

Home School Books –09 September 2016.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

The children are really starting to settle now and are becoming increasingly familiar with the nursery routines and we are starting to put our curriculum areas into action. We have started our theme of 'all about me' this week and you can see opposite their first sit down, one to one activity, with the teacher. The children were asked various questions about different features found on their faces. They then drew the features onto a face template. All seven areas of the foundation curriculum were covered in this one activity and as each child is unique they understood the activity at their level and stage of development.

One particular area we would like to explain this week is, why it is so important to have a sand tray not only outside but inside of the nursery:

Sand play promotes physical development. Large muscle skills develop as children dig, pour, sift, scoop, and clean up spills with brush and dustpan. Eye-hand coordination and small muscle control improve as children learn to manipulate sand accessories. Sand play also promotes social skills. When children work together at the sand table they are faced with real problems that require sharing, compromising, and negotiating.



A group may engage in dramatic play as they "cook," construct roadways, dig tunnels, or create a zoo for rubber animals. As children take on roles associated with their dramatic play, they learn important social skills such as empathy and perspective taking. The teacher can promote cognitive development by preparing an interesting, challenging sand play environment. This environment can be achieved by continually changing and adding interesting accessories to the centre.

Mathematical concepts can be developed during sand play by providing children with measuring spoons and cups, containers in a variety of sizes and shapes, balance scales, or counting bears. As you observe children's sand play, use mathematical terms like more/less; many/few; empty/full; heavy/light. Then challenge children to count how many scoops it takes to fill a container. Sequence accessories by size. Develop science concepts by suspending a funnel or pendulum above the sand table. Provide magnets and buried treasure. Use ropes and pulleys to move buckets of sand. Punch holes in a plastic bottle, fill it with sand, and observe. Then try different sizes and placement of holes. What happens? Ask children what they could do with a water/sand wheel, PVC pipes, ramps, sieves, funnels, or rolling pins. Add water, filters, or gravel to the sand. How does it change? Plus of course the amazing language acquisition that comes from engaging in sand play!

As you can see sand covers a range of cross curricular activities but most of all it is fun to play in! So please bear with us while we are setting down the rules for the children regarding throwing the sand around, as we are aware for a little while your child may come home with sand in their hair, especially if your child has oil in their hair, it will stick and need to be washed out instead of brushed out. Sorry!

Just to reassure you, the sand we use is nontoxic and cannot cause any lasting damage to skin or clothes, even if it gets into the eyes it should not irritate the eye once it is removed. Sand is always available as a free and a teacher led activity, so children can make a choice, another important skill, of how they wish to be engaged in the sand area.

Just a few quick reminders: Please check your children's snack and lunch box portions, if they are bringing a lot of food back home, then it is usually the portion size that is too big! We will encourage your children to eat as much as they can, but we will not force them to eat, as this is distressing for all concerned.

Please DO NOT send chocolate or sweets in their snack boxes, avoid chocolate covered biscuits and cakes, these are not only messy for your child to eat but are not particularly healthy either. We do promote healthy eating throughout the school, so fruit or a small yoghurt is a better option. Please DO NOT send nuts either, as these can be life threatening to children who have severe allergies. It only takes your child to touch nuts or nut products and then touch the child who has the allergy in some cases.

All of the children have welcomed Mrs Tolentino, this week; if you missed the e mail, she is our new nursery assistant and although new to us, she has been with the school for many years, working as a teaching assistant across the age ranges.

Until next week, have a great weekend and our talk topic for you to discuss with your child this weekend is 'Who lives in your home? What are their names?'

Thank you

Alison Davies & Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

We have had a great week this week, making the most of this sunny weather to use the outdoor space for our learning. We have focussed on the story 'Cops and Robbers' by Janet and Allan Alhberg, learning new vocabulary that the book encompasses.



This week to continue our reading adventure we have looked at the sound /i/, /n/ and /m/. The children have practised their correct letter formation, and have begun to blend these sounds to try reading words such as /s/a/t/, or, /p/i/n/. We have begun looking at initial sounds, such as sun begins with a /s/, and ant begins with an /a/.

In maths we have continued to work on chanting and recognising numbers to twenty. They have been engaging with activities that involve the children matching a numeral to a quantity, to count accurately using one to one correspondence, recognise numbers beyond ten and begin forming numbers.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we have made fantastic progress and are now capable of asking "Comment t'appelles-tu ?" and answering "Je m'appelle Et toi ?" We count really well and fast up to ten and backwards too. We also started learning colours and we know the primary colours : bleu, rouge, jaune.

In P.E. this week we have been discussing the effects of exercise on our bodies, how we feel our heart beat fast, and we get hot and have to breathe more. We have practised relays, the idea of teamwork rather than being on your own. We have played a variety of new games, involving careful listening and moving around the playground with caution.

The Talk topic for Monday will be talking about our pets, which could be pets we've had in the past., or pets we'd like to have.

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Irakoze and Ivana Julaton

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

This week has gone by very quickly in Year 1! We have been busy with all our activities in class and enjoying the lovely September sunshine. Thank you to everyone who attended the Year 1 curriculum evening. It was great to meet with you to discuss the year and answer the questions you had; we hope you found it informative. Please try to ensure your child brings their school folder every day if possible as this is where we keep all of your child's communication with school. Thank you also to everyone who has sent in a photograph of their child when they were a baby; we are looking forward to discussing them next week.

This week in Literacy we continued to work with the s/a/t/p/i/n letters and also revisited /m/ and /d/. Also we read the story 'By the Stream' together and many of the children retold the story in their literacy books. We have also given the children their high frequency word cards to learn at home. Please practise these as often as you can at home to help your child quickly recognise the words that come up very often in their reading books and keep them in their school folder. In Numeracy this week we have been learning about number bonds or pairs of number that make 4, 5, 6 or 10 when added together. We have started to learn our superheroes song which helps us to remember the number bonds to 10.

As part of our topic 'Ourselves and our school' we have discussed our apartments/houses using describing words such as old, new, big, small, garden, balcony, number of floors, lift and stairs. I was pleased to see that so many of the children had tried to discuss the talk topic at home and used some great language. The

children also drew pictures of where they live. We also talked about countries we have lived in before and the country we live in at the moment, Belgium. Next week's talk topic is 'How have I changed since I was a baby?'

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have listened to chapter 2 of our story and Tourloublanc is talking to the wind. We learned certain commands like "ouvre la porte" (open the door), "monte" (go up), "enter" (come in) and "regarde" (look). We acted out the scenes and that gave the children opportunities to speak.

Also as part of our topic we tried painting with our toes in art. This was a lot of messy fun! We watched a Chinese artist who had spent many years making beautiful paintings in this way and after having a go ourselves we really appreciated his talent. We also learned a song about how it's good to be ourselves called 'Good to be me' and taught it to the rest of the infant department in assembly. We also learned how to sign the song using British sign language with our hands and the children were excellent.



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

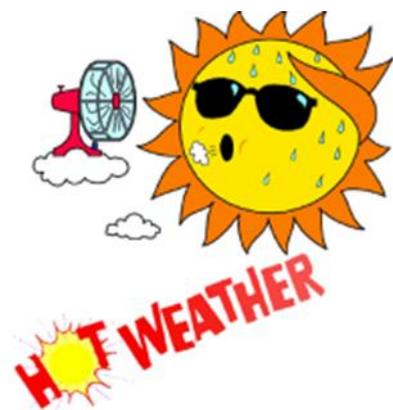
Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

It has been a very warm week in school and we have coped rather well with it. Hopefully the temperatures will fall next week.

In Literacy we have been familiarizing ourselves with traditional stories involving animals. We have read a few in class and have been predicting what happens next. In Phonics we have been working on /ai/ sounds and where they fall in words.

In Numeracy we have been estimating and counting. We have also been doing work on 1 more or less and 10 more or less. We have been ordering numbers from smallest to biggest as well. We are now revising our bonds of 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 20. We also did a comprehension on elephants where we read the views of 3 different groups of people and decided how they could best work together.



In Science and Topic we began to look at the different habitats and which animals live in these places. We also looked at parts of the body of various animals.

In PE, we practised throwing and catching skills in pairs and took it very easy due to the hot weather. There was no swimming this week because of pool maintenance but there will be swimming again on Tuesday.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on introducing family members in a fun theatrical way, focusing on the **feminine and masculine** use of the possessive and demonstrative adjectives: **C'est - Ma, Mon, Ta, Ton** and the use of **Il s'appelle... elle s'appelle...** The children got to smile, giggle and use French names for **Mère & Père** in simple and short phrases.

In Art we are making a class zoo. We have been collecting the animals and will put them in their enclosures soon.

The talk topic for this week is: Do you prefer hot or cold weather? Explain.

Thank you for coming to the meeting on Tuesday evening. It was good to meet you all and discuss the procedures in year 2.

Have a peaceful weekend.

Valeria Vetter

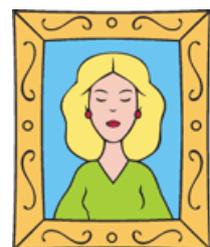
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 2 webpage

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

This has been a busy week in Year 3 with everyone settling into the routine and participating confidently. It is lovely to see the children bringing in their individual contributions to both our Art Gallery wall and to our Reading Challenge window – we certainly have plenty of talented artists and the book recommendations have been discussed enthusiastically. Reading is proving popular and the children are keen to share their favourite stories with everyone.



In numeracy we continued our theme of data collection, evaluation and presentation; collating various sets of information and creating different charts. We looked at the importance of reading questions very carefully in order to make sure that we know exactly what information we are looking for. This led to discussion of concepts such as 'fewer than', 'more than', 'most popular' etc. We also played dice games to generate data for our bar charts. We are revising how to tell the time, using clocks and working in pairs to challenge each other. This has meant that the week has frequently been punctuated with interjections of 'It's playtime in ten minutes' or 'We've got quarter of an hour until lunchtime'... but it does show that the skills are there!

Writing the scripts for our puppet plays has been a challenge. The puppets are fantastic and the stories created are exciting and imaginative, but it has not been easy to work out the dialogue between the characters. We have therefore looked closely at different stories and analysed the characters, settings and storyline. This has made script writing easier and the first (practice!) performances have been held. We discovered that it is difficult to manipulate lots of puppets together behind tables, so the paints came out today and the real puppet theatres are being constructed. These promise to be spectacular and will also be very useful for our shadow experiments in science.

We improved our creative writing drafts and added our favourite parts of our 'Journey to school' descriptions to our display, along with cartoon style drawings to add colour and detail. We continued the story of Dad and his quest for the milk; this week he added 'wumpires', Aztecs and a dinosaur in a hot-air balloon to his antics. We're getting to grips with the idea of time travel, but were brought to a halt this afternoon with the arrival of the Intergalactic Space Police...

In PE we practised more basketball skills, dribbling around obstacles in the playground and trying our hand at shooting. We finished with a mini-match and successfully used team tactics to pass the ball. Swimming was great fun. Everyone tried really hard and made progress, and we were considerably quicker at getting changed too – well done to all (and many thanks for the names in clothes – it makes life much easier!).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we wrote down all the school material we use every day and learnt a few phrases we need to use in the classroom when we need certain objects e.g. : "Je peux avoir une gonme s'il vous plaît ?" We listened to the whole song about school material.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on reviewing family members in a fun theatrical way, focusing on the **feminine and masculine**, use of the possessive and demonstrative adjectives: **C'est - Ma, Mon, Ta, Ton** and the use of **Il s'appelle... elle s'appelle...** They got to use **the Métiers** (jobs) and assign new jobs and **French** names to **Mère & Père** using complete and coherent phrases.

It was a pleasure to meet those of you who came to the curriculum evening; I hope that it was helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Given that this Sunday is Car-Free Sunday in Brussels, our talk topic for this week is "Is it better in the city when there are no cars on the roads?" I hope that the rain stays away and that you manage to get out and enjoy the peaceful streets!

Jane Still and Inés van Wassenhove
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 3 webpage

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

A scorching week weather and learning-wise! In literacy we revised the past tense and made some already great writing into fantastic writing using a few new tricks.

In Numeracy, meanwhile, we revisited Place Value (a topic as September as storms, darkening nights and falling leaves), the symbols > and < and – a personal favourite – putting numbers deductively on great number lines.

In Topic, we did a fact file on the Cinderella-author, Charles Perrault's France. This amongst others will later appear in the book of fairy tales we'll 'publish' in December.

The History we learnt about in Topic, however, was fascinating; well, definitely for me and Oskar (you'll have to ask the others). 30 years after the publication of Beauty and the Beast, two events, three years apart, had a monumental effect on the world; a world in which the next generation of fairy-tale writers would grow up and be inspired.

In 1770, Captain Cook and his crew discovered Eastern Australia and 3 years later the Boston Tea Party lit the touch paper for the American War of Independence. We learnt about the sailor's exploits and painted a striking portrait of the 'Tea Party'.



In Science we covered work that gave answers to last week's homework – how animals have certain adaptations to help them thrive in their habitats. For example, wouldn't we all like to close our ears when it's freezing cold like a seal can? The children thought hard about what 'special features' other animals show in their adaptation.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we wrote down all the school material we use every day and learnt a few phrases we need to use in the classroom when we need certain objects e.g. : "Je peux avoir une gonme s'il vous plaît ?" We listened to the whole song about school material.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on reviewing family members in a fun theatrical way, focusing on the **feminine and masculine** use of the possessive and demonstrative adjectives: **C'est - Ma, Mon, Ta, Ton** and the use of **Il s'appelle... elle s'appelle...** The children got to use **the Métiers** (jobs) and assign new jobs and **French** names to **Mère & Père** using complete and coherent phrases.

PE had to take advantage of the extraordinary weather and the Year 4's loved sprinting, hurdling; the long and the high jump. Meanwhile, one Year 4 read and entertained us with Sleeping Beauty while another 'Show 'n tell'- ed us her mother's hard won finishers medal from a world famous half marathon.

And that was our week.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman and Inés van Wassenhove

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

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

Map reading has been the main focus during this week's topic lessons. The children are recording a travel route on their own world maps that correlates to the route taken by the characters in Kensuke's Kingdom. We are continuing to read the novel every day and there have been regular discussions regarding the meaning of some words and sayings and I am pleased that all of the children are able to ask questions when they aren't sure of something.



As part of the recount unit in Literacy, the children have used time connectives in a short recount as well as read and write sentences in both the first and third person. They are also becoming more able to identify both of these literacy features in other subjects – most recently during a maths lesson! The first spelling test of the year was completed and the class were encouraged to check that they understood the meaning of all the words they were being tested on. This is something that will be incorporated into one of the literacy lessons each week.

Maths this week consisted of a range of activities – games, discussions and written work. The pupils have worked hard on explaining their strategies when adding and subtracting two and three digit numbers. They have looked at word problems and used a five step process to solve the problems and show their understanding in written form.

The children are now well underway with their art projects. They have all selected one artist and have used the iPads to research facts about this person. This week, they watched a selection of videos that helped them to gain a better understanding of how their chosen artist created their work. The children will be recreating one of their paintings and they have begun the sketching process before paint is added next week.

In P.E. we have continued to play both rounders and basketball. During the rounders game, we have continued to discuss tactics to further develop their understanding of the rules. They have enjoyed both batting and fielding even if it was particularly hot on the pitch this week! Tennis coaching was also enjoyed by all last week and they participated in a range of games and practised their shots.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on reviewing numbers till 100. We played a game of **what is your home address?** they had to write and spell the correct address number. We also reviewed the family members in a fun theatrical way, focusing on the **feminine and masculine** use of the possessive and demonstrative adjectives: **C'est - Ma, Mon, Ta, Ton** and the use of **Il s'appelle... elle s'appelle...** They got to use **the Métiers** (jobs) and assign new jobs and **French** names to **Mère & Père** using complete and coherent phrases.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we did some exercises in grammar on "aller au (Portugal), en (Allemagne), aux (Pays-Bas), à (Paris)" and added other prepositions

like "aller au cinéma, à la maison, à l'hôtel, à l'école, aux toilettes" and "chez le docteur". We also had a test on this subject.

Notwithstanding the thrills and spills involved in their weekly Science practical session the Year 5 scientists learned how to record experiments in their science journals.

They made a beautiful selection of Birthday Cards in Latin, and sang Happy Birthday in Latin to various members of the class. In Mandarin, the children examined the 'four tones' in detail and learnt how to write 'woman' in Chinese characters using Chineasy.

The first news report was very well produced and covered a range of subjects from around the world; the pupils participated wholeheartedly by asking the presenter questions. The children visited Machu Picchu, which is the first treasure in their 'Around the World in Eighty Treasures' odyssey.

Kind regards

Alison Godwin

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

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

It was a pleasure meeting with you on Tuesday evening and I hope that you found our session informative, enlightening and entertaining. You were all very well behaved in class, thank you!

The students have worked hard this week and are beginning to settle down to life in Year 6. Promising signs are: homework being handed in 'almost' on time, having the correct books for lessons, ensuring that they have all their stationery items and remembering their ukuleles.

In Grammar this week, pupils have revised the role of adjectives in making writing more interesting, including the ordering convention to select a list of adjectives. This was supplemented by studying the '2A' sentence construction – two adjectives preceding the first noun, followed by a further two adjectives preceding a second noun.

The students storyboarded their own versions of Alex Rider's actions when he was left in an office on the fifteenth floor. Using their ideas, they proceeded to write sentences in the style of Anthony Horowitz. Comprehension skills were put to the test on Wednesday and I was pleased with this first attempt. It was then time for the weekly grammar 'work out' covering a range of topics.

I have now taken photographs of the Year 6 Spies in a range of disguises (these are on Edmodo) and they are now completing their spy profile documentation for MI5.

Maths was all about division, including learning the standard long division method for division of whole numbers and decimals. Mastering this skill is the focus of homework; next on the agenda is 'fractions'.

Notwithstanding the thrills and spills involved in our weekly Science practical session on Thursday, the scientists were required to focus on improving how to record experiments in their science journals.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on reviewing numbers till 100. We played a game of **what is your home address?** they had to write and spell the correct address number. We also reviewed the family members in a fun theatrical way, focusing on the **feminine and masculine** use of the possessive and demonstrative adjectives: C'est - **Ma, Mon, Ta, Ton** and the use of **Il** s'appelle... **elle** s'appelle... They got to use **the Métiers** (jobs) and assign new jobs and **French** names to **Mère & Père** using complete and coherent phrases.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we did some exercises in grammar on "aller au (Portugal), en (Allemagne), aux (Pays-Bas), à (Paris)" and added other prepositions like "aller au cinéma, à la maison, à l'hôtel, à l'école, aux toilettes" and "chez le docteur". We also had a test on this subject.

I was presented with a superb array of Birthday Cards in Latin, and we sang Happy Birthday in Latin to various members of the class. Next week, we shall be acting out some of the stories in Minimus. In Mandarin, we examined the 'four tones' in detail and learnt how to write 'woman' in Chinese characters using Chineasy.



Our first news report was very well produced and covered a range of subjects including: Calais Crisis, Paralympics and ISIS. We visited Machu Picchu which is the first treasure in our 'Around the World in Eighty Treasures' odyssey; next week we shall be studying this in more depth.

All in all a terrific week!

Wishing you all a peaceful weekend.

Beverley Tranter

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

In our EAL sessions this week, we have been enjoying a range of communicative activities, all aimed at developing the children's competence in English, and at enabling the children to participate in the class curriculum.

In the Infant Department

We have spent much time singing songs and playing games, in which we practise the vocabulary relating to colours, animals and our families, as well as some useful questions and phrases (especially What is.. Where is... Who is... Can I have). We practised counting up to 20. In Year One and Year Two, we also worked with the sounds s a t p i n m and d. I am pleased to find that most of the children are very much engaged in the activities, and that all are interested, and gaining confidence in using some words in English.

In the Junior Department, we are working to develop the children's understanding of the more complex academic language that they need. This week, we looked especially at the mathematical language used in comparing, in the context of data management. We are also working on the parts of language that will help the children to communicate clearly when, for example, telling long stories or giving detailed explanations. This week we focused especially on using prepositions of place and time.

If you would like to meet me to discuss your child's progress in English, please contact me through the school office, the class teacher or using the EAL teacher email address.

Best wishes,

Kate Read
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