

Home School Books – 3 June 2016.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Our summer theme continues, despite the weather doing its best to take us back to Autumn!

This week was all about ‘Sunflowers’; the children have looked at and discussed the life cycle of a sunflower. How it grows from a seed to a beautiful tall magnificent flower. It then makes more seeds, so that when it dies, we can use the new seeds to plant and grow another sunflower.



We also listened to a story called ‘The Tiny Seed’, by Eric Carle. It is quite a long story about the journey of a seed but it has beautiful illustrations and rich vocabulary is used to tell the story of the seed’s journey.

If you are not familiar with this story take a look at this version on you tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ls6wTeT2cKA>

The children then made a sunflower with their handprints and real sunflower seeds; look opposite and see their wonderful creation. Many skills were used to create this fine piece of art, from observational skills to fine motor skills, plus of course it was just fun to do!

Next week we are going to continue with sunflowers and plant one of our very own! We also hope the weather gets warmer so we can put them outside in the sunshine to actually grow! Did you know Sunflowers turn their heads towards the sun and follow its direction all day long!

Our talk topic this week is ' How tall do you think, your sunflower will grow?' Will it be taller than you or your mummy and daddy?'

Have a lovely weekend come rain or shine and keep looking for signs of summer!

Thank you

Alison Davies and Inés van Wassenhove

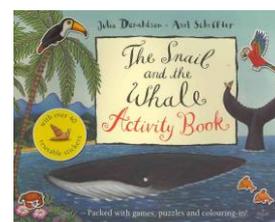
nurseryteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This week our focus story has been Julia Donaldson’s ‘The Snail and the Whale’, and we have enjoyed a collection of activities based around this story.



This week in literacy we have been revising different areas we have covered throughout the year. We started the week looking at rhyming words, from recognising them in our focus story, to reading rhyming sentences and independently hearing the rhymes. We have also looked at letter formation especially with the letters a, h, n, r, g, which should be written without removing the pencil from the paper.

In maths we have also been doing lots of revision. We completed different repeating patterns activities, aiming to create and complete patterns containing at least three different components. We also discussed that patterns are not limited to colours. We have practised counting in 2's, otherwise known as skip counting. The children started by printing playmobile character footprints and moving on to drawing round each other's feet to help them when counting in 2's. The children are able to chant these numbers, and showing recognition of the number pattern when in its written form, the use of 2, 4, 6, 8 at the end.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we are still learning about food but we also coloured our songs books. We learnt more vocabulary related to food. We listened to the song "je suis une pizza" and described all the ingredients that we can use to make a pizza.

This week we completed a fun, seaside themed science experiment. The children had to make sand the perfect consistency to make a sandcastle. They used iPads to take photos as they progressed throughout the experiment, and with an adult scribe, reported their discussions about the sands consistency at different stages.

Talk topic for Monday will be describing the appearance and characteristics of our favourite sea creatures.

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Gill and Aleksandra Hauwaerts

receptionteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

Although the weather has been miserable we have still been thinking about summer in Year 1! We talked about how people used to go on holiday in the past and seaside holidays in days gone by. We also made some beautiful caterpillar and butterfly art inspired by the work of the artist and author Eric Carle, to go on the big school display board which will be changing to summer. We had already used paint and objects to print onto tissue paper previously and then we cut the paper to make our designs, the same technique that Eric Carle used.



In literacy this week we talked about a poem called 'Wings' by Pie Corbett. We discussed all the things that we would touch, taste, listen to, gaze at and dream of, if we had wings like a butterfly or a bee. We then wrote our own poems based on the same structure that Pie Corbett used. In phonics we learned to read and write words with the /wh/ and /ph/ graphemes. In science we learned about bees. We found out how they make honey and that there are three different types of bees – the worker bee, drone and queen bee.

In maths we have been learning all about time. We have learned to tell the time using both analogue and digital clocks to the hour, half hour and quarter past the hour. We began to look at times that are quarter to the hour as well. The children have done very well with this and impressed me with their time telling skills!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we listened to our new story "un coucou dans la pendule". We learnt to read the time by asking "quelle heure est-il ?" We made beautiful clocks to practise telling the time.

We have also been busy practising for our summer show that is coming up in a few weeks on the 23rd of June. It promises to be full of super singing. Also Year 1 is going to Technopolis with Year 2 on Monday the 13th of June. A letter was sent home at the beginning of the week with more details so please come and see us if you have not received this for some reason, or if it has been lost. Thank you to the parents who have offered to help; there were very limited spaces for helpers this year and these are now unfortunately full. Finally can I take this opportunity to ask that all children bring a lightweight coat to school on these unpredictable early summer days as sometimes it can still feel quite cool?

Have a lovely weekend.

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

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

This week, we have returned to the subject of the Great Fire of London. The children practised their research skills, using books and selected sources to find out all they could about a particular aspect of the Great Fire. We learned many interesting facts, for example: that King Charles 11 left his palace to fight the fire alongside others; that one good thing about the fire was that it destroyed the rats which had been spreading the terrible plague and causing many thousands of deaths; that after the fire, the King took the opportunity to commission a rebuilding of London, planned by the architect Sir Christopher Wren. We then had a very enjoyable Big Write session, in which we wrote reports, and then edited them and compiled them into a newspaper, of which we will make several copies. I was pleased to see the care with which the children used, on the whole, correct spellings and punctuation.

In our grammar sessions this week, we have been looking again at nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. The children should all be able to recognize them in sentences, and to use them in speaking and writing. We also looked at different types of sentences, specifically: statements (ordinary sentences); questions, exclamations and commands.

In mathematics, we have been reading temperatures from thermometers, as well as revising adding 2-digit numbers by partitioning (i.e. for $57+38$ doing $50+30$, then $7+8$, then $80+15$) and finding the difference between two numbers (I found that the children needed extra practice with this).

This week in French, we continued working on our unit on Transportation. We talked about the way we come to school and about our favourite means of transportation. We sang the song "Hep! Taxi!" and also practised reading on www.readinga-z.com.

I see that some of the children have started practising some maths and English skills on the IXL website – well done. I made temporary logins for the children, as a 30 day trial for the class. I suggest that the children practise first the addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and measuring, in maths, and nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs and types of sentences in English. (There are so many skills that it can be hard to choose where to start.) They should only practise for about 10 or 15 minutes on any day.

Our talk topic is “How could we survive if we lived somewhere very hot or very cold?”

On Monday 13th June, we will be making our trip to Technopolis with Year 1. Thank you to all those who have already sent in the form and the payment for the trip.

Thanks, and have a good weekend.

Yours,
Kate Read and Elizabeth Flynn
year2teacher@telenet.be
Please click [here](#) for our Year 2 webpage

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

It has been a rather wet week and it has been good to get out when we have been able to.

In Literacy we concentrated on prefixes this week. We have found out how these can change words, usually to mean the



opposite of the root word. Earlier in the week we wrote a story outlining plans for a treasure hunt. We have also been hard at work writing reports about activities that have happened this year.

In Numeracy we did some general revision. We revised fractions of numbers, addition and subtraction methods, angles and lines. Think tank went well on Friday.

In Science we wrote up our crystal experiments and found that even if the sugar crystals did not grow in the solution, they seem to have developed out of it. Our garden has responded wonderfully to the rain. Our potato has sprouted and the beans are showing signs of life. One lettuce is doing very well whilst the smaller one seems to be wilting. The watercress is growing taller.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still working on our food topic and listened to the song "je suis une pizza" and actually made our very own pizzas. They were delicious! We wrote down the recipe in our notebooks and described the food we have for lunch. In French with Mrs Gorgia, we worked on the unit "Qu'est-ce que tu as perdu?" (What did you lose?) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We studied how we discuss past events and how we use the past tense (Passé Composé).

In Art we learnt about Pablo Picasso and drew a self-portrait using his methods. The results were very interesting. We also spoke about Henri Matisse.

In Topic we finished our tour of Mumbai and are off to Hyderabad next.

In PE we enjoyed our penultimate session of tennis. I can see the improvement in the children's way of holding their racquets and how they can hit the ball over the net.

Our talk topic this week is: Officially it is summer but the weather is telling us otherwise. Discuss.

Have a very relaxing weekend,

Valeria Vetter

year3teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

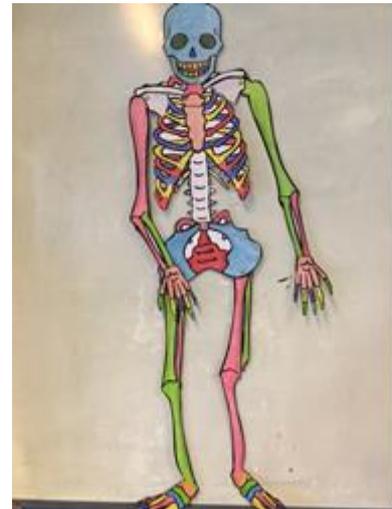
This week has been a quiet and enjoyable week. The children have been working hard during lessons, been creative in art, practising for the summer production but most importantly having great fun.

In numeracy we worked on adding 2, 3 and 4 digit numbers. The children had to look carefully at the patterns in the sums, using their mental methods.

This week the Year 4 children completed the last unit of the Grammar text book. The children were thrilled and so excited to have completed the whole book. This week we worked on verbs in the past and present tenses. The children had to change verbs

from the past, into present tense and then into future tense. This was a fun but challenging activity.

In science this week we learnt about the Skeleton. We discussed the importance of having a skeleton. In addition to this we discussed the three most important reasons for having a skeleton. We looked at the organs of the body and talked about which bones of our bodies protect the different body organs.



The children worked on many different activities. The children labelled the human skeleton worksheet by looking carefully at all the bones on the sheet and firstly labelled the names of the bones they knew. Then, as a class activity we worked together looking at the other unfamiliar names and labelled the rest of the worksheet. The best part about science was when each child received a skeleton template. They were eager to colour it in and of course cut all the parts and put them together.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still working on our food topic and listened to the song "je suis une pizza" and actually made our very own pizzas. They were delicious! We wrote down the recipe in our notebooks and described the food we have for lunch. In French with Mrs Gorgia, we worked on the unit "Qu'est-ce que tu as perdu?" (What did you lose?) from our book "Alex & Zoé". We studied how we discuss past events and how we use the past tense (Passé Composé).

In art this week we completed different activities. Some children completed some of their unfinished art work that had been pending. The rest of the children were working on their skeleton colouring which they had started in science.

The talk topic this week is "Explain why we need a Skeleton? What are the three important reasons?"

Happy Weekend,

Despina Kafouris

year4teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

This week there were full SATS mathematics exams but otherwise it was learning as usual. There remains one more test: the Numeracy course material exams but otherwise the Year 5's have crossed the exams finish line.

It was a very interesting week.

We started the week by performing our pyramid civilisation dances and Artem left us open-mouthed and speechless with his astonishing 6-minute interpretation. In doing so, he won probably the fastest Star of the Week certificate in Year 5 history.

In Literacy, we switched from Instructions to the very similar genre of Explanations. Along the way we compared the two and learnt about when to use brackets but the chief component was presenting information to an audience. This was educational gold dust. The class had to explain how an object of modern technology works and later present a 'pitch' for a patent design. Now the class have done performance poetry, recitals and drama but no public speaking. All the class did well and were articulate but Amin really shone and was a natural; clearly one to watch in the boardroom in the future.

In Topic, meanwhile, the children made jewellery and treasures using various shiny and bendy materials. These will be for secreting in the pyramids that the class will make very soon. The children loved doing this and stayed concentrated the whole time.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started a new unit on favourite activities and hobbies. We worked on vocabulary related to this theme and in grammar we studied the way to say that we are in the middle of doing something (être en train de ...). 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 which we corrected in class. We took this opportunity to revise the body parts.

Autumnal weather this week demanded autumnal sports for PE and we played hockey. Because of such weather, Monday's after-school cricket match was cancelled but the 2nd cricket match is next Monday, then it's the Juniors Show (Wind in the Willows) and the following Monday (20th June) will be the re-arranged postponed game. All the Year 5's are involved in one or both of the matches and it is important that they know when they are due to stay behind at school. Unfortunately for us, the poor weather did not force the cancellation of the Fifteen15 Cup on Wednesday lunchtime. We were put firmly to the sword by Year 6 and given a masterclass lesson in attacking cricket.

And that was our week.

Best wishes
Tim Stedman
year5teacher@telenet.be
Please click [here](#) for our Year 5 webpage

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

The weather has presented a real challenge to our Summer sporting calendar! Notwithstanding the rain, the cricket match went ahead on Wednesday, with the Year

6 being victorious. Let's hope that the cricket match scheduled for next Monday, after school, will not have to be postponed again...

With all this water, we feel very at home studying the Titanic. On Monday the children learnt about Morse code which included listening to the code, reading and writing messages. Their task was to send a 'final' telegram on the night that the ship sank. You will be all pleased, but not surprised to learn, that family, was the number one thought.

• • • — — — • • •

It was then time to embark. With a 'red carpet' laid out in front of giant photograph of the Grand Staircase, the passengers, armed with boarding passes, joined the ship. All passengers were required to introduce themselves to their travelling companions.

We then set sail; our fellow passengers include Jack and Rose, and we have just met Molly Brown. Tonight will shall be dining at the 'Captain's Table, with the White Star's millionaire's captain, Captain Smith.

The students, with their now in-depth knowledge of the history of this ship, were required to put their historical skills to the test by analysing primary and secondary sources to answer a set of questions. Having understood the difference between these sources and knowing that any answer had to be supported (and cited) by evidence, the detectives scrutinised a range of documents including menus, photographs and testimonies. Next week, we shall be preparing our own court case to discover who really was responsible for the sinking of the Titanic; the trial will take place after the performance.

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we started a new unit on favourite activities and hobbies. We worked on vocabulary related to this theme and in grammar we studied the way to say that we are in the middle of doing something (être en train de ...). 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 which we corrected in class. We took this opportunity to revise the body parts. Just over one week to go until the Junior Department Production, information about costumes has been sent out; some children will require two costumes.

The children are really enjoying their Thursday morning swimming sessions; some of them are beginning to use the butterfly stroke, others are taking their first tentative strokes in the deep end.

Thank you for your tremendous support for the School Council's project 'Rippledawn, the Movie'; we hope to release it early next week.

Wishing you a relaxing weekend,

Beverley Tranter

year6teacher@telenet.be

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

In EAL this week

Reception

The first part of the week we continued with our PIRA reading tests. On Wednesday, we listened to the story of 'The Rainbow Fish'. We noticed interesting adjectives used to describe him, e.g. glittering, colourful etc and then used them and our own words to write another shape poem.

Year One and Year Two

The children listened to the story of 'The drop that went plop'. We then worked together to create a group story map. Afterwards, we practised retelling the story using our own words. We created props, e.g. characters and setting, from coloured paper, card, cello tape and building blocks and then used this to act out and inspire our retelling.

Year Three and Year Four

The children finished their 'Into the Forest' story maps. We added prepositional phrases to each part of the story as interesting openers. We also played some synonym games and used the thesaurus to think of others.

Year Five and Year Six

We have continued with our 'Treasure' story. We finished our 'Role-on-the-walls' from last week and discussed the use of synonyms to describe a character's key features with greater variety (helps us to avoid repetition). We used our descriptions in our opening paragraph for the story and then created a story map / plan so that we have a structure to follow when writing the story next week.