

Home School Books –09 September 2016.

### Home School Book – Nursery

Pumpkins, pumpkins, everywhere, they're on the table and they're on the chair! Thank you to everyone who brought in a pumpkin to share with us, during our Pumpkin Week in school. We have all enjoyed looking at the different shapes, sizes and colours that they come.



The children have also enjoyed looking at the inside of a pumpkin and we have made and tasted pumpkin muffins. These were great fun to make and you can see all of the children, scooping and stirring, mashing and whisking the ingredients, on the photographs, we have added to the nursery section of the school website. There was also a tasty treat of Pumpkin soup and pumpkin bread, which was very yummy!

Our story of the week, was called "Pumpkin Soup" and we performed our 5 little pumpkins song for the Reception class, using our pumpkin masks that we had painted and decorated with happy faces.

We also learned a few facts about pumpkins, ask your little one; is pumpkin a fruit or a vegetable? Can you eat the seeds? Can you eat pumpkin flowers? See what they can remember.

During maths we used real pumpkins to look at putting things in order of size, then the children coloured in and ordered pictures of, big, medium and small pumpkins. So a very successful pumpkin week indeed!

Thank you to everyone who attended the parent, teacher meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday. It is always great to chat to you about your little one's nursery experiences and of course to hear from you, how they are at home. We hope you found your meeting helpful and informative.

Remember school is closed next week for half term, so we wish you a restful or busy but interesting holiday. Enjoy whatever you are doing, wherever you are.

Our talk topic for you is to discuss with your child, over the break is "what was your favourite activity during pumpkin week?"

Thank you

Alison Davies, Ena Tolention

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

### Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

Pumpkins, pumpkins everywhere! We've had a great pumpkin week in Reception. Although we focussed on Bang and Merrimman's 'The Old Woman and the Red Pumpkin', we enjoyed a collection other pumpkin themed stories to enthuse and inspire us throughout the week.

In our focus story, the old woman 'pops' out of her pumpkin at the end. The children decorated their own pumpkins, cut them in half and glued a photo of themselves so they too could pop out of a pumpkin. We looked at the life cycle of a pumpkin, what we need to grow one, and the different stages it goes through before we have a ripe, orange pumpkin. You can see a collection of photos from pumpkin week on the Reception page of the schools website (<http://www.bisb.org/classes/reception/>).



In literacy we practised segmenting and blending words this week. The children had to read autumnal words, and try to identify the correct picture, they also had to segment words in order to try and write each initial sound, and any other sounds they could hear.

In maths we did lots of measuring and ordering of pumpkins according to their size. The children are becoming good at using specific maths vocabulary when talking about, measuring and comparing sizes.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we are still talking about autumn and pumpkins of course. With the help of Boowa and Kwala, we went through the theme of Halloween and discovered new words and played a few games. We sang a song about a witch eating a pumpkin and we drew one.

As requested by many parents, here is a list of links of songs we have enjoyed so far throughout our topic of Seasons and the Weather, and the popular 'Add 'em up' song about adding on one.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZjpI6fgYSY>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksGiLaIx39c>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INHb1RNAMM>

We wish you a lovely half term break,

Naomi Irakoze and Ivana Julaton

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

[Home School Book – Year 1](#)

Dear Parents,

Pumpkins, pumpkins everywhere! What fun we've had this week celebrating our annual pumpkin week in Year 1.

In Literacy we learned a story called 'Pumpkin Soup' by Helen Cooper. We learned to sequence the main events from the story and we also learned to retell the story orally. The children then wrote the whole story from memory and did some excellent work. We also talked about how to learn spellings using the look - cover - write - check method which is described in the front of the children's spelling books. They have received their spelling books this week ready for their first spelling test after half term. In this book is a series of lists which the children will need to learn and practise each week. They should only learn one list of words per week. The children will be tested on writing the words for that week every Thursday. Please do not practise writing the words in the book, but use separate paper instead as the book is for lists and tests only.



In Numeracy we practised weighing, measuring and comparing pumpkins of different shapes and sizes. We used cubes to measure length and weighing scales to compare weight and used words such as heavier, lighter, taller and shorter to describe the pumpkins. We also did a pumpkin problem that involved mixed addition and subtraction sums and the children had to remember to count on or back according to whether it was addition or subtraction they were doing. We discussed symmetry and talked about whether a series of pumpkin faces were symmetrical or not. The children then made their own symmetrical pumpkin designs.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been talking about autumn and Halloween. We observed the pumpkins display and we also watched Didou drawing a witch and a ghost. We sang songs and played games with Boowa and Kwala.

In our topic work we have worked on exploring and describing the inside and outside of a pumpkin using our senses. The children came up with words such as hard, round, bumpy and cold to describe the outside and gooey, squishy and slippery to describe the inside of the pumpkin. We used these words to make little pumpkin books which you can see in the children's home school books this week. We also discussed the life cycle of a pumpkin and ordered a series of pictures that showed the growth of a pumpkin from a seed to a full grown pumpkin.

For the first week after the half term break we will be reading the story 'Funnybones' and talking about skeletons so our talk topic will be 'What bones do we have inside of us?'

Have a lovely half term break.

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 we delved into the world of pumpkins and incorporated this into our usual timetable.

We learned a lot of vocabulary to do with pumpkins and did a cloze exercise using these words. We then put the words into alphabetical order which was not easy for some of us. We also chose our own spellings from these words. We have discovered our five senses and written sentences about using our senses with pumpkins.



We estimated the weights of our pumpkins and after weighing them we put the class pumpkin weights into a graph. We also measured our pumpkins: around the circumference and the heights and widths.

In Science we discovered that pumpkins float and had fun reliving the life cycle of pumpkins whereas in art we made paper strip pumpkins and these are hanging around the school.

The pumpkin soup and bread tasting was a definite highlight of the week on Thursday and we loved it.

As usual dressing up day was a treat. The children so love to show off their various outfits and we had lots of different characters throughout the class..

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, the focus was on **Autumn**, colours and the **pumpkin** family. They created a fun and lovely **pumpkin** drawing filled with creative drawings related to **Autumn**.

Our autumnal visit to the park was a great success and we really had fun picking up leaves and acorns to add to the display basket at school. We also saw wild mushrooms and agreed that we look but don't touch them. The photos of this trip are to be found on the school website <http://www.bisb.org/project/autumn-in-the-park/>

Please note that the first group of swimmers have now finished swimming and the second group will start on the first Tuesday back, the 8th November. Please make sure that your child has their cap, costume, a towel and they also need goggles but these are optional.

Have a wonderful half term break.

Valeria Vetter

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

### Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

We have certainly enjoyed all things pumpkin this week. The variety on display in the hall has been quite astonishing – from mummified to football pumpkins, big, small, yellow, orange and multi-coloured ... a complete kaleidoscope. Our cookery session with Mrs. Flynn was a great success. Tables were cleared, equipment prepared and ingredients selected and measured. Mixture then flew in all directions as the whisk was wafted enthusiastically around the bowl, but amazingly successful, perfectly risen muffins miraculously emerged from the oven half an hour later. The whole building smelt delicious as the warm, homely spices permeated up and down the stairs. It was a challenge to resist the temptation to eat them straight away, but we managed to wait until story time in the afternoon and enjoyed munching our way through another few chapters of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. (Mr. Wonka hasn't yet discovered the magic of pumpkins!)

There are now plans afoot to plant the pumpkin seeds, either at home or at school, along with other seeds chosen by the children. The garden boxes in the playground have been weeded and replanted during playtimes, and we will be adding vegetables and fruits to them, hopefully to be harvested and cooked in the spring. We have spent the rest of the week putting the finishing touches to lots of pieces of work. Our Aurora Borealis stories have spread into chapters, and now have added interest with a focus on the characters. We looked at a variety of character descriptions in different stories and decided which ones caught our attention, and why. The budding authors then drew on their illustrating skills and the resulting stories are excellent and beautifully presented.



In Maths we continued our work on money, but with a Roman twist. We first studied Roman numerals, looking the origins of words and deciding how the letters came to be chosen, and then worked on Roman shopping lists. This was a fun activity and lead to lots of discussion. My homework for the holiday is to find out how the Romans wrote one billion – answers on a postcard please...!

We made the most of yet another few days of sunshine and went outside to play basketball to round off the half term. The throwing, catching and teamwork skills have improved considerably since we started, and it is good to see that everyone now joins in confidently, as well as demonstrating fair play. The last swimming session

was a great success, with everyone completing the assessment challenges in style. We have all thoroughly enjoyed these sessions and look forward to trying out tennis next term.

The pumpkin theme ended on a high with vast quantities of spicy soup being consumed at lunchtime today. I'm not sure whether it was due to the physical exertion in the pool or on the tennis courts, but three large flasks of soup disappeared in a flash, along with two huge loaves of bread (to say nothing of the ordinary packed lunches!) The autumn costumes were a success too, with some impressive original creations. This half term finished on a very pleasant note with the parts for next term's production being announced. It promises to be a fun show, with a chance for everyone to enjoy both the acting and the music. There's going to be a lot of singing over the next couple of months!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we focused on **Autumn**, colors and the **pumpkin** family. We role-played different scenes where they were asking each other **Quel temps fait-il en automne? As-tu une chauve-souris? Un chat?**

**The objective was to apply questions related to age, name and colors:**

**Quel âge a-t-il? Comment s'appelle t-elle? De quelle couleur est-il?**

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we learnt a poem about a witch and used adjectives to describe a pumpkin. We worked on word searches and crosswords on the theme of Autumn and Halloween.

I hope you have a lovely half term, enjoying time to sit and read some good books and hopefully benefitting from some crisp autumn weather. The leaves are certainly turning colour – perfect for playing in the park and for making some leaf collages or print pictures. Time to get the paints out!

The talk topic for the week is “What do I really enjoy doing when I can choose and have lots of free time?”

I enjoyed meeting you all at the parent interviews this week. Thank you for coming, I hope that they were helpful.



Jane Still

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

### Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful week to finish the term!!! Pumpkin Week is always fantastic and we made sure of it this week.

We learnt and used coordinates to play Battle of the Pumpkins, completed pumpkin number sequences (especially adding 25s and 50s) and marvelled at the brilliance of children's picture book, Pumpkin Soup. We used this lovely text to explore synonyms, onomatopoeic words (like Ker-plonk, tock!) and character action verbs (like waddled, prowled). We followed this up nicely with an afternoon finding out about 'Pumpkins against Poverty'.

Flood-ravaged Bangladesh has discovered that the only crop they can cultivate on sandy floodbanks in between the monsoon is pumpkin. We used the charity PracticalAction's brilliant resources to complete a country fact-file, maths money (taka) problems and a seed packet design. Geography, maths, Art/CDT and PSHE, then!

In amongst that, we did some Happy Handwriting to You Tube, Pumpkin, Pumpkin; the children cooked pumpkin muffins and roasted pumpkin seeds with tireless Mrs Flynn (thank you!); and did a little Pumpkin PE with Y5 and 6.

Main event by far was Sortilege and what an experience! A fun-packed, fantasy filled, colossus of an adventure in a theme park in amazing surroundings ran by amazing actors. Every child (and adult) had a wonderful time. At the beginning, the children were hyper-excited but on such a large site the children's energies (in most cases!) were sufficiently dissipated and we successfully met all the challenges we had to overcome. In the class, we had quite a few Sortilege 'veterans' and there was a bit of a disparity between those



who were new to the experience (like me and the fantastic assisting Mrs Lavania and Mrs Van Wassenhove) and those who tore off as they knew where to go. A really big thank you to our two adult helpers and to the children who were complimented on their behaviour by the Archery-teaching knight. The Sortilege adventure seemed to continue and be included on the STIB bus back to school but I will leave the children to explain that and all about the Witch to you over the holiday.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we focused on **Autumn**, colors and the **pumpkin** family. We role-played different scenes where they were asking each other **Quel temps fait-il en automne? As-tu une chauve-souris? Un chat?**

**The objective was to apply questions related to age, name and colors:**

**Quel âge a-t-il? Comment s'appelle t-elle? De quelle couleur est-il?**

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we learnt a poem about a witch and used adjectives to describe a pumpkin. We worked on word searches and crosswords on the theme of Autumn and Halloween.

And that was our week. Happy Halloween and enjoy the break.

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,

There has been one main topic of conversation in school this week – pumpkins! The children have participated in various fun activities throughout the week. Well done to everyone who brought in a pumpkin – the range on display in the entrance is impressive! The children took part in a cookery class with Mrs. Flynn and baked pumpkin muffins. They all worked very hard and then were able to enjoy a muffin at the end – I can report back that they were delicious! Other activities have included dressing up on Thursday and pumpkin soup tasting.

We have reached the conclusion of our first Secret Kingdoms topic and the children have all designed their own kingdom that they would like to discover. These have included ‘Robot World’ and ‘Game Land’. It was a fun activity because the children worked independently but we also had a session where they gave each other ideas to include. The Kensuke’s Kingdom novels have been sent home this week so that the children could read one chapter and then answer some comprehension questions. Please ensure that your child returns the book to school! There will be no homework set during the holidays but I have asked the children to continue reading.

The instruction text unit in literacy has given the children the opportunity to play a card game this week and then write a set of instructions. They all had a good time learning how to play ‘Go Fish!’ and then complete a piece of writing using a checklist to ensure all features of an instruction text were included. For the final piece of work in the unit, they have all written their own instruction text (how to take a penalty in football, how to brush your teeth, how to play Sudoku and how to make a paper aeroplane). After they had finished, they peer assessed each other’s work. During the grammar lessons, the children have learned that adverbs can be used in different places in a sentence and that there are multiple types of nouns. They have been encouraged to ensure both nouns and adverbs are present in their writing.



Perimeter was the focus again in maths this week and we discussed how to work out the perimeter of shapes other than rectangles using different strategies. The children also used column method for solving subtraction sums where double borrowing was required. The class were also asked to explain how and why they completed certain steps while solving the problems – it is important that they can talk about their work.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had a double dictée of "mots invariables" and started to read a famous story by Pierre Gripari "La sorcière du placard aux balais". We also did some writing using adjectives in the feminine form to describe a witch.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we focused on **Autumn**, colors and the **pumpkin** family.

We role-played different scenes where they were asking each other **Quel temps fait-il en automne? As-tu une chauve-souris? Un chat?**

**The objective was to apply questions related to age, name and colors:**

**Quel âge a-t-il? Comment s'appelle t-elle? De quelle couleur est-il?**

It was our last visit to the Castle Club this week so our tennis sessions have come to an end. The children have all greatly enjoyed playing tennis each week and I hope that they all feel that they have made progress over the weeks. On the playground, the Year 5 and 6 children played a game of 'Pizza Toppings' and then Bench ball. Both were new games and they all understood the rules well.

So that was our week. Wishing you all a restful week away from school.

Kind regards

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! As always, it is a pleasure to meet with you to discuss the progress of your child. Those of you (particularly Mums!) who are still finding it difficult not to 'supervise' the packing of school backpacks, may I ask you to desist. The students really do need to take responsibility for organising their books and equipment before they move to secondary school.



Continuing with our geometry module, it was time to try out the compasses... The students rapidly appreciated that drawing circles with this instrument is not quite as simple as it first appears. However, by the end of the lesson, progress had been made; lines were narrower (not train tracks) and the 'ends' of the circumference met 'cleanly'. Their next challenge was to construct a triangle within a circle, which (after a few initial hiccups) was achieved by all pupils. Then came the perpendicular bisector! The concentration, during these geometry sessions, was palpable; without prompting, many of the pupils commented how therapeutic they found these activities. On Tuesday, some students worked on problem solving, others revised properties of (and how to measure) angles.

What a treat - 'The BISB Bake-Off Muffin Marathon'! All pupils in the Junior Department enjoyed a cookery lesson with Mrs Flynn; I have never seen so many pumpkin muffins. The aroma pervading the building was intoxicating. Please take a look at <http://www.bisb.org/project/pumpkin-week-junior-department/>

Mission accomplished. We finished reading 'Stormbreaker' on Wednesday and watching the film on Thursday. Absolutely thrilling. I am sure that Alex Rider would have appreciated, and used, some of the gadgets that the pupils designed for him. Our 'thrills and spills' theme will continue after half-term.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had a double dictée of "mots invariables" and started to read a famous story by Pierre Gripari "La sorcière du placard aux balais". We also did some writing using adjectives in the feminine form to describe a witch.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we focused on **Autumn**, colors and the **pumpkin** family.

We role-played different scenes where they were asking each other **Quel temps fait-il en automne? As-tu une chauve-souris? Un chat? The objective was to apply questions related to age, name and colors: Quel âge a-t-il? Comment s'appelle t-elle? De quelle couleur est-il?**

In literacy, we need to maintain our focus on studying spelling, punctuation, grammar and comprehension skills. Using paragraphs consistently and improving sentence construction will be our first targets after the mid-term break.

All Year 6 pupils have been given homework to complete during the holiday. Support for this is available at our online Edmodo and Khan Academy classrooms as well as CIMT. All links are accessible via Edmodo and the Year 6 BISB homepage. The students have been given their scripts for our Christmas production – The Nightingale.

I would like to wish you a happy and relaxing holiday, wherever you may be.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

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

INEAL

Dear Parents,

I have very much enjoyed this first half term working with the children in both departments to develop their English language skills. I have been pleased to see all the children, whether beginners or more advanced learners, gaining confidence and



increasingly understanding what they hear in class and in the playground.

We have all enjoyed pumpkin week. Year 1 and 2 worked on the story *Pumpkin Soup*, and had fun (and practised asking and answering questions) acting out the different characters, and interviewing each other. The Reception children were very interested in the story of how a pumpkin grows from a seed, and after reading a story about this, we cut a pumpkin open together, and were delighted to find that pumpkin seeds really were inside. We plan to plant some of the seeds after the half term holiday.

If you would like to meet with me, to talk about your child's progress in English, I am available between 8:30 and 9 on Monday (in the Junior Department), and on Wednesday or Friday (in the Infant Department). Please contact me through the school office, or through your child's class teacher, or using the email below.

I wish you a very happy holiday.

Kate Read  
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