

Home School Books –07 October 2016.

Home School Book – Nursery

This week in nursery we have concentrated on 'our family' and we have practised singing about the finger family, particularly Tommy thumb and his family. If you look opposite, you will see the words to the song and the different characters in Tommy's family. Underneath you can see your child's handprints. Ask your little one if they can name all of the characters that each finger on their handprint represents and then draw them above.



We also listened to another rhyme about the finger family in several languages, including Chinese, German, Arabic, Japanese, Hindi and English of course!

In our maths sessions we revisited shape and most of the children are becoming familiar with many of the shapes we see every day in and around the nursery. Try playing the shape game on your journey to and from school; ask your child to find as many circles, squares, triangles or rectangles in the images they see on the bus or tram and while walking to the school.

We are almost finished our big wall display 'families come in all different shapes and sizes'. You can see your child's handy work on the display board in the corridor leading to the playground. Please take a look next time you are in.

We have started our music sessions with Mrs Mayeur this week; these take place on a Monday in the afternoon and Thursday morning. The children were enthralled by the musical instrument that she played at the beginning of each session. Ask your little one to tell you what it was and what sort of sound it made.

The weather is definitely getting a bit cooler now, so please provide your child with a suitable jacket each day and please don't forget to put their name inside.

Please look out for the details of school photograph day, which will take place next Wednesday morning 12 October. There will be more information about this in the whole school newsletter.

Talk topic next week will discuss 'What country do you live in? What town or city do you live in and do you live in an apartment or a house?'

Have a relaxing weekend.

Alison Davies, Ena Tolention

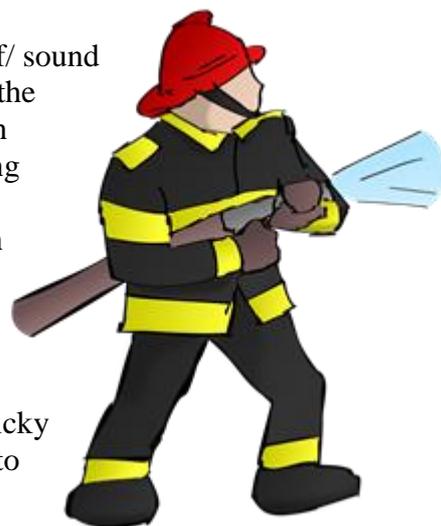
nurseryteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This week in Reception we have looked at and practised the /f/ sound which led us into our mini project looking at 'firefighters' and the amazing job they do along with other people who help us in an emergency situation. The children then had a great time playing with the fire engine and fire fighter role play activities. We discussed why fire engines need sirens and watched a Fireman Sam episode still an old favourite!



We read a story in class called 'Emergency' by Margaret Mayo & Alex Ayliff. It told us about all of the different emergency services that we can call upon, when we are in a tricky situation. Ask your child if they can remember who you need to call and ask help from, if there is a fire, or you are stranded at sea!

In maths this week we have been looking at and practising number formation. We also sang 'five little speckled frogs' to remind us of how to recognise one less, as each frog jumps into the pool from the log. Ask your child to sing you the song and help them use their fingers to count backwards from 5. These number rhymes are a good practical way for children to become familiar with addition and subtraction in a fun way. Don't forget the sound effects while you sing!

In French with Mrs Scharf, we have been revising everything we have learnt so far and the children are starting to feel really comfortable with learning French. We also did some "written" activities on numbers and colours.

We have also been focussing on listening to and following instructions and I'm happy to say the children showed great progress in this area. As the weather has got cooler this week the children have started to bring coats, hats etc. It is important that all of their things are named so that we can make sure that lost items are returned to the correct child. We would also like to ask that you help them learn to put their coat on by themselves.

Talk topic for Monday will be discussing:- Why do firefighters need to wear protective clothing? What colour is a firefighters jacket in Belgium?

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 we've continued to think about our senses in science and we focused on smell. The children talked about their favourite smells which included lavender, pizza and chocolate. We also did an experiment to identify different smells using our noses. The smell we found easiest to identify was lemon and the hardest ones to identify were cinnamon and herbs. Next week we will move onto a different sense, Touch. In our topic work we talked about our grandparents. We discussed how they are related to us and shared information about them such as where they live, how old we think they might be and what we like to do with them.



In Literacy we focused on the phonemes /u/, /b/ and /h/ and revised all of the other letter sounds we have already learned. We also learned a song about vowels now that we have covered all of the short vowels; /a/, /e/, /i/, /o/ and /u/ we learned a song about them to help us remember how useful they are. We read the story 'A Cat in the Tree' together and we discussed the characters and events from the story.

In Numeracy this week we have talked about repeating patterns and the children had a go at making some using blocks and stickers. We also practised learning how to read and write number words such as one, two, three all the way up to ten. We revised 1 more and less than any number to 20 and we used the iPads to practise recalling doubles all the way up to double 10. We also practised ordering sets of numbers from the smallest to the largest.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been having lots of fun revising and learning more animal names. We played games and we drew our favourite animals. We also listened to songs about colours and animals.

Don't forget that next Wednesday, the 12th of October, will be parents evening for Year 1. I'm looking forward to meeting with you to discuss your child's progress so far in school. Next week the talk topic will be - 'Can you name some objects that feel soft? hard? rough? smooth?'

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,

There is a definite chill in the air now so please make sure your children have a warm, waterproof coat which is marked with their name.

In Maths we looked at placing 2-digit numbers in the correct place on a number line – but not just any number line. These had most of the numbers missing, and showed

only the steps where the '10s' numbers would be. We worked out some strategies for 'short-cuts', and saw what can happen sometimes if we tried to be too quick on such an 'easy' task. We also studied for the first time the < and > signs, meaning 'is less than' and 'is greater than', and did some practical exercises to reinforce our learning.

In Literacy we looked at the four variations of the long /i/ sound: /igh/ as in light, /ie/ as in tie, /i_e/ as in bike and /y/ as in sky, and sorted a mixture of 25 words according to their particular /i/ sound. We will return to our unit on traditional tales next week.

In honour of World Space Week, we spent some time looking at planets and rockets. The children already had a sound knowledge of the Solar System, but we developed it by exploring the concept of 'orbit' and the respective time it takes for the Earth and Moon to complete their orbits, and by learning the distinction between stars, planets and moons. We also had a practical demonstration of night and day, using a globe, a torch and a very dark room! A lot of knowledge was retained and the children could give me some very interesting facts at register time.



In Science (and D&T), the children made their own air-powered rocket, and then carried out a very grown-up experiment, observing the effect of Vitamin C tablets when dropped into a glass of water. The children made their observations based on their senses of sight, hearing and smell. They made the link to bubbles and gas, and we then went out to the playground to see the same chemical reaction used to launch our own 'rocket' high into the trees!

In Computing we were introduced to QR codes. The children were enthralled by these codes and they form part of our investigative homework this week. We also had 2 games to complete for our maths and the children then explored the new apps found on our ipads.

It was good to see Mrs Mayeur back this week and the children enjoyed the resumption of their music lessons.

Swimming was once again thoroughly enjoyed by all and the group staying behind practised the sounds igh, ie, y etc, then used the thesauruses to find synonyms for common words (sad was one of them).

Our talk topic this week is: If you could visit one planet which one would it be and why?

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Vetter, Mrs Reid and Mr Tranter
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 2 webpage

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

This has been a very exciting, inspiring week with the children grouped vertically into four groups across the junior age range to participate in Space workshops. Year 3 did incredibly well, managing to find their way to the right location, with the right group and with the right teacher at the right time – not necessarily easy when the entire Junior Department is all on the move simultaneously ... certain shooting stars arrived via other planets, but on the whole it was very efficient!



Our classroom became the base for art, and the work produced is really impressive. The mission was to create a cosmic vista using different techniques – ink wash, pastels and diluted paint. The planets, moons or suns were done first and positioned on the black, background paper, leaving spaces for asteroids, stars and galaxies. These were added by spraying liquid white and gold paint across the paper, creating delicate bands and swirls of tiny stars. (Well, that was the theory, but in certain cases we did end up with some rather large meteors!) The paintings will be displayed up the stairwell, so do come and admire them.

Other groups worked on dance routines, created news reports on historical space events and investigated rockets – we have spent the entire week hearing increasingly dramatic accounts of how far rockets flew and how big the explosions were in Year 6. The roof would seem to be intact, but we do have plenty of straw rockets lodged in various inaccessible corners of the classroom!



The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit of M. Flament, the Head of Unit EU GNSS Programme management, who came to talk about satellites and the Galileo project. He certainly had a captive audience, and could easily have answered questions all day. There is on-going excitement and enthusiasm and the resulting discussions are lively and challenging.

In literacy we have continued the Space theme and written our own ‘Space stories’ or factual reports on what we already know about space. This is free, creative writing, but we have also spent time reviewing and editing a partner’s work. This involves pinpointing elements that we like in the writing, and also making suggestions on how the stories or reports should continue and what could be improved.

Charlie had just discovered the final Golden Ticket in our class book and we have watched clips of the early part of the original film to see how the story has been adapted. We were interested to note that the dialogue is almost identical to the book, but that certain parts of the story are either left out or become far less important. In group reading sessions we chose books with an alien or space theme and these contributed to our search for exciting, effective vocabulary and ways of telling a story.

In French we have had a lot of fun talking about space. We had a special guest who came to talk about space and satellites. We also baked cakes and decorated one of them like the solar system with the planets. We also answered the questions of a quiz on the same subject.

Well done to those children who made amazingly inventive space helmets and to those who shared interesting information that they had researched on their own. It is good to see that the enthusiasm continues out of school!

Our talk topic for this week is “How do you think Space exploration will develop during the 21st century?”

The weather should be dry for the walk in the woods on Sunday – the colours should be spectacular and there are sure to be plenty of enormous conkers hiding in the leaves. This will start at 14.00 in Tervuren.

Have a lovely weekend,

Jane Still and Inès van Wassenhove

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

And this week’s World Space Week was a fabulous journey into the cosmos and the buzz around school was probable felt on Jupiter itself.

The children had a ball creating rockets and blasts in Mrs Tranter’s Science; studying the Lunar Landings in Mrs Godwin’s History; producing interstellar paintings in Mrs Still’s Art; and dancing their way through time and space with me.



There were hat competitions, YouTubes, quizzes, star-cake baking and an absorbing lecture by a visiting European Commission expert from the Galileo Project.

The work the pupils have produced has been really impressive but the enthusiasm levels have been the most notable thing; harness it and that alone might get you to the moon.

Back in Year 4, the children enjoyed ‘Meg and Mog Go To The Moon’ and wrote their own versions. To make a link with Maths, the class did a brilliant ‘information gap’ exercise involving the Planets (and a lot of quality talk-maths) and all completed tasks regarding their relative sizes, gravities and distances from the sun.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have had a lot of fun talking about space. We had a special guest who came to talk about space and satellites. We also baked cakes and

decorated one of them like the solar system with the planets. We also answered the questions of a quiz on the same subject.

Outside that, the Year 4's played basketball in cold but bright sunshine and learnt about the 19th Century painter J.M.W. Turner in Topic. They discovered how he sought to capture nature at its rawest in his work. The child did too in their work. If Turner had been alive to see space exploration, this would surely have fascinated and inspired him just as it has done us this week.

Finally, we 'fact-filed' the fairytale-teller Hans Christian Andersen's Denmark

And that was our week.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman & Inès van Wassenhove
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 4 webpage

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

What an exciting week we have had learning all about space! The children have come to school with an extra spring in their step and have got involved in all aspects throughout the week. We have all learned so much!



We were very fortunate to have a special visitor this week. Mr. Paul came to speak to the children in the junior department about the Galileo satellite that is currently circulating Earth. He spoke in both French and English, showed a miniature model of a rocket and a satellite and told us all about how they work and how they help us. The children were also given goody bags so it was definitely a visit that was enjoyed by all who attended his presentation!

Throughout the week, the children have taken part in a carousel of space related activities and have worked with children in other classes. They have done science experiments with Mrs. Tranter, art with Mrs. Still, dance with Mr. Stedman and history with myself. During the history lessons, the children were taught about the first moon landing. We watched some footage from 1969 and I shared some interesting facts with the groups. The children also made posters and interviewed each other about the historic event using an app called Showbie.

Other exciting events that have taken place this week include the children taking part in a space quiz, a whole school dance and awarding prizes for the space helmet creations. They were wonderfully creative with their ideas!

In French we had a lot of fun talking about space and reading about the solar system. We also were lucky to welcome a very special guest who came to talk to us about space and satellites which is his speciality. We also baked cakes and decorated them within the same theme. The baking activity will give us the opportunity to revised "l'impératif" in grammar.

PE and art have continued as normal this week. In PE, the children worked in small groups to create a game to teach to the rest of the class and some excellent games were invented. They were given an extra challenge which was to give the game a connection to space and they all achieved this. Unfortunately, there was not sufficient time to play all of the games but we will continue with them next week. In art, the children are all working towards completing their chosen artist recreations and will soon be preparing their final presentations to present to each other.

Talk Topic: How do people around the world prepare for hurricanes and why are some destinations more at risk than others?

So it has been a super busy but very fun week!

Kind regards

Alison Godwin

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

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

Well, what an exhilarating, educational and enjoyable time we have had, learning together during World Space Week. I would like to thank all the staff in the Junior Department who have worked tirelessly to provide a range of dynamic and diverse activities. The visit from Mr 'Paul' from the EU Galileo project was an added treat.

Rockets were the science focus for the workshops in the Year 6 Laboratory. After having watched a space shuttle launch, the scientists then constructed paper rockets which they tested in the playground. All manner of tactics were attempted to increase the length of rocket flights! The results were very impressive; I shall be checking the data this evening before I announce the winner tomorrow.

It was then back to the laboratory to simulate a rocket launch with the aid of a film canister and vitamin C tablet. My newly acquired 'geocaching' canisters proved to be a huge success! Our rockets were flying around the classroom; hitting the ceiling and landing in the most obscure places. I



am still finding lids and soggy vitamin c tablets in trays and stuck to displays. Thank goodness we all wore our safety glasses.

We had more science on Thursday afternoon with our Open University course. This week's experiment was all about the physical properties of different household liquids and how they change when they are frozen. This includes investigating whether or not the frozen liquid sinks or floats when placed into its own liquid form at room temperature. The students chose from a range of liquids including; lemon squash, beer, raspberry wine vinegar, washing-up liquid and Coca Cola. Their ice-trays are now chilling out in the staffroom freezer waiting for next week's science session.

In French we had a lot of fun talking about space and reading about the solar system. We also were lucky to welcome a very special guest who came to talk to us about space and satellites which is hi speciality. We also baked cakes and decorated them within the same theme. The baking activity will give us the opportunity to revised "l'impératif" in grammar.

On Tuesday, we are off to practise our surveillance and survival skills in Tervuren Park. Children should wear their sports' uniform and will need hats and gloves.

Tomorrow, I am looking forward to the space quiz, space helmet competition and 'flash mob' dance. We are busy uploading photographs of our week to the school website for you to enjoy at <http://www.bisb.org/project/world-space-week-junior-department/>

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

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

Dear Parents,

In EAL this week, the Year 3 and 4 children spent a session working on irregular plurals (e.g. mice, sheep, teeth, men, women). Year 3 also spent some time developing their vocabulary, focusing on the words they are learning for their spelling tests. Along with the rest of the junior department, the children enjoyed a week of space-related activities. Next week, we will continue to use the space theme in our EAL sessions, to develop the skill of asking questions in the past tense (making a space quiz).

Year 1 this week worked on the language of mathematics, especially numbers to 20 (and beyond), and the names of 2D shapes. They also practised reading the letters s,a,t,p,l,n,m,d,o, g and c, as well as the skill of the skill of hearing separate sounds within words, and attempting to blend together 2 or 3 letter sounds when reading.



Reception this week continued to work on the prepositions in, on , under, behind and next to/beside, playing games, singing songs and listening to instructions to complete a sticking activity based on prepositions.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read

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