

Home School Books – 21 October 2016.

### Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

The Three Little Pigs Story, was our theme for this week; if you don't know this traditional tale then take a look at the following link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLR2pLUsl-Y>

The children are always enthralled by this story as it is very repetitive, animated and easy to remember. When the teacher does the different voices of the characters in the story, the children follow with great excitement! In the envelope opposite, you will find a series of pictures for you to retell the story of the three little pigs with your little one but in the correct sequence. Ask them to do the voice of the little pigs and the wolf, especially all of the huffing and puffing!



There is a varied amount of English vocabulary for your child to acquire throughout this story, plus of course it is just delightful to curl up together on a chilly autumn day and have a story telling session! So please give it a go!

On the interactive white board this week, the children have drawn pictures of the three little pigs and the big bad wolf, using an art tool, on our active inspire primary programme. This is great for large and small scale drawing. We use an interactive pen that seems like magic to the children when all of the different colours appear. This is great for focusing on small motor skill movements and use of technology to promote understanding of the activity.

Everyone should have now had an appointment for either next Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October for an individual parent teacher meeting with Mrs Davies. Please remember to confirm your attendance by bringing back the tear off slip at the bottom of the appointment slip.

This is an early in the year meeting of around 10 minutes or so, to let you know how your little one has settled into the nursery. It is to outline what aspects of their social and emotional behaviour, understanding of English and spoken language skills have been assessed and progressed, so far.

We have to be prompt with the time schedule, as there are many parents to speak with, so if further discussion is needed after the allocated time, we will be happy make another appointment later in the term.

The photographs are here! You should find a specimen copy with details of how to order, in your child's folder. They are super photographs and your little ones look just gorgeous! Please follow the instructions carefully, including bringing in the **CORRECT MONEY** as we do not carry loose change around in school. **REMEMBER TO PUT IT ALL IN A CLEARLY NAMED ENVELOPE** and hand it to the class teacher.

Our talk topic for discussion next week is: Have you ever tasted pumpkin pie? If yes, what did it taste like? If no, what do you think it would taste like?

Pumpkin week is about to start, so get those pumpkins at the ready! Here we go!

Have a great weekend

Thank you

Alison Davies & Ena Tolentino

[nurseryteacher@telenet.be](mailto:nurseryteacher@telenet.be)

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

### Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

“Here we go, uh oh, seasons of the year...” - a favourite song played and sung regularly throughout this week in Reception to kick start our new topic of seasons and the weather. We’ve watched an interesting short program about the changing seasons, and the effect it has on a garden, focussing on a changing apple tree. We have also enjoyed reading ‘Skip through the seasons’ by Stella Blackstone and Maria Carluccio which highlights not only the natural changes that occur in our surroundings during the changing seasons but also some unnatural ones, such as changes in clothes or changes in the games played.



We have done quite a bit of work this week on using correct colours when colouring or decorating. Rather than simply choosing our favourite colours, we talked about being careful to use those that are real to the thing being coloured. For example, when colouring leaves on a tree we remember to use the colour of actual leaves they see in the playground, so at the moment this is brown, yellow, red, dark green.

The children are doing really well with their reading adventure and are practising daily reading cvc words such as hat, sun and net. If you notice any cvc words in your library books, or around your home, then encourage your child to try reading the word to you. We also looked at the letter formation for /j/ and /r/. We went on to look at our first digraph, two letters that make one sound, this week being /sh/ as in shop. The children were quick to remember this digraph when reviewing all the sounds.

In maths this week we have looked at measuring, both height/length and capacity. We started simply looking at and comparing different autumnal objects such as leaves, conkers and sticks using specific language, bigger, biggest, smaller, longer etc. Then we moved on to using cubes to actually measure these objects, discussing the importance of a baseline when measuring for accuracy. We began looking at capacity specific language. For example, full, nearly full, empty etc. As a class we poured some coloured water into cups to help us visually remember this vocabulary.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we have been talking about autumn. We observed the weather, the colours and we looked at the fruit of this season and we tasted apples and pears. We learnt several new songs and rhymes.

Finally, we would like to remind those who have not yet returned or confirmed their parent-teacher meeting slips to do so on Monday. Also, please do not let your child come to school wearing necklaces for decorative reasons, rather than cultural reasons, e.g., beaded necklaces or plastic rings as they can get lost, damaged or broken. Any decorative jewellery worn will be taken away and returned at the end of the day.

Talk topic for Monday will be answering the question 'In what different ways can we use pumpkins?'

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Irakoze and Ivana Julaton

[receptionteacher@telenet.be](mailto:receptionteacher@telenet.be)

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

### Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

We're moving into Autumn now and we've made our classroom look beautiful with some autumn leaf suncatchers. We're starting to notice the change in the weather and the way that the leaves are changing colour. It's great to see all of the children now have jackets in school; if they bring in hats and gloves as well please ensure that these are clearly labelled and your child can recognise them. As it is Divali in a couple of weeks we also talked about rangoli patterns and painted some designs using watercolours in our art lesson this week.



In Literacy we finished our work on double letters at the end of words. We focused on the phonemes /s/ and /ss/ /z/ and /zz/ and revised all of the other letter sounds we have already learned. We read the story 'The Dolphin Pool' together and the children practised writing about the story using a word bank and ordered words from the story in alphabetical order. We've also been talking about using capital letters for the months of the year in our grammar lessons.

In Numeracy we have practised counting on and back along a number line to solve addition and subtraction problems. We also looked at the numbers shown on the top and bottom of the dice and the children learned that they always add up to 7 no matter which numbers are showing on the top and bottom. We revised more and less and ordering non-sequential numbers.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been learning some prepositions like "sur, sous, dans, devant derrière, à côté de , entre, au milieu de". We practised them in various

exercises and games. We are still following Tourloubanc in the pays des couleurs where the colours have been stolen by a black bird.

In our topic work we have been talking about sight this week. We discussed things we like to look at and the children drew some of those things. We labelled the main parts of the eye and did an experiment where we tried to go round a short obstacle course blindfolded to learn how not being able to see affects our ability to move around and do things we would normally find easy. We discussed what life would be like if we couldn't see, learned a little bit about how guide dogs help people who are blind and had a go at writing our names using the dot system called braille that blind people use to read.

Next week is our annual pumpkin week so our talk topic will be 'What can you make using a pumpkin?'

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Patrick Tranter

[Year1teacher@telenet.be](mailto:Year1teacher@telenet.be)

Please click [here](#) for our Year 1 webpage

## Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

There is a decided nip in the air now so please make sure your children are dressed accordingly.

In Literacy we have done our termly PIRA tests, which gave us a chance to show how much we understand when we read. We did a piece of writing today focusing on hibernation which has been the theme of the week. We concentrated on the /ue/, /ew/ sounds in phonics and enjoyed the phonic videos on them. We changed library books as usual and also did some pairs reading. We also found time to practise our handwriting and we are learning to join our letters up now.



In Numeracy we have been working with 10 more and less again with the focus on money as well as place value. We have also been revising our bonds and odd and even numbers.

There were no new games to allocate this week so we played the ones we have in our library.

In Science we looked at the parts of an insect's body and learned how to recognise an insect as opposed to a spider. Our topic theme is linked to our science and we looked at hedgehogs and in particular how they hibernate. We found out some amazing facts. Did you know a hedgehog will sometimes breathe only once in 2 and a half hours during hibernation? We then wrote these facts on paper hedgehogs for our display, which you will be able to see next week.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, the focus was on playing and on games with “**Je joue au, je joue à la**”. We created a simple conversation between friends in order to express what **games and sports** they play.

In Art we made hedgehogs and used cut out leaves to decorate their bodies. Next week the non-swimmers will be going to the park, weather permitting, to investigate the sights and sounds of autumn. We will go armed with a camera and a bag to collect fallen leaf specimens.

In PE we practised our dribbling skills and had fun racing against each other. Next week is the final swimming week for group A with group B commencing after the half term break. Next week the non-swimming group are hoping to go to the park close to the swimming pool if the weather is good.

Our talk topic this week is: Why do the leaves fall off the trees in autumn?

Have a lovely relaxing weekend

Valeria Vetter

[year2teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year2teacher@telenet.be)

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

### Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

Year 3 are on the case this week, being detectives and looking for clues! We are trying to make sure that we follow instructions very carefully in both number and language work, so that we don't end up only doing half of the tasks that we are supposed to be doing due to missing out the vital clues. We have therefore set about studying texts in detail, checking that we have found all the clues we need, before starting to solve the problems. Have we spotted all of the big 'Ws'? – the Who, Which, What, Where, When, Whys that will lead us to the solution?! And we don't stop there – we then track down the instructions that will ensure that we complete the case – do we need to 'circle' an answer or 'underline' it? Are we looking for one suspect or two? And once we have found them, what do we need to do with them? ... The hunt continues, but we are definitely on the right track!



In Maths we have continued our work on money, taking real-life examples of how much food costs, what we might put in our shopping basket, and how we would pay for it. This involves decision making and the ability to manipulate both mathematical operations and actual coins. Our detective skills are needed to ensure that we look very carefully at the values of coins before working out which ones we need to use.

There was great excitement at the beginning of the week as the Junior Department headed out to catch the bus for the European Space Expo. The journey was all part of the adventure, and, despite many a button being hit on the bus, we reached our destination without anyone getting off at the wrong stop. The long crocodile of green hats was quite a sight as the children wended their way down the hill towards the Space dome. They were remarkably knowledgeable during the introductory talk and enjoyed looking for information on the big screens around the exhibition. The journey home was remarkably quiet as the heads all went down over the Space comic books they received – take a look at the photos on the school web site <http://www.bisb.org/project/junior-department-trip-to-eu-brussels-space-expo/> .



We have started to create Light information posters to summarise all that we have found out about light and shadows during our Science topic. This is pair work and involves discussion and decision making as we identify the essential facts that need to feature on the poster. We have looked at how to present information so that it can be seen clearly – dividing the posters into sections and using sub-headings and different fonts to differentiate the various parts of the text.

With the rain making its appearance, we finally made it down to the Studio in PE to have another go at mini-squash. Those children that had discovered the secrets of the cellar last year on their trip to the Junior Department have been looking forward to playing mini-squash again, and were delighted to take up the racquets and resume the adventure. As the ball volleyed into every corner of the room it became quite clear that we need lots of practice, but the enthusiasm was undiminished and the competition to beat 8 consecutive balls will continue!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we revised all fruit and vegetables as an introduction to the next topic : food. We also revised the articles un, une, des, le, la,l', les. We completed some work in our exercises books.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we focused on conversational interviews created by the students. **The objective was to apply everything we have covered since September.**

As we near the end of our swimming sessions it is amazing to see the progress that has been made so far in just six weeks. The confirmed swimmers are diving, completing lengths and perfecting their strokes, whilst the less-able swimmers are now all able to swim at least one width (aided by floats or arm-bands), and are confidently jumping in, swimming on their backs and generally thoroughly enjoying themselves. This really is a highlight of the week. We also took advantage of the pitch-black changing rooms to continue our science experiments into how much we can, or cannot see in the dark! Great hilarity guaranteed...

As we look forward to pumpkin week next week and discovering the joys of cooking pumpkin, our talk topic for the week is “What food do I enjoy eating, and why?” I hope you enjoy a peaceful weekend and look forward to seeing you at the parent evenings next week.

Jane Still

[year3teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year3teacher@telenet.be)

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

### Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

Last week’s tests were a mixed bag with mixed fortunes. Our writing was the most revealing; we’re good writers but we need to hone our punctuation skills and also how much attention we pay to description. We know exactly what we need to do to improve and it’s opportunities like these that highlight this for us.

Alongside their usual spelling test, today the children will have done their maths assessment, too.

The children are very tired and showing the signs. The work has been relentless throughout the term. Indeed, this week we covered 4 Numeracy classes in 2 lessons whilst still achieving solid understanding. The children will have fully deserved next week’s fun and games and cooking in Pumpkin week and our trip to Sortilege.

Elsewhere we did dictionary work, more reading comprehension and some role play which these Year 4’s adore. We have many excellent actors and we’ve landed some really good roles in the Christmas Show.

In Science we looked at keys to identify and classify organisms while we completed our History area of study in Topic: we painted Constable works of art and learnt about the Battle of Waterloo. How many variables were involved in who won the Battle and how it all happened so close to school really struck us. The children made maps of the battlefield on tea-dyed paper for effect.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we revised all fruit and vegetables as an introduction to the next topic : food. We also revised the articles un, une, des, le, la,l', les. We completed some work in our exercises books.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we focused on conversational interviews created by the students. **The objective was to apply everything we have covered since September.**

We played hockey in PE. The rain through the week made the Astroturf nice and wet for the sticks and balls and we had a super session as a result. The children learnt to

hold the hockey stick properly, to Indian dribble and, most importantly, to not kill anyone when swinging the stick.

And that was our week. Next week will be all things pumpkin during Pumpkin week and it is always a great 4 days. I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday evening and I wish you luck if you go in search of the perfect pumpkin this weekend.

And that was our week.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman & Inès van Wassenhove  
[year4teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year4teacher@telenet.be)  
Please click [here](#) for our Year 4 webpage

### Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

The enthusiasm for all things space related continued this week when we went on a junior department trip on Monday to the Space Expo in the centre of Brussels. We entered the large dome shaped exhibition to be taught more about satellites and the children shared their knowledge about astronauts, planets and space. Our presenter was very impressed with the facts they shared! Afterwards, the children had the opportunity to use the interactive pods around the dome to watch videos, try quizzes and discover more. We then had lunch outside before returning on the bus back to school. It was a very enjoyable trip.

The PIRA assessments have been completed this week as well as a writing assessment. The children worked hard during these assessments and remained focused throughout. We have completed various reading activities this week and I have encouraged the children to try and independently identify the meaning of some words rather than ask questions. We have discussed strategies such as rereading the sentence or reading on to see if a further explanation is given.

In maths, the children have studied time, length and perimeter. To get a better understanding of the 24 hour format, the children have used train timetables to calculate the times between stops. They have learnt new strategies to convert times between 12 and 24 clocks. The children used rulers to measure the lengths of objects and were all able to convert the measurements from mm to cm to m. They all demonstrated a good understanding! The homework in maths this week has been set as it would benefit all of the children to consolidate their understanding of what they have done in class.

We are coming to the end of our current topic unit and also our class novel, Kensuke's Kingdom. The children now know the various things they would need to do in order to survive on an island. We have certainly had some interest discussions regarding priorities if you were



to arrive at a deserted island such as ‘would you make a fire, build a shelter or find water first?’ The children all had different opinions!

The classroom during our science experiment smells like a brewery! as it contains around 20 beakers of foaming yeast and sugar solutions; some liquids are now overflowing into experiment trays! I promised the students that I would not touch anything until they return tomorrow morning... This week’s experiment was about identifying which environments promote conditions suitable for yeast to grow and which ones have conditions that restrict its growth. Using the digital microscope, we could observe the chemical reaction.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we focused on conversational interviews created by the students. **The objective was to apply everything we have covered since September.** They had an exam covering the use of ‘**avoir**’ and ‘**les fournitures scolaires**’. **They all had remarkable results.**

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still working on the grammar topic of adjectives and completed some more exercises for more difficult cases. We also revised the auxiliaries être et avoir and wrote a letter to a imaginary pen friend.

The weather has been more unpredictable this week so both PE lessons took place indoors and the children used the ‘squash court’ in the basement and they definitely had a good run around! We discussed the rules and it was nice to see the group helping each other with tactics. We also did some yoga and dance with the year 6 children.

Talk Topic for this week is: Why do the people of Haiti currently need help? How could we help?

We are all looking forward to the commencement of all things pumpkin next week....

Kind regards

Alison Godwin

[year5teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year5teacher@telenet.be)

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

### Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

Our Space activities continue. On Monday, we visited the EU Space Expo where the children were given a presentation about satellites and then spent time at ‘interactive pods’ investigating topics such as: virtual fencing, noise reduction and finding your way around. Please see the photographs at <http://www.bisb.org/project/junior-department-trip-to-eu-brussels-space-expo/> Also, we have been invited to participate in a space cartoon competition; workshops are taking place during lunchtimes. Further information can be found at <http://www.bisb.org/project/space-scoop-competition-junior-department/>

Assessment has been a major focus of our week. The students have sat reading comprehension and essay writing tests. In grammar, we have studied: homophones, synonyms, antonyms, homonyms and revision of 'ch' and 'y' spellings. Online grammar revision exercises are available on Edmodo and Tesspag.

The majority of students completed their 'Hour of Code'. I decided to join in and attempted the 'Artist' programme, of course, the Year 6 coders were whizzing through Minecraft, Star Wars and Frozen. See <https://code.org/learn> for more information.

In maths, the pupils have been learning about circles which included a practical activity to investigate the relationship between diameter and circumference. With some string and a selection of circular objects, they took measurements and observed that a pattern was developing in their data. Welcome to the wonderful world of Pi! I have set up a classroom on Khan Academy, which has some excellent videos to support the children's learning. Would you kindly help your child create an account and join our class? The class joining code is on Edmodo.



The classroom smells like a brewery! I am composing this letter, surrounded by 20 beakers of foaming yeast and sugar solutions; some liquids are now overflowing into experiment trays! I promised the students that I would not touch anything until they return tomorrow morning... This week's experiment was about identifying which environments promote conditions suitable for yeast to grow and which ones have conditions that restrict its growth. Using the digital microscope, we could observe the chemical reaction.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we focused on conversational interviews created by the students. **The objective was to apply everything we have covered since September.** They had an exam covering the use of '**avoir**' and '**les fournitures scolaires**'. **They all had remarkable results.**

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still working on the grammar topic of adjectives and completed some more exercises for more difficult cases. We also revised the auxiliaries être et avoir and wrote a letter to a imaginary pen friend.

Book Club was on Tuesday, when we discussed 'Storm Catchers' by Tim Bowler. Our next class reader is 'Warrior Girl'. We calculated that, at just under three hundred pages, reading ten pages a night, our next book club should be held mid-November.

I am looking forward to meeting you next week at Parents' evening.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

[year6teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year6teacher@telenet.be)

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

Dear Parents,

In EAL this week, in Reception, we have been learning about the seasons of the year, and especially about what happens in the autumn. The children had been looking at the changing colours of leaves in the playground, and using their English to suggest why the leaves change colour.



In Years 1 and 2, we revised the numbers to 20, and the words forwards and backwards, up and down. We related these words to the mathematical symbols + and - We revised the letter sounds , especially /g/ , /b/ and /r/. We practised saying and then writing simple sentences, using I am .

In the Junior Department, the EAL group have begun to join the French lessons. They will now receive EAL support as part of their activities within the rest of the curriculum, with the aim of enabling them to continue to develop quicker the complex language they need at this stage.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read  
EALteacher@telenet.be