking';

This new topic has already become a popular one as the children know that it will end with them having to create their own pyramid-civilisation board game with instructions.

This week the children also did their final PIRA reading tests of the year. On the same day as these, we were paid a visit by former classmate, Anoushka. It was great to have one more - and such a splendid - student with us but the poor girl chose perhaps the wrong day and she had to sit the exam too!

But exam week is coming and there will be another reading test for Year 5 round the corner.

In Maths, we now visited short form method for multiplying $HTU \times U$ and $ThHTU \times U$. This was popular and found quite straightforward.

We had triumphs and troughs this week. Darius won an important tennis match outside of school but unfortunately narrowly lost the SuperT Challenge Cup Final after battling for it over 3 days.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started a new unit on " Animals." We learned how to describe an animal, and the children had great fun creating posters for lost pets.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been working really hard on the passé composé so that it becomes ingrained in our minds.

The whole class further discovered that they will face Year 6 in the final of the Junior School cricket cup

And that was out week.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman

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

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

Another week of examinations in year 6 is nearly over. Each day, the students have been demonstrating their concentration skills – what a difference, since September, in their ability to focus for lengthy periods.

This week, the pupils have sat the following examinations:

KS2 Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG)

KS2 Arithmetic

KS2 Mathematical Reasoning

It was a joy to go swimming on Thursday, to relieve the pressure of all this ‘testing’. We have a mixture of confident and less-confident swimmers in the class. After their swimming lesson, they enjoyed free-time and it was great to see them relaxing and enjoying themselves.

The cricket season, courtesy of Mr Stedman, is upon us... This week it was Year 3 v Year 6; well done to Year 3 for being such a terrific opposition. Today, we have netball practice is preparation for the Brussels’ International Schools’ competition next Friday; further details will be sent out shortly.

Rehearsals for ‘Wind in the Willows’ will begin in earnest next week, so please make sure that your child learns his or her lines! Scripts will be ‘banned’ from the end of next week!

We are in the process of making wind chimes to decorate the playground for the summer season activities. In support of ‘Environment Week’, we are recycling tin cans, wood, beads, curtain rings to make these. Notwithstanding the examinations, we have managed to give all the materials their first coat of paint.



The highlight of our week was a visit from the author, Sue Purkiss. Mrs Purkiss explained the elements of story writing and the children discovered that she writes her stories in her ‘special’ garden shed. Mrs Purkiss very kindly donated some books for our library; these will be available next week.

I do hope that the sunshine returns for the weekend.

Kind regards,

Beverley Tranter

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

As this week has been Environment week, our EAL classes have incorporated an 'environmental' theme.

Reception

The children looked at a video taken of the Earth from outer space. The children then answered the question "What would an alien see when they looked at the Earth from space?" They then labelled a picture of the Earth with their words, e.g. water, clouds etc. On Wednesday the children worked together to write a group shape poem about water and then they wrote their own about a chosen 'nature' picture.

Year One and Year Two

The children played a phonics game to practise their sounds and blends. We then discussed what we know already about water and how we use it at home. We drew pictures to record our ideas and wrote short captions to accompany them, making good use of our sounds.

Year Three and Year Four

The children improvised imagined dialogue between Sophie and the BFG discussing the use of different sacks/bins for our household waste. We imagined that the BFG was complaining about constantly tripping up over the rubbish at night and asking why it was left on the street. Sophie then had to explain what the bins were for etc. After verbal improvisation, the children then started to write an additional chapter to our BFG story.

Year Five and Year Six

We have continued to practise opening sentences in different ways. We revised the use of prepositional phrases and looked at other ways of opening sentences; the use of adverbials in particular. We then watched an animated film clip called 'Treasure' which tells the story about a homeless woman named Esther who searches through the junkyard looking for rubbish which she can 'reuse' to make something new and exciting. We then practised constructing sentences verbally retelling the story using different openers.