

Home School Books –20 January 2017.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

We have continued with our theme of Fairy tales and this week the children have looked at and listened to the story of little red riding hood. If you are not familiar with the story then take a look at this version

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0W86K1jBJFI&gl=BE>

In circle time we discussed the different characters in the story and why did little red riding hood wear a red cape? Why not an orange one or a purple one? No one really knew why, so, we decided it must be because it was her favourite colour! We then asked what colour cape or cloak would you wear if you were a character in the story. Ask your little one what colour cloak they chose and why.



If you look opposite you will see our wonderful writing practice we did this week for our unaided writing sample. Each child had to manipulate the pen to stay on the pathway to find the wolf or the wood cutter or red riding hood. If your child is not able to stay perfectly within the lines, don't worry; it takes a lot of practice before our fine motor skills become more precise.

The children also played the blindfold game in large group time; each child took a turn to have a scarf wrapped around their eyes so they couldn't see. They then listened to someone calling their name and tried to find their way to who it was, just by listening to the sound and direction the voice was coming from. This activity was in conjunction with a discussion about how our eyes and ears actually work and what happens if people cannot see or hear? How can we help a person who is non sighted or has hearing loss, to imagine what something looks like just by describing it or to hear what someone is saying by looking at the movements of someone's mouth and hands (sign language).

In our maths activities this week we concentrated on ordering numbers one to ten. Although most children can count to ten in sequence without problem, putting numbers in the correct order, without help from the teacher is tricky.

In our letters and sounds session, we looked at the initial letter sound of our name, not the letter name itself. We also talked about the 'r' sound in Red Riding Hood and the 'w' in wolf and woodcutter. Our Talk Topic for this week is 'Little Red Riding Hood stopped to talk to the Big Bad Wolf. Do you think this was a good idea?' Talk to a grown up at home about what she should have done.

Next week our Fairy tale stories continue with Jack and the Beanstalk and his handful of magic beans!

Until then, have a cold but refreshing weekend.

Thank you
Alison Davies, Ena Tolentino
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Please click [here](#) for our Nursery webpage

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This week in Reception we have continued our food and healthy eating topic by looking specifically at fruit, using ‘Oliver’s fruit salad’ by Vivian French as a focus story. The children started the week of confidently sharing why they thought it is important to eat fruits and vegetables in our weekly Talk Topic. We looked at the recommended number of fruits and veg we should be consuming each day and how we should try to ‘eat a rainbow’, having a range of colours in our choice of fruit and veg. The children were enthusiastic at trying a collection of fruits, and helping us to make a class fruit salad, which we then enjoyed at the end of the day. We looked at how pretty our fruit salad looked with all the different colours and smells.



In phonics this week we learnt the sound /ng/ as in sing. The children came up with their own /ng/ words and tried to write some of them down. We also continued to practise reading through matching words to their corresponding picture and whole class bingo, word matching. This week we also began to look at rhyming, words that have the same word endings. The children were quick to recognise and match certain word families.

In maths this week we had an Early Years introduction into symmetry. The children made symmetrical butterflies and pizzas and they were, by the end of the week, getting confident recognising if a picture was symmetrical or not. We focussed on understanding the word ‘symmetrical’ and how for an object to be symmetrical it needs to be matching in size, colour and positioning.

Talk topic for Monday will be answering the question ‘Where does your favourite food come from?’ This will be an introduction into our focus topic area for next week about where our food comes from before we buy it in a shop.

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,

The Year 1 children have had a very busy week in the classroom, but have been able to cool off most effectively outside at playtime, in the very chilly air!

In Literacy, we continued our work on the story of The Three Little Pigs. In the version we read, the wolf ran away at the end, so was still at large, possibly wreaking havoc on other poor, unsuspecting pigs. Having discussed his character and behaviour, we decided that we ought to catch him, so we each designed a 'WANTED' poster, complete with picture, description and reward. The results were excellent, and you can see your child's poster in his/her Home School Book (some of the originals have been used to complete our classroom display, so a photocopy has been placed in their books). In Phonics, our sounds of the week were /ow/ and /oi/, as in 'cow' and 'coin' - as usual, we have done a number of different activities to practise the sounds and cement our learning.



This week's Maths focus has been on addition. We started on Monday by adding small single-digit numbers (1, 2 & 3) to 2-digit numbers below 30, and by Friday had progressed to adding larger 1-digit numbers (4, 5, 6 & 7) to any 2-digit number, including sums that take us over the sometimes tricky barrier of the 10s numbers. The other important skill acquired this week was that of reversing the order of numbers to be added, where the smaller number is presented first (e.g. $4+35$ is much easier if we reverse it to $35+4$, put the larger number in our head, then count on 4).

Our topic work this week covered both History, where we looked at some more old toys and talked about whether we would prefer to play with those our own modern ones, and Design & Technology, where the children each made their own movable toy - a robot made from card, with moving joints made using split-pins. The multi-coloured horde can be seen on display in the classroom. In Science, we continued with our work on materials, this time looking at the properties of some everyday items. We concentrated on the concepts of 'waterproof' and 'bendy', and the children went on a search for items around the school that fell in to either or both categories.

In Computing, we completed the first stage of programming. Having exhausted the Bee-bots' batteries, the children did an exercise to check their understanding of giving and following instructions in basic code. They then practised their skills on the iPads, using the Bee-bot app.

Our first swimming session went very well: although there are some children who have not swum before, everyone took to the water fearlessly, which is an encouraging sign. The bus journey is almost as much fun, too, with games and songs to help us on our way!

Finally, the Maths homework package for next week, on 3D shapes, is entitled 'Reel It In 1.14' - I will allocate it to the children's accounts on Monday (you may also see 'Reel It In 1.4' already in your child's folder - that one covers 2D shapes).

Wishing you a very good weekend.

Patrick Tranter and Aleksandra Hauwaerts

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

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

It has been very cold this week, but that fact did not stop us from having a wonderful time outside. At least the sun was shining.

Our most thrilling part of the week was undoubtedly our PE lessons. On Monday we got into groups and planned out some obstacle courses. We recorded these on paper. Then on Tuesday we went outside and built the courses. Of course, once having built them, we thoroughly enjoyed trying them out. Even the colder weather did not detract from our fun. The photos of this exercise can be found on the school website.



In Literacy we began looking at myths and legends. We have found out that legends have an inkling of truth whilst myths are pure fiction. We also found out that Humpty Dumpty was actually a cannon. <http://myths.e2bn.org/mythsandlegends/story1-humpty-dumpty-and-the-fall-of-colchester.html> .

We also looked at a few more myths and will begin writing our own in the new few weeks.

In Numeracy we are still learning how to add by using the frog method. Frog likes to pause on multiples of ten so the bonds of ten are imperative to this. We have done lots of work on this but some children are still not sure of the bonds to ten. Please could you revise these at home with your children?

In Topic we looked at different types of castles, in particular the Motte and Bailey castles. We also commented on the fact that stone walls are way stronger than wooden ones.

In Science we discussed materials that are natural and ones that are man-made.

In Art, we carried on with our castle projects and have built the gatehouse and the keep now.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about l'Hiver (winter), we got to dress the Bonhomme de neige, review the clothing items (il porte un bonnet, une écharpe..) with a colourful arts and crafts activity. We also sang : un bonhomme de neige est né to review and work on the vocabulary pronunciation.

The talk topic for this week is: What materials will keep us the warmest? Why?

Have a wonderful weekend.

Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,



Year 3 have been looking at skeletons this week and working out which bones go where, what they do and how they work together. We also took a fascinating model of a body apart to see what is hidden beneath the layers of skin and muscle, and to find out where our different organs are located. We were surprised at how relatively small the stomach is, and discovered that it isn't at all where we imagined it to be. We continued to look at different types of food and to decide which foods help which parts of the body. We also did some more pulse checking before and after exercise. Some of us are either extremely fit, extremely unhealthy, or not very good at counting! Perhaps more practice is needed...?

On Tuesday, we set off for the wonderful windmill in Evere to find out all about ice cream. The weather was suitably frosty, so we enjoyed a warm tram ride and a very brisk walk to the museum. The exhibition is full of interesting ice cream exhibits and there is also an excellent film about the history of the windmill itself. It is well worth a visit, and is open in the afternoons on Saturdays and Sundays if you have a spare weekend. (See <http://www.moulindevere.be>) We also had a cooking workshop, baking chocolate chip cookies. The children worked in pairs, measuring the ingredients, breaking the eggs, breaking up the chocolate and beating everything together. The delicious smell of baking biscuits followed us around the mill, and we came back to the kitchen to assemble our enormous 'ice cream sandwiches' with the ice cream flavour of our choice. The visit was carried out in French and it was really good to see how well the children managed to follow the workshop instructions, and how well they understood the guided tour.



We continued the 'cold' theme in literacy and started writing a new story, set in a wintry forest or woodland. We thought back to our nature ramble in the park and to the birds and animals that we had seen. We then read lots of short extracts from fiction with a similar woodland setting, studying the way in which the landscape and animals are described, and how the atmosphere is created. We will be using the word 'trees' from last week to make the stories more interesting. In art we are now putting detail into our water colour landscapes by adding animals, birds and plants using very fine brushes and dark colours to provide contrasts.

In maths we have been concentrating on place value, multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100, and inventing our own 'number riddles' for different digits, to make sure that we get them in the correct column. We have also been estimating and measuring mass using various sets of scales. We weighed lunch boxes before and after eating our lunches and had fun discussing the 'difference' between 90g of feathers and 90g of wood...

In French we worked on: Pourquoi on aime la glace? In preparation for the field trip visit to the Musée de l'Alimentation and the Mill, where the theme of this year was: La Glace (ice cream). We discussed and sang a song dedicated to: La Glace.

Our talk topic for this weekend is "How might our bones and organs be healed in the future?"

Enjoy the weekend – I hope you don't have your pulse checked too often!

Jane Still

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

It was a chilly week outside this week but we were hot on the tail of Superheroes and environmental causes inside. The children learnt about the history of DC comics and how the iconic characters acquired their super powers. The class also had to write a persuasive magazine article about the rainforest. What might a superhero be called in to tackle? They needed to choose a focus from people, animals, plants or medicine. We also paid another visit to apostrophes.

Your Year 4 superheroes were asked to display their superpowers in the week's main event. It was fitting that we went to the ice cream exhibition on such an icy week. The class were led round the expo in French which proved tricky for some but most were eager and able to access and contribute. Then, came the 'atelier' - we made ice cream cones and everyone loved this! Intricate work was required as the children wound pastry in spirals to make the cornet shapes which were then baked. Tricky work but they were up to the task nonetheless.



Once ready and out of the oven, the children chose their flavour of choice and promptly scooped the lot. There were a lot of chocolate faces! The food museum and windmill is always a great outing and it didn't let us down this time. In February, we will be going to the MOOF museum - more details soon.

In maths, we subtracted using compact (long) form and the children will now have many strategies for taking away. On Wednesday, the Pyramids entered the FFJM mathematics competition and sat the tricky problem-solving quiz. Meanwhile the majority of the class, learnt and practiced the 7x table.

We will be doing work in the Spring onwards to fully secure all the multiplication facts to x12 but over half of the class do not know them or at least cannot recall them quickly enough. If the children are able to learn lines for Christmas and Summer shows, they are capable of learning these bonds. So, could we set ourselves the target of learning 'our lines' for an end-of-May 'show' - it's called 'Times Tables' and it's a blockbuster! (A supporting sheet will come home to help practice at home)

Learn the facts by rote but teach the ones you keep forgetting by using objects, coins or I will make school Numicon tiles available on a 'borrowing' service.

<http://oswego.org/ocsd-web/games/mathmagician/maths1.html>

In French we worked on: Pourquoi on aime la glace? In preparation for the field trip visit to the Musée de l'Alimentation and the Mill, where the theme of this year was : La Glace (ice cream). We discussed and sang a song dedicated to: La Glace

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 5/6

Dear Parents,

I am delighted with the 'student teaching module' for our project: 'Around the World in Eighty Treasures'. Each week, a student teaches the class, including a new pupil called Miss Tranter, about a treasure. Student teachers are required to produce a lesson plan, PowerPoint presentation, selection of activities and organise any resources that they may require. The quality of the first two lessons has been outstanding; excellent subject knowledge, informative and much improved PowerPoints (attention given to font size and quantity of information on each slide), varied and challenging activities, as well as a confident delivery style. Superb!

Chinese New Year is fast approaching; therefore, we have been studying this celebration in detail for our next writing task. If you fail to plan; plan to fail is our mantra; on Monday, the students created their mind-maps, then on Wednesday they began their drafts in preparation for writing a 'top copy' next week.

The weekly spelling lesson included a revision of previously learnt spellings in the form of a dictation. Word Work was interesting...I know that some of you participate in this homework challenge – great! However, may I remind all pupils to reread their

sentences to make sure that they make sense. Comprehension questions were generally well-answered although some pupils still need to expand their answers by including more detail.

Maths this week included adding and subtracting negative numbers, substituting positive and negative numbers in expressions, BODMAS and more complex equations. All pupils participated in the first round of a Maths competition (organised by Mr Stedman) by answering a selection of problem-solving questions.

<http://www.ffjm.be>

We enjoyed a stimulating science afternoon preparing our 'onion skin' slides. The Year 6 scientists should be very proud of their achievements in the lab. Each child was given two slides to prepare using water and iodine; each slide was a success and they were thrilled to see their results under the microscope.



'Work, Work, Work', was the topic of our Latin lesson, which rather reflects our busy and rewarding week in the classroom.

In French we focused on Les saisons et les vêtements.

They got to design, draw, colour and write about 'Ma saison préférée/ quel temps fait-il?' and the clothing that goes with it. They had to use at least five different action verbs. Using expressions such as: en hiver, il neige, il fait froid. je porte un bonnet et une écharpe etc...

Enjoy your weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

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

In EAL this week

Dear Parents,

This week we have continued, in the EAL sessions, to focus especially on listening skills. Children in the Junior Department discussed what good listening and bad listening looks like, and listed some essential features of good listening.

In the Infant Department, we practised good listening in conversations and games. A special focus for the Reception children was on hearing the letter sounds at the end of words.



The Year 1 and 2 children worked in pairs on ways to describe the big, bad wolf in the story of the Three Little Pigs, and then, along with the rest of Year 1, wrote sentences about the wolf on Wanted posters. The children are always encouraged to use their letter sounds to work out how to spell words.

It is always very helpful for the children to have the chance to listen, and to be listened to, at home, in their home language, and also in English if that is appropriate.

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.

Kate Read
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