

Home School Books – 27 May 2016.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

We have now started our 'Summer Theme' and our first topic was all about 'the colours of the rainbow'. The children have experimented with powder paint and icing sugar and if you look opposite you will see their amazing Rainbow colours. It may be a little bit sticky, so watch out! Miss Maria also made some lovely summer showers and umbrella collages with the children. They are displayed on one of our walls; see if you can spot them.



Expressive arts and design is one of our seven curriculum areas and giving the children the freedom to express themselves through art projects is vital for their creative development. You never know we might have another Van Gogh or Leonardo da Vinci or even a Picasso in the making!

We also looked at Images of Rainbows on the Smart board and learned the official colours of the rainbow. We then sang the rainbow song; ask your little one if they can remember all of the different colours. Don't forget indigo and violet, even if they are not in the Rainbow song! Our talk topic is 'What do you think you will find at the end of the rainbow?'

Everyone is practising very hard for the end of year show, so don't forget to put the date in your Diaries now. Wednesday 22 June at 11.30 is the time and date for big event! Nursery and Reception will join together and amaze you with their singing talents, so please, please, come along and cheer them on. More details will follow nearer the date.

If you are leaving before the date of the show, please do let us know or we will just assume your child will be there on the day of the performance.

Last but not least, don't forget our fantastic International Day, which will take place this Saturday from 12 - 14.30pm in the infant department. It really is an interesting and fun day, the weather should be good and we're all looking forward to it. So do come along and bring your friends for a fun day out, there will be lots and lots of yummy food from around the world, so lunch is already sorted for you! Plus lots of other treats for all of the family.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Saturday.

Thank you

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 we have started our new seaside topic which will take us to the end of the term. We have been focussing on rock pools using Julia Donaldson's 'Sharing a shell' to help us.



This week in literacy we have been looking at the correct letter formation, remembering that letters such as 'a', 'h', 'n' and 'r' should be written without removing pencils from paper. We have also been talking about information books and how they differ from fiction story books. Finally the children spent a couple of writing sessions completing a written piece about a chosen sea creature.

In maths we have continued working on number bonds to ten. The children are showing increasing confidence stating the number pairs some without even using the number rainbow or fingers for support.

In topic this week we discussed what water in the seas and oceans was like – salty. We tasted three different types of water, trying to distinguish between the three. The children also started growing salt crystals which we hope to see appear throughout next week.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we are still learning about food but we also coloured our songs books. We sang all our favourite songs and told each other which was our favourite song.

A few parents have asked for the links that Mrs Keogh used during her teaching time in Reception for them to help further their children's understanding. Please find the links below;

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=no5Sf0MfMZw> the focus story 'Beegu'
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2prtmPEjOc> the solar system song
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wz01pTvuMa0> looking at the phases of the moon
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvMyssfAUx0> the tricky word song

Talk topic for Monday will be answering the question 'What model would you most like to make in the sand?'

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Gill, Tina Keogh and Aleksandra Hauwaerts

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

This week has been rather caterpillar-heavy! Continuing our theme of 'down at the bottom of the garden' and the mini-beasts to be found there, we have moved on to caterpillars – in Literacy, Science and Art. In Literacy, we read 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' in small groups, with each child reading aloud in turn. We made hand-held stick-puppets and re-told the story as a whole class, with each child reciting one scene from the book (except for the Saturday, which required three children, as the caterpillar ate so many things that day!). Finally, the children wrote their own version of the story during this week's 'Big Writing' session. Also in Literacy, we continued our work on Phase 5 sounds by looking at the /er/, /ir/ and /ur/ sounds, and did some exercises involving sorting words, choosing the correct spelling from three possibilities and writing some sentences using the different words. You can see an example of the children's work in their Home School Book.

In Science, we looked at the life cycle of the butterfly, involving the four stages of egg, caterpillar, pupa and butterfly. Then in Art, the children each made their own caterpillar, choosing one of three possible designs. The assembled swarm can be seen in the photograph.



Maths was a caterpillar-free zone this week! We began by practising our counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, and then made our first foray into multiplication. We use the idea of 'groups of' or 'lots of', rather than 'times' or 'multiplied by', so for example  $4 \times 2$  would be '4 groups of 2' or '4 lots of 2'. By using blocks to make the different 'groups', the children are beginning to make the connection between counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and the concept of multiplication. We also revised doubling, in which the children are now quite secure, and had another go at its opposite, halving, which is more tricky. There is a halving and doubling 'machine' here, should you wish to practise: <http://www.iboard.co.uk/iwb/Function-Machine-603> (may not work on some mobile devices).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have finished our story and have learnt the days of the week. We also started our new story "un coucou dans la pendule"; another beautiful story in which we will learn a lot of new vocabulary.

In PE, we practised our throwing and catching skills in a whole-class game, and had our second go at playing dodgeball. The rules are now understood, so the next thing to work on will be persuading the children to admit when they've been hit by the ball and are 'out'!

Hope to see you all at International Day. Have a great 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's focus in mathematics has been on multiplication and division. On Monday and Tuesday, we worked with multiplication as counting on in jumps of 2, 3, 5 or 10 solving story problems involving these jumps. On Wednesday, we revised arrays, setting out objects or pictures in rectangles to show multiplication facts. On Thursday, we used this concept to investigate rectangles, using them to show multiplication facts. Through this investigation, we made discoveries about square numbers and prime numbers. The children are now very confidently using multiplication, division and addition to show one number fact (i.e.  $3 \times 4 = 12$ ,  $4 \times 3 = 12$ ,  $12 / 4 = 3$ ,  $12 / 3 = 4$ ,  $4 + 4 + 4 = 12$ ,  $3 + 3 + 3 + 3 = 12$ ).

This week, we have spent several sessions preparing for our end of term show, which will take place in the last week of term. We have almost perfected the songs, with a lot of help from Mrs Flynn, and we are working on the actions. In our art sessions this week, the children, in pairs, worked with care to create visual aids for the songs.

In literacy this week, we revised adverbs and adjectives, and we looked at comparative adjectives (taller, faster etc.) and how they are formed and used. We learned about syllables, and rhythm in poetry. We then used comparative adjectives and syllable counting to write some lines of poetry. Several of the children shared with the class some books that they had specially enjoyed reading. One of the books, shared by Ayush, led to a special Big Write session, in which the children wrote their own, brilliantly imaginative, versions of the story of the Three Little Pigs. Another book, shared by Arsalan, led us to learn about the life and books of Beatrix Potter.



This week in French, we started the unit "Où vas-tu?" (Where are you going?) from our book "Alex&Zoé". We talked about cars, trains, boats and bicycles and read the book "Se déplacer" on [www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com).

Our talk topic, this week (thanks to Maanas for raising this subject) is: Where did words come from?

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June, Year 1 and Year 2 will be making a trip to Technopolis. Details of the cost of the trip will come in a separate letter.

Thanks, and have a good weekend.

Kate Read and Elizabeth Flynn

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

## Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

The weather has been warming up again and we are enjoying our time out in the sun. It has been a week of tests and the class has worked very hard.

In Literacy we have done our reading test and our writing tests. The children have applied themselves well to the tasks at hand and I am pleased with the results. In Numeracy we wrote tests as well. Everyone tried their best and once again, their results will speak for themselves. On Friday we did our weekly think tank with the year 4's.

In Science we are scrutinizing our plants for signs of growth. The watercress has germinated and our lettuces are planted. We are now waiting for our beans to begin coming up. We even found a slug in our garden which we removed and put somewhere else. We have made signs and labels for our garden. So exciting!

In Art we made our signs and labels for the garden. In Topic our tour bus has stopped off in Mumbai. What a huge bustling city it is. We are staying at the Taj Mahal palace and enjoying walks on Marine Drive. We have not yet finished looking at all the sights so plan on staying here into next week.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still working on our food topic and discussed what we eat and drink for breakfast "le petit déjeuner". In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started the unit "Qu'est-ce que tu collectionnes?" (What do you collect?) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We talked about the hobbies of collecting different objects and for grammar we worked on the interrogative sentences.

In PE we did some dance in the classroom and had a very good tennis session. Our cricket game this week was against the Year 4's and we, once again, showed our commitment and drive by beating them. Well done, year 3!

Our talk topic this week is: What would you tell a new classmate about our school?

Have a super weekend and don't forget about International Day

Valeria Vetter

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

## Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

Another week has flown by as fast as anything. The children have been doing all sorts of activities, but most importantly they have now finished their assessments for the school year.

As the summer production is getting closer, the children have been practising and singing beautifully. They are working well like they always do!! As I mentioned before, please test your child on their words for the production, making sure they know them well, as there are some children who still don't know their words and we are getting close to the production day.

In numeracy we worked on simple maths problems which would help them with the maths assessment. The children found this to be a great help before their maths test. We also worked on measurements. The children learnt about metres and centimetres and how we can convert metres into centimetres and vice versa. The children enjoyed working with measurements even though some of the problems were tricky. It was an excellent activity for the children. Their active little brains were kept busy and they were keen to work on harder challenges.

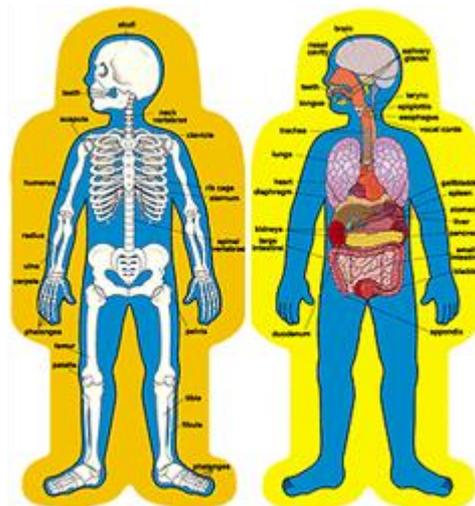
In Grammar the children worked on indirect speech. The Year 4's grasped the lesson well but they still need some practice. We will continue working on activities from the grammar book.

As I listen to readers on a weekly basis, I have noticed that some children are not reading their books daily. It is so vital that a child reads every day and even during the holidays. I would kindly ask you to sit with your child for 20 minutes a day to read with them. It's a lovely time to bond with your child too. We had a wonderful opportunity this week to read some pages from "The Diary of The Wimpy Kid". The children laughed and enjoyed some of the hilarious comments Greg would mention in the book. I hope we get the opportunity to read some more of the book in the next week.

In topic we looked at a new theme called "The Human Body". This week we discussed the main organs of our body, how we can look after our body and keep it healthy. I was impressed with the wonderful ideas the children shared amongst each other on how we can keep healthy!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still working on our food topic and discussed what we eat and drink for breakfast "le petit déjeuner".

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started the unit "Qu'est-ce que tu collectionnes?" (What do you collect?) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We talked about the hobbies of collecting different objects and for grammar we worked on the interrogative sentences.



In art this week we worked on two art projects. Firstly, the children finished their painting on the “The Starry Night”. They then also drew beautiful tropical fish which now look great on the wall behind the fish tank.

The talk topic this week is “Why is it vital to look after our body and keep it healthy?”

Have a beautiful weekend.

Despina Kafouris

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

### Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

Exam week! Year 5’s did UK S.A.T.S in reading, writing and mathematics. We had to write about improvements to the playground and changing seasons in the park and to read about changes in dragonfly nymphs and street carnivals. The much quicker Mental Maths paper was something of a triumph and we all finished off the week quite happy. The children have taken the tests in their stride and remained undisturbed throughout.

Big effort didn’t stop there and in Numeracy we examined both polygons and units of measure. In the latter, we explored metric and empirical quantities; the top group doing some problem-solving which made us have to think very laterally. In Literacy, there was more reading comprehension: instructions for air cabins, iphones, how to create a Twitter account and to do crafts from a children’s programme.

In Topic, meanwhile, the children were over the moon with the opportunity to not only model with clay but also try to create their own dance. Both activities were for their fictitious pyramid civilisation: carve a pictograph rune and choreograph a ritual dance. This all followed up some research into what the Aztecs’ and Egyptians’ beliefs were.



In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on our unit on "Animals." We studied some idiomatic expressions with names of animals and read a document on turtles. In grammar we practised verbs in the present tense.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still working really hard on the passé composé and have also started a new vocabulary topic : la santé.

PE was football, but more interestingly volleyball, which many of the children were completely new to. The children enjoyed trying to keep the volleyball in the air and over the net in the warm sunshine and to forget how much it hurts if you connect with the wrong part of the hand.

The children have been taking advantage recently of Thursday tutorials which I have brought in to our timetable. Specific problems; errors in class or tests; or homework doubts are addressed in one-to-one coaching sessions. So far some of the children have done handwriting fixes, fraction clarification and homework support.

And that was our week.

Tim Stedman

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

### Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

Finally, the end-of-year examinations are over! I am sure that the students are as relieved as I am. We can now relax and enjoy the last remaining weeks of this academic year.

We are still in the process of making our ‘recycled’ wind-chimes. Most of the painting is completed and I have now started to varnish all the items. The children have taken inspiration from rainbows and football teams; these wind-chimes will certainly be a colourful addition to our playground for our Sports’ Day & BBQ.

The netball and football teams have been busy preparing for their inter-school competition on Friday. I know that the participants are extremely excited and even though the majority of the department will be unable to support them from the ‘touch-line’, we shall be thinking of them. Good luck to you all.

Rehearsals for ‘Wind in the Willows’ are now taking centre stage. Next week, the actors will be working in small groups; again, it is critical that everyone learns their lines and the words to the songs. Mr E Prescott is reasonably pleased with the progress that the ukulele players are making, but there is still much practice to be done.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on our unit on "Animals." We studied some idiomatic expressions with names of animals and read a document on turtles. In grammar we practised verbs in the present tense.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still working really hard on the passé composé and have also started a new vocabulary topic : la santé.

We began our final project of Year 6 – The Titanic. This week, we have analysed the catalogue of errors that contributed to the sinking of this famous ship on its maiden voyage: faulty rivets, lack of binoculars, unheeded iceberg warnings, ships’ radios being switched off, the lack of lifeboats, the lowering of the bulkheads to accommodate the grand staircase and lifeboats launched half-empty... The Year 6 passengers have now been issued with their boarding passes which they have to

complete before being allowed to embark on this magnificent vessel. Not surprisingly, all the pupils want to travel first class!

I look forward to seeing you tomorrow at International Day which is always an exciting event in the BISB calendar.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

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

In EAL this week

Reception

Our EAL time this week was taken up with PIRA reading tests. EAL will be back to normal next week.

Year One and Year Two

The children used their own words to describe water (nouns, adjectives and verbs). We then listened to poems about rain and pulled out words and phrases that we particularly liked, e.g. trickled down my back. Afterwards, we used both our own words and phrases from other poems to create our own shape poems about water.

Year Three and Year Four

The children finished their BFG chapter. Once complete, we looked at the front cover of a new story called “Into the Forest” by Anthony Browne. We did not read the book, but instead looked at the front cover and made predictions about what will happen and who the boy might meet. We settled upon some fairy tale characters and then drew a story map of what we think will happen and what the characters might say to each other (speech bubbles).

Year Five and Year Six

We have continued to practise opening sentences in different ways in verbal warm up games. We also used The Literacy Shed “Treasure” story as inspiration for our own writing. This week we discussed the main character, Esther, and focussed on describing her. We drew detailed pictures of her and then used it as a role-on-the-wall (describing her physical appearance around the outside and her emotions, personality and feelings on the inside).