

Home School Books – 18 November 2016.

Home School Book – Nursery

Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday dear happy birthday to you! We have started our celebrations theme this week with something everyone is familiar with 'Birthdays!'



The children have had a fabulous week making birthday cakes from play dough and sand, they then added candles and party favours to make them extra special!

Then each child made a very colourful birthday cake from collage materials and added the correct number of candles that they had on their last real birthday cake. Making collage patterns from tearing and scrunching paper is great for progressing fine motor skills, you can see your little one's masterpiece on the page opposite.

We also wrapped boxes in different birthday paper patterns, again a great and fun way of helping children develop their fine motor skills. Some of the parcels and play dough birthday cakes are on display in the library, see if you can spot them next time you walk through the school.

During discussion time we passed the teddy bear around the circle and had to tell her how old we were and when we celebrated our special day. Not many children were aware of the month and date of their birthday, please chat to them about this, as it is always good to know when we were born!

Of course many children have a birthday party at home and invite friends to help them celebrate. During small group discussion time, we chatted about the different games and activities that could be played at parties. Then Mrs Tolentino helped the children play some of the more familiar games, like pass the parcel, relay games and musical statues. Many children are not familiar with such games but had such fun doing them and of course, they are a very practical way of demonstrating turn taking and cooperative play.

Birthday celebrations will continue into next week and we will be looking at how people celebrate birthdays around the world. Will it be the same as how we recognise our birthday or different? Does everyone celebrate their birthday?

Our talk topic for discussion is 'In which month were you born ? How old will you be on your next birthday?'

Just a quick reminder, if your child comes to nursery in Wellington boots or winter boots, you must pop a pair of indoor slippers into their bag for them to wear inside. Big boots are hot and uncomfortable and not appropriate to wear indoors, especially when we are all sitting together on the carpet.

Have a lovely weekend; wrap up warm and enjoy the outdoors.

Thank you

Alison Davies, Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

We've had a very "hands on" week this week. We have focussed on looking at storms, and how there is more than just one type of storm. As the weather has also been very wet this week we completed a science experiment investigating which materials would make a good umbrella and which would not. The children were able to explain why they predicted certain materials to work and certain to not work.



We have learnt the sounds /x/ and /z/ this week, and have been doing a lot of segmenting and blending. This week writing pencils and paper were expelled as we had fun writing in different ways. We used paints, magnetic letters, build-a-word blocks, whiteboards and we even went outside to use our fingers as pencils in the sandy ground. We spent the week doing such activities to strengthen fine motor skills in unique and adventurous ways. Feel free to try some unconventional but effective ways at home!

In maths we have begun to look at shapes, focussing mainly on 2d shapes but slowly introducing 3d shapes at the end of the week. We looked at the number of sides and corners of the different 2d shapes and why a square is a special type of rectangle. The children also each made pictures using 2d shapes, these pictures can be found in their home school books. Ask your child to explain their picture to you, some have very interesting explanations.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we still talked about autumn and the weather. We talked about the clothes we wear when it is cold and raining. We sang all the songs we learnt about the rain and autumn and we watched a cartoon "Musty" on the same theme. We also read an interactive story about colours "Un livre" by Hervé Tullet.

Talk topic for next week will be answering the questions which is your favourite type of storm (for example snow, hail, rain, thunder, lightning or tornado) and can you have more than one of the previously listed types in just one storm?

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 have continued to look at the 'Funnybones' story. The children discussed some new adventures the skeletons could go on and came up with some great ideas including going to the North Pole, going to the Dinosaur museum to see the dinosaur skeletons and diving under the sea to see skeleton sea creatures. The children then wrote their own adventure for the skeletons. We also made and labelled skeletons which are in their home school books this week.



In literacy we practised reading and writing words with the /qu/ and /y/ phonemes. We also practised using capital letters for the beginning of names in our grammar lesson. In numeracy we looked at addition facts such as pairs that make 6, 7 and 10. We then progressed to using these facts to solve subtraction problems e.g. if we know that $6 + 4 = 10$ then we can know that $10 - 6 = 4$.

Thank you to all the people who have already brought in their child's costume for the winter show. If you have not done this already then please bring it in as soon as possible. This week we have been very busy practising for the school show. The children are doing a great job of learning the poem 'A Wintry Night' which you should all have a received a copy of. If this is not the case come and see us in class and we will get you one.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished our first story. Tourloubanc goes back to the Pays Blanc with the colours and distributes them to everybody. We are now getting ready for Saint-Nicolas and Noël. We have therefore been practising our French song "Mon beau sapin" for the Christmas show.

This is my last day in class before my maternity leave begins and Mr Tranter will replace me as the class teacher. I will look forward to my return to BISB later in the academic year. Mr Tranter can be contacted through the same email address written at the bottom of this letter and is happy to answer any queries you may have. May I take this opportunity to wish you all well for the upcoming holiday season?

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Patrick Tranter

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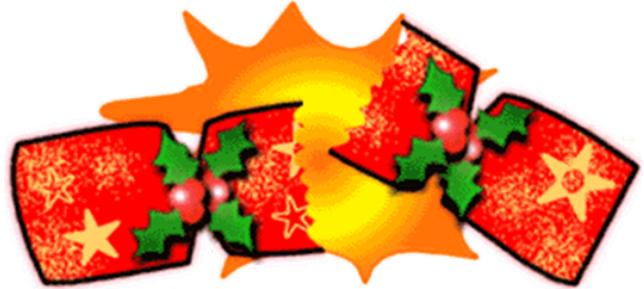
Please click [here](#) for our Year 1 webpage

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

The weather has been rather wet this week but this has not dampened our spirits. We welcomed Harshini into our class this week. We hope she and her family enjoy their stay in Brussels and at BISB.

In Literacy we have been talking about settings. We have spoken about the setting of our winter play as well as the setting for Little Red Riding Hood. We have also spoken about Christmas crackers, what they are, the noise they make and the items they contain. In Phonics we have been speaking about adding -ing to verbs.



In Numeracy we have moved on to directions now. We first revised positional vocabulary and then learned about turning and finally about clockwise and anticlockwise directions. We had fun moving our friends around the classroom and then leading a partner through a maze. It has been a lot of fun.

In Topic and Science we spoke about the life cycle of a bee and the role of bees in the hive. Did you know the queen bee only function is to lay eggs?

In Art we are investigating Christmas crackers. The end result promises to be very interesting.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we finished practising “Mon Beau **Sapin**” song for the Christmas concert. We worked on ‘**Mon corps**’ and the game of **Jacques a dit : touche tes yeux!**

The play is coming along very nicely and I would ask that you please revise the lines with your child as often as possible. The children need to say their lines clearly, slowly and with expression.

The talk topic this week is: Do you think all bees are really hard working? Why or why not?

Have a good weekend.

Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

What an exciting week – a trip to Treasure Trove, choosing new books, learning songs for the play, final versions of the Space Scoop competition ... We have been very busy!

Our work this week has focused around our trip, and we have been looking at maps, timetables, journeys and, of course – books. A real live trip out of school gives us the opportunity to plan concrete experiences and to put theories into practice. It is one thing to do an exercise in class on reading a tram timetable from a book, and quite another to actually miss the tram because we read it wrong! We looked at how to interpret the information presented in a timetable and worked on time duration, different ways of presenting time schedules and how to find specific information. This also included making sure that we understand the different vocabulary used such as ‘depart’ and ‘arrive’, ‘how long’, ‘latest’ and ‘earliest’.

We enjoyed studying maps to find out what the route would be like – we are so lucky to live in a big city and yet to have such beautiful surroundings just a tram ride away. The children were fascinated by the satellite maps of the journey, identifying places they know such as school, the airport, shopping centres, sports venues, etc., and then realizing that we were going to go right through a big forest and out into the countryside. On reflection, we did decide that we probably wouldn’t see any bears in the forest, but it was amazing what we did seem to see out of the tram windows... The maps also gave us the opportunity to look at compass directions and to locate various cities and places within Belgium. We worked on following directions and on basic map coordinates.



The trip to Treasure Trove was a great success. We safely negotiated roads, two tram rides and a walk through Tervuren without losing anyone and without arriving late. Given the weather, we abandoned the idea of eating in the park and squashed into the story room at the shop – many thanks for the perfect ‘easy-to-eat’ packed lunches; they gave us extra time for choosing books! The children did a quiz that involved looking for a variety of books and identifying authors and titles. This helped them to choose the books that they wanted to buy for themselves, and gave them the opportunity to select some books for the school library. We voted on the books and picked out our next class books. Having finished Charlie and the Chocolate Factory this week, we are looking forward to the new one that we have chosen – I haven’t read it yet either, but it certainly looked good! We also made origami hedgehogs at school to use as bookmarks in the new books.



In literacy, our first try at a dictation was remarkably successful and led to useful discussion on strategies for spelling words that you don’t know and on deciding which punctuation should be used. I hope that this will lead to a greater awareness of general punctuation rules and when to apply them.

We also started a factual account of our trip, looking at how to select content and how to present information clearly and in an interesting way.

There has been great enthusiasm for 'book sharing' – with children talking about the books they have read and explaining what they like, or dislike about them. The books are both fiction and non-fiction, and, as a result of a book on Spies and Spy secrets, we carried out a science experiment writing secret messages in lemon juice. After many attempts, we discovered that the most successful messages were the ones written in beautiful handwriting (a hidden advantage!), and that they work better if the juice is left to dry on the paper and the heat is applied from the rear side of the writing. We now need to find out why...

Entries for the International Space Scoop competition had to be in this week, and we are very proud to have two children from Year 3 who put in enormous effort to complete their entries. This entailed spending many morning and lunch playtimes working on their stories. The work can be seen in the entrance hall – we clearly have several budding comic strip artists in our ranks. Well done to all!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on '**Mon corps**' and the game of **Jacques a dit : touche tes yeux!** We also practised a **play for the St Nicolas festivities.**

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been working on our food topic. We listened to two songs and we acted out the scene ordering food in a restaurant. In grammar, we learnt "Les articles partitifs du, de la, de l' , des". We also learnt to use the negative form "pas de" : "Je n'ai pas de bonbons".

Our talk topic for this week is: "Where would I like to go on a journey, and how would I like to travel?"

We were disappointed not to have seen the special moon this week, let's hope the clouds clear this weekend and that we can get out and enjoy some fresh air. Have a good weekend!

Jane Still

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

This was a very wet, autumnal week but as ever, we were all very happy to be at school and to be learning.

Dragons, characters and dialogue consumed us in Literacy as we reached a key point in 'How to train your dragon.' Our unlikely hero Hiccup has a dilemma before him

and the tribe, and the old strategy of ‘yelling’ at a dragon doesn’t seem to work. If you’re brave enough to ask the children what the yell involves, you do so at your peril and I accept no responsibility.

Maths was again all about fractions but also introduced us to decimals. The work this week involved simplifying fractions, putting them on number lines, counting them up and in terms of decimals, nothing more advanced than dealing with tenths. Try these webgames at home:

<http://www.ictgames.com/equivalence.html>

<http://www.oswego.org/ocsd-web/games/Estimate/estimate.html> STAGE 5!

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

0.1’s and DECIMALS - Easy

In topic, the children researched fairytale collector, Joseph Jacobs, who gathered up traditional tales the length of Britain in 1890 including Jack and the Beanstalk. But Jacobs was an Australian and this link led us to exploring about the ‘First Fleet’ - the first emigration voyage to Sydney in 1788 to set up a colony. This brought us full circle from where we started at Botany Bay with Captain Cook back in September.

What makes electrical flow possible and is necessary were questions that opened up our new Circuits and Conductors unit in Science. The children had to build various circuits to see what elements must be present to make the bulb glow. The 4 groups had to do this having first built the witch’s gingerbread cottage. This in turn had to light up in the deep, dark forest. If the circuits worked, the cottage would be lit and Hansel and Gretel (luckily or unluckily) would be able to find it. (see photo adjacent)



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on ‘**Mon corps**’ and the game of **Jacques a dit : touche tes yeux!** We also practised a **play for the St Nicolas festivities.**

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been working on our food topic. We listened to two songs and we acted out the scene ordering food in a restaurant. In grammar, we learnt "Les articles partitifs du, de la, de l' , des". We also learnt to use the negative form "pas de" : "Je n'ai pas de bonbons".

The children love their swimming and much progress is being made in the water.

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,

I hope you have all had a good week – we certainly have had a productive one in Year five! I am always impressed by how willing the children always are to answer questions, contribute to discussions – and they also ask lots of questions themselves!

This week, we have been learning about daily life during Aztec times. The children created a timeline to show when the Aztecs first arrived in Mexico and why they chose to settle where they did. They were also all given one area of daily life (clothes, children, food and drink and homes) and were asked to do some research. They recorded facts and next week will present their findings to the rest of the class. This way, they will all get to be the teacher for a lesson! It is a useful activity though as it develops both their research and presenting skills. The children all did good pieces of homework last week, drawing the Mexican flag and finding out the background story of the eagle sitting on the cactus....



More stories from other cultures have been read this week and the class have looked for clues that teach us about these particular cultures. We have all been expanding our vocabulary thanks to this unit so the dictionaries have been used regularly during some stories. We have also linked the unit to learning about prepositions and how to use them and also how to correctly use speech marks. The children became aware of how many things there are to remember when using speech marks and practised different ways of using them.

In maths this week, division and number factors have been taught. The children created a table to help them remember the rules when dividing whole numbers. Then linking to this, the children reviewed how to identify the factors of whole numbers and showed their understanding using different methods. They are all also enjoying playing a division game with a partner which they play once a week – the aim is improve their recall of division facts and of course there is a slight competitive element!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had a dictée of "mots invariables" and worked on verbs ending with -ER. We learnt about infinitives and we also revised "Les pronoms personnels sujets". We also watched the cartoon of the famous story by Pierre Gripari "La sorcière du placard aux balais" which we read last week.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on 'Mon corps' and the game of **Jacques a dit : touche tes yeux!** We worked on reading and pronunciation and we started a **play on St Nicolas to get ready for the St Nicolas festivities.**

Rehearsals have now begun for our upcoming show, The Nightingale, and the children are very much looking forward to performing it for the parents. Please encourage them to learn their lines at home – we will be reading through them in school but I have also asked them all to go read them at home as well. Letters

regarding costume requirements will be sent out at the end of next week. We will soon be thinking about how to create the background scenery for the show and the Year five pupils will be very much involved in this!

Talk topic for the week is: In what ways have you kept the culture of your home country alive in your current life in Belgium?

And that was our week!

Wishing you all a nice weekend.

Alison Godwin

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

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

Remember the ‘supermarket project’? Well, the pupils’ designs and articles have been published in a ‘real’ magazine! I am so grateful to the Editor, Nicholas Lewis for ‘making this happen’ and we are extremely proud of all of the students. You can view the magazine at:

<http://www.thewordmagazine.com/neighbourhood-life/school-children-talk-about-the-supermarket-of-the-future/> .

We began our new class reading book – Point Blanc; the second adventure story in the Alex Rider series and, yes, we are ‘hooked’ again! The beginning of the novel focuses on drug abuse in the playground, which provides the perfect backdrop, to begin our PSHE topic on this important subject. We have discussed a range of ‘drugs’ including; alcohol, cigarettes, Coca-Cola, prescribed medicines and caffeine. To raise awareness, I shall, of course, explain about the dangers of ‘recreational drugs’ using Key Stage Two age-appropriate resources.

Our next Book Club is on Monday, when we shall discuss the book ‘Warrior Girl’, which the students appear to have enjoyed reading. The reading comprehension task has increased to two texts a week, so that we can complete Book 3 before the Christmas holiday.

In writing, we are focusing on sentence openers using ‘ISPACED’: ing, simile, preposition, adverb, conjunction, ed and dialogue. Our new treasure is the Moai statues of Easter Island and the students, for homework, will need to continue their research into the mystery of these large monolithic creations, and write seven ‘ISPACED’ sentences about them. Also, in Science, we concentrated on improving the recording of our experiments.



It is a joy to receive my weekly update from Khan Academy showing how brilliantly the students are progressing with their computer programming. So far, most programmers have mastered the following skills: making drawings with shapes, number scrubbing, colouring and colour picking. Next challenge is variables. Awesome!

The subject of this week's maths lessons Angles. We have covered the following topics: angles and turns, measuring angles, classifying angles, angles on a line, constructing triangles and finding angles in triangles.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had a dictée of "mots invariables" and worked on verbs ending with -ER. We learnt about infinitives and we also revised "Les pronoms personnels sujets". We also watched the cartoon of the famous story by Pierre Gripari "La sorcière du placard aux balais" which we read last week.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on 'Mon corps' and the game of **Jacques a dit : touche tes yeux!** We worked on reading and pronunciation and we started a **play on St Nicolas to get ready for the St Nicolas festivities.**

As expected, rehearsals and singing practice are slowly taking centre stage. I am very impressed that the majority of pupils in Year 6 have learnt their lines, this allows them to concentrate of their acting skills.

I would also like to congratulate those students who entered the 'Scoop' Science competition. They have created some brilliant cartoons; their artwork is displayed in the entrance hall, so please do take a look.

Have a relaxing weekend.

Kind regards,

Beverley Tranter

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

In EAL this week

Dear Parents,

The children who work with me in EAL have all continued to develop their skills in English.

The Reception children this week continued to work on the story of One Snowy Night, explaining what was happening in different pictures from the story. We had interesting discussions about the animals in the story, especially whether a badger has 2 legs or 4, and where a fox lives. We re-enacted the story, adding a little more detail to the simple dialogues that we used last week, this time talking about how the characters feel.

In Year One, our Monday session has a numeracy focus. This week, we revisited the number bonds to 5 and 6, showing pairs of numbers with



those totals, using towers of cubes, and writing the matching equations. Our Wednesday session is focused on writing. This week, we studied the letter sounds j, v, w and x . We also practised using letter sounds to write simple phrases to describe an animal: it has, it can . We will use the Wednesday session to do the children's spelling tests. They are bringing their spelling book home each day – it would be helpful if you had time to read the spelling words with your child during the week.

Our combined Year One and Year Two sessions this week also focused on making short sentences to describe an animal, and reading the descriptions for other children to guess. The children enjoyed this game very much, and were keen to use their spoken English as part of it.

The Year Three group of children worked on reading comprehension skills. Having realised that it is important to identify words that they do not understand, they used post-it notes to alert themselves to a new word, then tried to work out possible meanings of the word from its context, or from their recollections of hearing the word before. We also looked again at question words (what, where, who, why, when, how many) .

In addition to these group sessions, I am working with some individual children to help them with their own particular needs.

Here are two links to useful online EAL vocabulary activities

<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/word-games/places-live>

<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/word-games/rooms>

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). I can meet at other times (up to 1pm) if needed. 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 weekend.

Kate Read

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