

Home School Books – 23 September 2016.

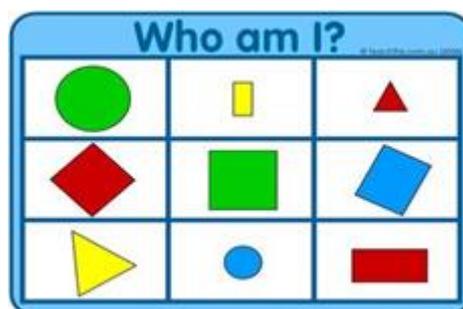
## Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your patience and understanding over the sand situation. A number of parents commented that after they had read the home school letter last week, they realised just how important it is to have sand play in the classroom. The children are also becoming familiar with using it and we hope you are not finding so much of it in their hair or other hidden places!

We have continued with our theme of ‘all about me’ and the children have enjoyed participating in a lot of language activities this week. The favourite was the ‘feelings and emotions’ game. Each child took a turn in throwing the dice and then counted that number around the feelings ladder, whichever emotion symbol they landed on, they had to say what thing or activity made them feel that way. For example, if they landed on a happy face, they had to say what made them feel happy, an angry face, what made them feel angry etc. We had some interesting descriptions from some of the children of events that make them happy, anything from eating ice cream, to cleaning their room!

Our creative maths activity this week was all about shape, if you look opposite on the paper version, you will see a shape pattern, which resembles a person. Your child was asked to follow the same pattern using sticky shapes, although this sounds simple, it can be quite tricky for some children as visual ordering can be very random at this age. We will spend more time on recognising patterns in many different forms, throughout the year.



We continue to work on ‘turn taking and sharing’ as this is an important skill to have in later years; unfortunately it is not an easy task for most three and four year olds! So don’t get too worried if your little one makes a fuss about sharing, it is perfectly normal and they have to be taught how to do this, as it is learned behaviour. Just a quick reminder about our healthy eating policy, please do not overfill your child’s snack boxes with biscuits or sweet treats. Try instead to send in a piece of fruit or a yoghurt or even a piece of bread. Too much sugar is not only bad for your child’s health, it can also have an adverse effect on their moods and behaviour.

Our talk topic this weekend is ‘what is your favourite food, how does it smell and how does it taste?’

Have a great weekend  
Thank you

Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove  
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Please click [here](#) for our Nursery webpage

## Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This week we have continued our ‘people who help us’ topic, looking at vets with the help of our focus story ‘Mog and the V.E.T’ by Judith Kerr. We tried to understand that a vet is the name for an animal doctor. We looked at the difference between wild animals and domestic ones.

This week we learned one sound, the sound /g/ as in /g/oa/t. We used this week to review our previous sounds and to continue practising their correct letter formation. We played different phonics games on the interactive white board and in small groups, all aiming to help the children to embed these into their memories. They have also practised writing /s/,/a/,/t/,/p/,/i/,/n/,/m/ and /g/.

In maths we started looking at repeating patterns, how to recognise them and why they are called repeating patterns. We learnt that patterns can be made by using colours, shapes, objects, numbers etc. It is the way they are laid out that creates the pattern. Having discussed this, the children went on to complete and create their own repeating patterns. We spent the end of the week trying to recognise number patterns to six, such as the layout of the dots on a dice, without the need to count them.



In French with Mrs Scharf, we continue making progress; we now know how to ask someone for his/her name and we can answer. We can also ask "Comment ça va ?" And answer "Bien merci et toi ?" We are also discovering more colours by mixing some of the primary colours and with the help of Boowa and Kwala (Uptoten) we learnt them even faster.

The Talk topic for Monday will be sharing our experiences at the doctors.

Have a good weekend.

Naomi Irakoze and Ivana Julaton

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

## Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

We’ve had a wonderfully creative week in year 1 doing lots of activities focused on our ears and listening. In science we went on a listening walk to find sounds both inside and outside. We also played a sound lotto game that required careful listening. In art we listened to Vivaldi’s classical piece, ‘Four Seasons’ and we created abstract drawings in response to how the music changed which can be seen in their home

school books this week. In music we learned the musical story ‘Anansi, Cat and Rat.’ We made our own musical instruments and used them to play along to a traditional song from Ghana called ‘Obwisana.’

This week in Literacy we focused in particular on c/k/ck/ letters and we started to talk about how the same sound can be made by different letters. We also revisited /o/ and /g/. We read the story ‘The Rope swing’ together and we made a list of the order in which the children from the story got onto the rope swing. We have continued to explore capital letters and alphabetical order in our grammar lessons and have looked at how capital letters are used for the beginning of people’s names. In Numeracy this week we have been learning about 1 more and 1 less than any number to 20. We have explored this concept through using games with dice, number tracks, number fans and our fingers.

As part of our topic ‘Ourselves and our school’ we have discussed how we have changed since we were babies. We enjoyed looking at old and new photographs of ourselves and comparing them. The children came up with a long list of changes including now being able to walk, run, talk, sing, dance, play football, eat and dress ourselves. Not to mention that now they are so much bigger! I have taken copies of all of the baby photographs sent in which will be displayed alongside our newer photographs in class, all original photographs have been kept safe and will be returned shortly. Thank you for bringing them in for us.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have listened to the second and third song. Tourloubanc is now in the land of colours where he discovers all the colours and animals. Needless to say that we will now have lots of fun revising and learning more animal names.

Next week we will be talking about our hobbies and what we do after school and on the weekends. So the talk topic will be ‘What do you like to do after school and on the weekend?’ And that brings us to the end of our busy 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 has been more pleasant and we are happy to have a new classmate join us.

In Literacy we have been looking at Traditional tales. We have spoken about their features and have noted that there is always a problem to solve as well as good and bad characters. We concentrated on the story of Red Riding Hood and have written a recount in our books. In Phonics we have been looking at the –ie sounds.

In Numeracy we are still concentrating on the bonds to ten and have been working on the subtractions that we can derive from the additions. We are beginning to realise that this can help us when subtracting larger numbers. We began looking at 2D shapes and symmetry on Thursday. On Thursday we worked on our active learn games as well as discovering some new apps on our ipads.

In Science and Topic we sorted animals out into groups such as mammals, birds and insects. We learnt that a spider is not an insect and that it has 8 legs. We also noted that insects have 3 body parts.

In PE, we introduced hoops into our work on throwing and catching. We came up with some rather innovative ways to move balls around using the hoops. Swimming was once again successful on Tuesday.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on the use of “**Je Suis**” to describe the “identity” (I am) and “**J’ai**” (I have) to describe possession.

We worked with **Numbers** from **0** to **100**. and we applied them to **Quel âge as-tu (how old are you?)** song . The focus was on the use of **J’ai 6 ans ( for age)** and not **Je suis 6 ans.**



In Art we have created safari like frames for our wild animals.

The talk topic for this week is: Books are precious and should be cared for. Do you agree with this?

Have a wonderful weekend.

Valeria Vetter

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

### Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

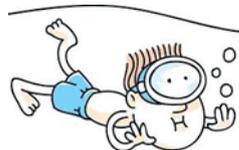
We have definitely had a theatrical week in Year 3. It seemed at times that paint was flying in all directions, but our puppet theatres are now multi-coloured and almost ready for action. We have been looking at different styles of theatre, and each group has their own design and colour scheme. The main painting is finished and we have measured and marked out the areas that need to be cut out for the stage. Backdrops are underway, although we have discovered that several of our initial designs need to

be rescaled to fit the stage dimensions. We now have to work on the stability and practical details of how we can attach the backdrops and curtains.

As to the playscripts ... we are nearly there! Each group has invented wonderfully complex stories featuring the puppets made, but we have had to work extremely hard on establishing exactly who says what, to whom, and what comes next! We have created story boards and character profiles and made a framework for each play featuring a clear beginning, middle and end. The groups have had to work collaboratively, deciding how everyone's ideas can be incorporated into each play – it wasn't only the paint flying around the classroom – the decibel levels were quite high too! We have learnt how to structure playscripts, how to give stage directions and how to tell a narrative story through dialogue and action. We have also had to consider how to share responsibilities within a group and looked at how important it is to make sure that everyone has a chance to contribute.

In numeracy we have been revising number bonds, number patterns and the concepts of 'greater than', 'less than', and equals. We have decided that, although we are extremely fast at mental calculations, we often find it a challenge to decipher written problems. Pair and group work has been helpful as it allows us to analyse and discuss the vocabulary before solving the mathematics underlying the question. We enjoyed reinforcing our computational skills playing games against the clock on the iPads. In Science we revisited our black box experiment as the data generated in the first enquiry was so varied that we could not draw any conclusions from it. This time we used smaller boxes and made sure that our observations were far more methodical. A few of us were still convinced that we really could see in the dark, but on the whole we came to the conclusion that it is not possible to see without light, and that using smaller boxes was a better way to carry out the experiment. We recorded our findings carefully and used the evidence to make predictions about what would happen each time we made more holes in the box.

Swimming was a great success this week. It is hard to imagine the progress that has been made in just three sessions. The competent swimmers are swimming lengths and improving their strokes (along with having a great time on the mattress!), the middle group can now all swim a width confidently and enthusiastically, and those who really found the first session a big challenge are now playing around



happily in the main pool and making enormous efforts to get across the pool with all types of floats and a great deal of splashing!



We finished 'Fortunately the Milk', which was a fun-filled, roller-coaster ride of ridiculous events, and voted on the next book - the great classic 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. We have a big collection of Roald Dahl books in the classroom and in free-reading time we are rediscovering old favourites and discovering new delights by this world-famous author. There is huge enthusiasm and excitement generated as the children discuss and share the books they are reading.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finally made our school bag and drew and wrote all the material that goes in it. In grammar, we revised l'article défini (le, la, l' , les). We also started revising some basic vocabulary in our books ZigZag.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on the **Days of the week**, **Numbers** from **0** to **1000** in context where each student got to give a short description: of **what day is today**, of who he/she was, his/ her **job** (from the **métiers** game we did last week) and to express his/ her **age** using **J'ai** "8 ans and not "je suis".

As the days begin to get shorter and the hats and gloves slowly make their reappearance, our talk topic this week is “How do our lives change as summer turns into autumn?”. I hope you all have the chance to get out and appreciate the changing colours and cityscapes over a lovely weekend. The horse chestnut season has definitely begun and the race is on for the largest specimen!

The student of the week is Parvesh for making such a huge effort in swimming and being so determined to get across the big pool all by himself. He has also worked very hard in the classroom.

Enjoy your weekend,

Jane Still

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

### Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

This week was a week of enlightenment in many ways. In topic we focussed on the French Revolution and in class the children showed their many hidden talents. I've really seen that this cohort is a sparky one and once they are taught to do something, they really get their 'bit between the teeth' - the possibilities could be endless.

In topic we saw how the French overthrew Louis XVI, how Edward Jenner discovered a vaccine for Smallpox and how the Goldilocks fairytale evolved. The children were fascinated by the Guillotine, impressed by Blossom the (smallpox) cow and startled by the fact that Goldilocks was originally an old woman and - before being published - a fox called Scrapefoot.

In Literacy, meanwhile, the Y4's did some drama which led to some scriptwriting pairwork on the iPads. We had to learn all the rules of setting out playscripts but it was the leaping and performing about which the children enjoyed most.



Numeracy was more subtraction work but also learning the 6x and then 9x tables which could do with some revision this weekend if you have some spare moments, please.

<http://www.amblesideprimary.com/ambleweb/mentalmaths/tabletrees.html>

[http://www.strike.lancsngfl.ac.uk/download/file/Willow%20Class/Maths/ITPs/Hit\\_the\\_button\\_v10.swf](http://www.strike.lancsngfl.ac.uk/download/file/Willow%20Class/Maths/ITPs/Hit_the_button_v10.swf)

Also definitely of note was that two boys in the class both managed to break a Y4 speed test record that has stood since 2009. Well done them - what an achievement!

The particular ex-pupil is still studying at BSB. It's probably best not to tell him as there are still 2 more goes to come this term. How many more seconds can we take out of the old record?

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finally made our school bag and drew and wrote all the material that goes in it. In grammar, we revised l'article défini (le, la, l' , les). We also started revising some basic vocabulary in our books ZigZag.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on the **Days of the week**, **Numbers** from **0** to **1000** in context where each student got to give a short description: of **what day is today**, of who **he/she was**, his/ her **job** (from the **métiers** game we did last week) and to express his/ her **age** using **J'ai** "8 ans and not "je suis".

With the continuing good weather, I had to make a quick decision and brought forward a trip to the local park to see organisms in their habitats. Three years ago, I took a Year 4 class to the park in mid-March and the only thing not frozen that day were the children. What a joy then to take advantage of a beautiful day in a beautiful corner of the park to do some lovely fieldwork in nature. See a few photos on: <http://www.bisb.org/project/y4-habitats-fieldtrip-to-josaphat-park/>

And that was our week.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman

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

### Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

The children are now well settled into this year group and are continuing to organize themselves well – homework was all handed in on the correct day and they had all prepared for the spelling test. The homework is of a high standard and I reported this back to them all. One big area for development though is to edit all work before submitting it. Please encourage your child to do this at home.

This week, we have continued to focus on geography during our topic lessons. We have continued to track the route that the characters in Kensuke's Kingdom have taken around the world and the main character has now reached an island near Papua New Guinea. The children completed an activity where they had to find out how many islands there are around the world, what oceanic and continental islands are and the meaning of an archipelago. This final word connects us to the homework project this week – researching one island in particular! They have approached new work with enthusiasm and are always willing to help each other.

We are approaching the end of our literacy unit of recounts and the class are preparing to write their final piece – a recount connected to the current class novel. This week, the focus has been writing a recount in paragraphs and being able to identify what needs to be present in each of the sections. We are continuing to edit our work too – particularly focusing on using capital letters in the right places and checking that all

sentences make sense. As they will do every week, the children completed their spelling tests and also did some writing where they used this week's words. The dictionaries were used occasionally but on the whole, they had a good understanding of the definitions.

Painting has commenced in art this week. All children spoke to me before they began to explain what their method would be – this was to ensure they had an idea of how to paint in the style of their artist. I have been impressed with the level of focus and commitment that they have all demonstrated towards their work.



In maths, the main focuses this week have been working out differences between numbers using a number line, negative numbers and decimals (place value and ordering). The children all enjoy using Espresso to review their learning and this week, they have been introduced to Abacus and they all now have a username and login. From time to time, an activity will be allocated to them so that they can complete it at home. They were all particularly eager to earn 'coins' so that they can 'spend'!

Our practical science experiment this week focused on investigating the water content of a potato. The children cooked their potatoes in a microwave for 2 minutes at a time, weighing these after each bake, until they appeared to be 'smoking'! After this, they plotted their results on a graph; they were thrilled to see how much water had been lost.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on the **Days of the week**, **Numbers** from **0** to **1000** in context where each student got to give a short description: of **what day is today**, of who he/she **was**, his/ her **job** (from the **métiers** game we did last week) and to express his/ her **age** using **J'ai** "8 ans and not "**je suis**".

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are now working on the description of a person both physical and personality. We read several descriptions and we gathered adjectives to be able to describe ourselves and our classmates. We also read a story "La paire de chaussures" by a famous French writer Pierre Gripari.

The pupils are participating in a project for a magazine about the future of supermarkets; 'What does the supermarket of the future look like to you?'. They have made a start on this project in class and will need to finish it at home. Please make sure that your child submits their illustration and draft text on Monday, thank you. So it has been a busy but productive week!

Wishing you all a good weekend.

Alison Godwin

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

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

Another very busy week in Year 6! Alex Rider has been recruited as a spy for MI6 and is currently in Wales being trained by the SAS. The students are observing Alex Rider's impressive skills' set including: proficiency in foreign languages, expertise in extreme sports, computing competence and ability to cope under pressure (like Y6 homework!). Next week, the students will be drafting their CVs to send to MI5 and are delighted that they already possess similar attributes!

In Grammar, we began our journey into the world of verbs as well as writing sentences using similes. Comprehension was based on an article from the Daily Telegraph; pupils still need to focus on including evidence to support their answers. We have been asked to participate in a project for the local magazine 'Word'. For this, students are required to submit a drawing and short text about 'What does the supermarket of the future look like to you?'. Pupils have made a start on this project which forms part of their homework; submissions must be returned on Monday if we are to meet the deadline.



Pupils are excelling at Excel. I am delighted at the progress that is being made in our Excel module. This week the students created a spreadsheet for a DVD rental shop and learnt how to perform basic calculations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Fraction attack. We have looked at unit, equivalent, vulgar, mixed number, ordering, and adding fractions with the same determiners; some pupils have begun work on finding fractions of quantities.

Our first Open University experiment focused on investigating the water content of a potato. The scientists cooked their potatoes in a microwave for 2 minutes at a time, weighing these after each bake, until they appeared to be 'smoking'! After this, they plotted their results on a graph and then calculated the mass of water lost during the cooking process. We also revised life cycles, human body organs, the skeleton, muscles, joints, circulation, digestion and healthy living.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on the **Days of the week**, **Numbers** from **0** to **1000** in context where each student got to give a short description: of **what day is today**, of who he/she **was**, his/ her **job** (from the **métiers** game we did last week) and to express his/ her **age** using **J'ai** **8** ans and not "**je suis**".

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are now working on the description of a person both physical and personality. We read several descriptions and we gathered adjectives to be able to describe ourselves and our classmates. We also read a story "La paire de chaussures" by a famous French writer Pierre Gripari.

Tomorrow, I am looking forward to our weekly news presentation, learning about the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival and discovering another treasure...

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

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

In EAL this week,

The children have continued to gain confidence in understanding and using English, within their classroom, in the playground and in our small group sessions.

Years 3 and 4 this week worked on using prepositions in speaking and in writing stories. They also looked at the simple past tense, especially with irregular verbs. We are targeting the particular elements of language which will help they children to express themselves clearly and with precision, at increasingly advanced levels.



Year 1 and 2 read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, and asked each other which food they like. They also used present tense phrases (Mum is running etc.), in a game involving the Oxford Reading Tree characters. In maths, we talked about more and doubles. We worked on the letter sounds o , c and m, and began to try putting two letters together to make the simple words is, it, in, and at.

Reception this week had great fun, making a doctor's surgery in the EAL room, and playing first at doctors, and then vets. Through this activities, we worked on simple greetings, on asking "What's the matter?" and on the vocabulary of body parts and animals.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read

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