

Home School Books – 17 June 2016.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

This week in nursery has been all about 'sand' we took part in a whole school science project on how to make the most efficient sandcastle!



First we looked at different types of sand, ranging from dry to gloopy and the children were asked questions using specific scientific language on the composition of the sand. It is amazing how much information the children could give on the texture of the sand and how they thought it would or would not make a sandcastle, depending on how much water was added. The children, without being aware of it, were estimating and predicting what the result would be! Many of them were correct and predicted that dry sand would never come out of the pot looking like a sandcastle because it was too soft and if too much water was added the sand would sink to the bottom of the bowl and be too sloppy!

It was a great exercise and of course everyone had fun and once we had found the optimal mixture to produce the ideal sandcastle, we made lots and lots of them! Photographs will be posted on the school website before the end of term, so please look out for them.

There was more sand talk when we looked at the different objects you might see if you go on a beach holiday. Hoping that the sunshine follows us, each child discussed, selected and cut out the objects they would like to take to the beach. If you look opposite you will see what your little one thought were the most important goodies for them, to take or to find on the beach.

We are of course practising for our Summer Show with great gusto! Please don't forget to put the date in your diary for next Wednesday 22 June at 11.30am. If you are an afternoon parent please bring your child to nursery at 11am so we can prepare the whole group before the show starts. Remember to bring your child in a bright colourful summer outfit, tee shirt and shorts are the ideal.

Your child will not need to bring a snack on that day, we will provide some fruit and a small biscuit and a drink to give them a boost before the show starts.

We look forward to seeing you all there, with the sunshine!

Have a good weekend

Alison Davies and Inés van Wassenhove

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

It has been a wonderful week welcoming Mrs Julaton back into the class and the children were all very excited. This week we have been learning all about sharks, and how there are many types of shark, not all carnivores. We completed the week with a science experiment, where the children had to try and see how many drops of vanilla essence was needed in a large bucket before they can smell it well, referring this to the incredible sense of smell that sharks have.



In literacy we have been practising reading for meaning. The children had to listen to a shark's fact sheet and respond to true and false questions, seeing how much they could remember from the text. They also wrote up individual shark reports, choosing a shark of their choice. We ended the week looking at the names of the different fins of a shark, discussing the purpose of each of them. They used their new knowledge of the fins to label a descriptive image of a shark.

In maths we have been reviewing addition, subtraction and accurate counting by playing many different math based board games, which the children loved. The children also completed a multiple step addition activity, asking them to work out the numbers before completing the addition.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we watched Trotro making a cake with his mummy, Petit Ours Brun making crêpes with his daddy and Caillou making soup in order to practise all of the vocabulary we had learned regarding food. We learnt to draw a cake with Didou and had fun playing some games on the computer with Boowa and Kwala.

As a reminder, this coming Wednesday, 22nd June, at 11:30 we will be having our summer show and therefore please remember that the children can come into school in bright summer shorts and t-shirts on this day.

Talk topic for Monday will be sharing their favourite type of shark and explaining why.

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Gill and Ivana Julaton

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

It's been a super busy week in Year 1! On Monday we went on our school trip to Technopolis. We had a really great day exploring all of the science and technology

exhibits there. Some of the things we learned were how to make a ball go up a ramp by using the pressure from a water jet, how to make really big bubbles and how echoes work. We also made an igloo, built a house, visited a garage and a supermarket and looked at how technology is used in these places amongst many other things. The children wrote an account of their experiences in their home school books this week. We have also been very busy practising for our summer show which is now less than a week away on Thursday, 23rd of June. All the children have worked very hard at learning the songs and poem and are excited to perform for you.

In literacy we looked at the /o-e/ and /u-e/ split digraphs that appear in words such as 'home' and 'tune'. We practised reading and writing words with these sounds and using these words in sentences. We are almost at the end of our phonics program for this year and the children have learned lots of new graphemes.

In maths we worked on adding and subtracting 1 and 10 from any number up to 100. We also revisited our work on place value for the last time this year and the children had to find out how many numbers could be created from three '10s' numbers and three 'units' numbers. They found out that there were 9 possibilities!

In science we took part in a whole school sandcastle experiment where we investigated how to build the best sandcastle. Specifically in Year 1 we looked at how much water to add. We gradually changed the consistency of the sand from completely dry to a flooded beach by adding 1 cup full of water each time to the sand, trying to build a sandcastle and then describing the results. We found out that we needed some water to build a really good sandcastle, but not so much that it became sloppy and sticky.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we listened to our new story "un coucou dans la pendule". We learnt about means of transportation and we talked about how we come to school. We followed Lucie to the market where she met Monsieur Oribilis.

And that was our busy, sandy, rainy 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 had an extremely stimulating and enjoyable week.

The highlight this week was Monday's trip to Technopolis. We spent the day exploring science concepts, largely through play. To give a few examples: by crawling through burrows to see the animals, we learned about animals and their habitats; by tiling a roof, operating a crane, building a wall, constructing a machine with cogwheels and then using water to move objects, we learned about forces and motion; by changing an electrical current and watching the movement of small iron objects, we learned about electromagnetism. There are many other examples. The children would very much appreciate another visit to Technopolis, which is accessible by public transport.



On Wednesday, we enjoyed another day with a focus on science. Each class in the school investigated how to find the perfect proportion of sand and water for making sandcastles. Year 2's assignment was to write instructions for making sandcastles. After some initial investigation in their small groups, the children quickly worked out that they would need to add water to the sand, and that too little or too much water would not work. This very talented class also worked out a way of measuring the amounts of water and sand, using standard measures, and then of testing the resulting sandcastles: they decided to test the strength of the sandcastle by putting increasingly heavy weights on top. We were delighted to find that with 500g of sand and 200ml of water, we could build a sandcastle that could hold over 300g, if the weight is carefully positioned on the top.

We have continued to prepare for the summer show. The children have learnt their lines and their songs well. I do hope you will be able to come and see the show (in the school playground on Thursday 23rd June).

In literacy and mathematics this week and next, we have been / will be revising those areas that have been difficult, especially: nouns, verbs, adverbs and adjectives, recognizing questions, spelling patterns for plural words, in maths counting up to find the difference, measuring capacity, weight and length.

This week in French, we continued our revision of vocabulary that we have learned this year. We reviewed the numbers, the colours and the members of our family. Thank you for sending back the reading questions. I will try to ensure that each child brings home a different question each day.

Our talk topic is What makes me feel proud of myself?

Thanks, and have a good weekend

Yours,
Kate Read and Tina Keogh
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 2 webpage

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

What a lovely performance on Monday! You all have reason to be proud. I know I am.

After a quiet morning at school on Monday, we left for the theatre. We did a run through and then relaxed for a bit. Then the magic began. I was so proud of our class. They performed wonderfully and sang their hearts out.

Tuesday was a more relaxing day as we did some handwriting and played word games.

On Wednesday we had our sandcastle challenge. In the morning we did some more maths games on activelearn and also concentrated on coding exercises. We researched the best way to build a sandcastle on



our iPads and then in the afternoon we put all our ideas into action. We added water, moulded sand and finally were happy with the results. We explained our methods and, all in all, had a very engaging afternoon. Add to that a superb final cricket match which Europe finally won.



In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on our unit on holidays. We did many vocabulary and grammar activities and we listened to the French pop song "La valise" (The suitcase) by Dorothée.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still working on our food topic and watched how to make crêpes (pancakes). We watched several cartoons and then described the various ingredients and stages of the recipe.

We were so sad to say goodbye to our tennis coach. We have really enjoyed our tennis sessions and look forward to next year's ones. In guided reading we continued with our various adventures into the world of the imagination.

The talk topic for this week is Do you think there is any way in which we could have improved our sandcastles?

Have a restful and calm weekend,

Valeria Vetter

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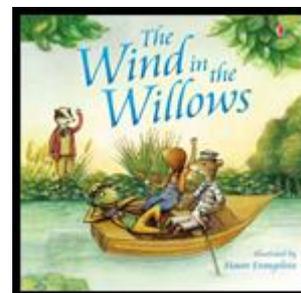
Please click [here](#) for our Year 3 webpage

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

The week started off wonderfully. The children had their summer production and it was absolutely AMAZING!!

The children each acted their role out with enthusiasm, expression but most importantly enjoyed being part of this wonderful show. We are all so proud of our talented little stars. They worked thoroughly on a daily basis and it was noticeable by far. Well done to the Juniors!!



Another exciting thing that happened this week was 'building sandcastles' for our science investigation. This was a whole school science project where both the Infant and Junior department had to build sand castles in all sizes. The target for this project was to find a way to make the sand thicker in order to build a sand castle without it collapsing. The children discovered that when mixing a small amount of water to the sand, the sand was slightly thicker and stickier and this helped keep the sand upright. This is because the



water forms tiny bridges between the grains of sand which holds them together. The children had noticed that if too much water was added, water fills the space between the grains of sand and the bridges break down. It was a wonderful science investigation and the children thoroughly enjoyed working with the sand but also getting an experience on another hands on activity.

In Literacy this week we worked on a comprehension about summer. The children learnt about what happens to animals during the summer. We looked at fruits and foods that grow during the summer but most importantly we discussed how it is celebrated. The children mentioned how the best part about summer is spending their afternoon outside playing. They also completed a very challenging word search in their summer booklets.

In Numeracy this week the children began working on tricky 2 step sums from the summer booklet prepared for the children. The children had worked on sums using the 4 different operations in maths.

During our science lesson, we discussed the differences between vertebrate and invertebrate animals. The children looked at skeletons in animals and how skeletons vary from animal to animal. The children looked at different animal skeletons that were not labelled and the children had to guess what animals they thought it was. Some animals were very obvious however; other pictures were tricky and needed some thought. The children enjoyed looking at dinosaur skeletons!!

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on our unit on holidays. We did many vocabulary and grammar activities and we listened to the French pop song "La valise" (The suitcase) by Dorothée.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still working on our food topic and watched how to make crêpes (pancakes). We watched several cartoons and then described the various ingredients and stages of the recipe.

The talk topic this week is “What was easy, difficult and also fun when building a sandcastle during the science investigation?”

Have a lovely weekend.

Despina Kafouris

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

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

Not such a beautiful week weather wise but most certainly a beautiful show. The Juniors production was really, really good and all the Year 5's put in a fantastic showing. A lot of hard work was put in and the fine finished product was the reward. We're all quite tired now and Thursday's course exam for Numeracy was the final push. From now on, I intend to take the foot off the pedal, tie things up, finish things off and get the children to reflect a little on what we've achieved and what comes next.

To ready ourselves for the tests, we just needed to learn how to add and subtract fractions and it was just as well as no one was fully competent. The exam itself was apparently a difficult one but then the new, amended UK curriculum is more challenging.

Information about the results will be included in the children's reports which I have been happily writing this week and you will receive in the last week of term.

Wednesday was Science Day and this involved making sandcastles. Preparing for the beach this summer, you ask? No, sir. We had the key challenge of finding the ideal ratio of sand to water to make the perfect tower of sand. And we think we found it. This was the perfect experiment because it required thinking, fair testing, accurate measuring, close observation, prediction, trial and error, mathematics and a lot of fun. 85% sand: 15% water made a pretty solid, reliable sandcastle but we can still refine our testing as we now have a range to work in. See

<http://www.bisb.org/project/y5-sandcastles-science-day/>



Science also took us outside to complete our heart rate investigation and apparently the Year 3 children were extremely puzzled to see your children strolling around a big circle round the perimeter of the playground and then suddenly lying prostrate on the ground. If only they had seen the sprinting beforehand or the recording of heart rates following they would have realised that this was not just folly. Results were entered

into graphs on Apple Number on the ipads and the conclusion was clear: the harder the exercise, the harder and more rapidly the heart beats. We discussed at length why this happens.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we filled in a "portrait chinois" which is a funny questionnaire giving some information about ourselves. We also put our French folders in order and we watched "Les vacances de Ducobu".

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on the unit "Temps libre "(Leisure Time) from our book "Les Loustics". We talked about what we do on the weekends and what we do on holiday. In grammar we studied the use and the structure of the future tense (Futur Proche).

PE was squash in the gym to avoid the rain in the playground and then later the watching of Lagaan; a film with strong political overtones, but more simply about an underdog cricket team's deliverance against the odds.

And that was our week.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman

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

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for your kind words of appreciation concerning the Junior Department Production. As you can imagine, a terrific amount of work is involved by pupils and teachers; a real team effort. The result was fantastic and your support, as always, is invaluable.

Feeling exhausted on Tuesday, we took the opportunity to revisit our study about World War 1, by watching the film of the book (that we have previously read) 'Private Peaceful'. Although harrowing at times, the story included a range of themes: conscientious objectors, courage, mental illness, brutality and class-struggle. These topics provoked a variety of meaningful discussions, and I was impressed with the maturity shown by the pupils in dealing with these challenging and controversial issues.

Sandcastles. This week, the entire school has been involved in a BISB Sandcastle experiment. In Year 6, this is still ongoing, so far we have been studying sand which has included examining sand sculptures in Portugal, listening to a 'Ted Talk '...when photographed under a 3D microscope, grains of sand appear like colourful pieces of candy'. Also, we watched a video showing that 'There's a story in every grain of sand: tales of life and death, fire and water'. If you scooped up a handful of sand from every beach, you'd have a history of the world sifting through



your fingers.’ The students are now designing a range of ‘sand’ related experiments which we shall carry out over the next few days.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we filled in a "portrait chinois" which is a funny questionnaire giving some information about ourselves. We also put our French folders in order and we watched "Les vacances de Ducobu".

In French with Mrs Gorgia, we continued working on the unit "Temps libre "(Leisure Time) from our book "Les Loustics". We talked about what we do on the weekends and what we do on holiday. In grammar we studied the use and the structure of the future tense (Futur Proche).

Reluctantly, we took the decision to postpone sports’ day, as we would prefer the best weather possible for our BBQ and water games. Of course, nothing is ever guaranteed with Belgian weather!

The children thoroughly enjoyed their swimming lesson and it was great to see all of them in the deep-end this week.

I was delighted to receive the Lamda results; all the Year 6 pupils performed brilliantly with excellent results – congratulations.

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

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

In EAL this week

Reception

We learned new vocabulary related to the seaside. We focussed on nouns and played some guessing games and initial sound games. We enjoyed looking at the shells and pebbles.

Year One and Year Two

We discussed our trip to Technopolis on Monday. We then drew posters of the things that we saw and started to write a short recount about it which we will complete next week. Today we played our phonics game.

Year Three and Year Four

The children compared their story maps to the original ‘Into the forest’ story. We enjoyed reading the story in a guided reading group, discussing the language and events, and were surprised by how similar our stories were to Anthony Browne’s! Today we have been reading the BFG story and highlighted inaccuracies in the BFG’s writing (grammar and spelling). We have then invented our own dreams and written labels for our dream bottles.

Year Five and Year Six

We have been reflecting on our time in EAL this year. We used the 'pages' app on the iPads to share our end of year thoughts for our year book page. We also used 'Animate' to create short animations and will then use this as stimulus for our own short stories.