

Home School Books – 03 February 2017.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

This week the children have finished off their adventures with Jack and the Beanstalk. So far we have planted magic beans, climbed the beanstalk and run away very fast from the giant!

Of course this has been lots of fun but the vocabulary needed to retell the story, provides the building blocks for many of the children for their English language recognition and language development. The underpinning knowledge gained from sequencing story cards and predicting what happens next is hugely beneficial for more formal learning at a later stage in the Early Years Foundation Curriculum.



In our language sessions this week the children played the 'what's missing' game. Small groups of children were asked to identify 10 objects placed in a dish. Some objects were familiar and some not so familiar. The children then closed their eyes and the teacher took away one of the objects, when they opened their eyes they had to observe each object left in the dish and name the object that was missing.

This sounds very straight forward but as you can imagine with three and four year olds, we had some very funny moments when children were naming what they thought was missing. Some of the objects they were naming were never in the dish in the first place! Someone said that their daddy's tiffin box was missing and another thing that was missing apparently was a packet of sweets! This made for some very interesting conversation!

Conversation is the key here; please talk to your children about a variety of subjects. Language acquisition, in the form of two way question and answer sessions, is an important stage of being able to converse fluently at a later stage. Use open ended questions that require more thought about how to reply, not just a quick yes and no answer!

Don't forget to send in a shoe box with your child and any extra's if you have them, plus more cardboard tubes. The castle construction has begun!

If you look opposite you will see Jack and the giant standing beside the castle, can you guess who is who? Ask your little one to tell you about their picture and why the figures are different sizes.

Our new Fairy tale will begin next week, with a very strange man made out of a biscuit! Can you guess who it is? Tell us about him next week in our talk topic discussion.

Please don't forget to provide indoor shoes if your child is wearing big boots or wellingtons to school!

Until next week, have fun and try the missing object game at home.

Thank you

Alison Davies, Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

In Reception this week our focus story has been Jo Readman and Ley Honor Roberts' "The World Came To My Place Today". We looked at a globe and how some foods might get to us from other countries, by plane or by ship. We also looked at ways to stay healthy, other than eating healthy foods. A short video introduced us to five important things that help to keep us healthy – exercise, sleep, food, water and keeping clean. We discussed how much exercise we should be getting and which ways we can get this needed exercise. We discussed why we need sleep and how important washing hands are in keeping us healthy. The children also mixed two types of food – milk and vinegar to see its reaction, and guess what, it made plastic! The children were very proud of the small lump of plastic they made. It is currently drying ready to be painted on Monday.



This week in phonics the children reviewed correct letter formation, remembering those letters that are formed without removing the pencil. We also learnt the tricky word 'the', a word that cannot be phonetically decoded and must simply be learnt by memory. The children listened to this catchy song to help remember the word - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5NANKteuVs> . We tried using our new knowledge of this tricky word to help us read sentences containing this word.

In maths this week we have looked at halving and simple division. The children completed many activities which involved them to divide different foods between a certain number of children. They quickly understood the importance of sharing them out one at a time to make sure that everyone got the same number. The children listened to the story 'The Doorbell Rang' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXtu90JnDkM>). The children went on to make their own books, dividing the twelve cookies between different numbers of children. The children are slowly understanding the vocabulary 'divided by', 'sharing' and 'half'.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we are continuing to enjoy singing "Promenons-nous dans les bois ..." in which a wolf gets dressed and mentions all the pieces of clothing he puts on. We are learning all the vocabulary related to clothing. We also dressed a wolf as an activity and a snowman.

Next week is our last week of our 'food and healthy living' topic and so our Talk Topic for Monday will be responding to the question 'What is your favourite way of exercising? For example, riding your bike, swimming or running after a ball'.

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,

At one point this week, when Mrs Davies' attention was drawn to Year 1 by the sound of exploding rockets, I feared we might all be in trouble...

Our Science investigation this week involved the concept of air power, as represented by a deflating balloon. After an initial discussion about rocket power, the children set about decorating their space rockets, ready for launching (unfortunately, there were a few casualties even before the rockets made it to pre-launch, which was a challenge for the rocket production line!). A drinking straw on a length of string was the launch vehicle, and the test track stretched from the Reception door handle to the front window catch! The rockets were taped to the launcher and the countdown began. As well as the inevitable challenge of whose balloon could travel the furthest, we also looked at the effect of under-inflating a balloon (less distance) and over-inflating (disaster!).



Literacy this week continued with more work on Mr Gumpy's Outing: first the class re-told the original story and then we watched an alternative version, told by the well-known children's writer, Pie Corbett. This introduced the children to the idea of telling a different story, but using the same format. This was followed by some group-work, where the children created their own alternative version, based around a farmer called Mr Percy. Finally, the children then took turns to tell their version to the class. Next week, the children will be asked to create their own individual scenario and characters, still based on the Mr Gumpy story outline, so it would be helpful if you could assist them with some ideas... In Phonics, we learned the last two sounds of Phase 3, namely /er/ and /(t)ure/, as in 'term', 'letter', 'pure' and 'picture'. We also spent a session revising all of the Phase 3 sounds, before we begin Phase 4 next week.

In Maths, we have been counting in 10s, 5s and 2s all week - we use songs to help instil the rhythm of this type of counting, and have done a number of practical activities to help reinforce the concept. We have also revisited the technique of estimating (or 'clever guessing'), which the children find quite challenging. We have

used ever-larger quantities of pine cones, acorns, pumpkin seeds and stones to practise with: there were some very good estimates, and, encouragingly, no wild guesses!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still working on our new story "Une maison de musiciens". We have been learning the parts of the body with the help of songs, books, poems and various activities. We learnt to say "J'ai mal à la tête, au ventre, aux dents"

Our topic work focussed on the toys and games of children in other countries. After an interesting circle time discussion, we looked at the game of Mancala, a simple game using a carved piece of wood and some stones, usually associated with the children of Africa.

There will be no formal Maths homework for next week, as it will be a revision week. However, there are still some unused packages from last term which I will allocate to the children, to keep them going! The issue with conflicting ActiveLearn web addresses has now hopefully been resolved by the software company - there is a note about it in your child's folder.

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,

Another busy and fun filled week has passed us by.

In Literacy we did our termly PIRA tests and I am happy with the results. It proves what I have already known. Our reading has improved a lot since the beginning of the year. This is confirmed in our weekly guided reading sessions where we get the opportunity to read a book together and discuss various elements of the story. We have also played a dice game where we threw the dice to choose words and then put them into a sentence. And if that wasn't enough, we revised adding –s and –es to make plurals, and looked at a picture which we discussed in detail. This forms the basis of our story in the home school book this week.

In Numeracy we finished our unit on 3D shapes. We now have a better idea of faces, edges and vertices. Then we started looking at time. We discussed the months and seasons and answered questions on this. We then moved on to telling the time in quarter hours on an analogue clock. We also had fun counting how many times we could jump, write our name, count to ten and take off / put on a sock in a minute. In Science we looked at how pliable certain materials are and how they are suited to their functions. We



found out that a spoon could be made from 3 different materials and still be useful. In Topic we spoke again about castles and the coats of arms in particular.

The weather was wet on Monday so we had indoor PE. We used a podcast and learned about the Little Tin Soldier whilst marching like a soldier and moving like a dancer. This was in 2 parts so we concluded the exercise on Tuesday. This was a really enjoyable exercise.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on the presentation project of Mon drôle de Passeport (my funny passport). They took a great pride in presenting their lovely drawings and describing themselves in French. It was fun and a great booster for their oral skills in a light and an enjoyable way. In Art we drew our own coat of arms and coloured it.

Our talk topic is: Do you think toys come to life at night? Why/why not?

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 donned our scientist coats again this week and took a close look at how to make pancakes rise. After our bread-making session and balloon experiment, we are familiar with yeast and its properties, so this time we wanted to see what would happen if we used bicarbonate of soda and cream of tartar as raising agents. We first classified all the ingredients in the recipe into solids (subdividing into grains and powders) and liquids, and discussed where they come from. We discovered that the sugar is made from sugar beet, not sugar cane, and is refined here in Belgium.



We then made predictions about what would happen to each ingredient as it was added to the mixture, deciding whether they would dissolve or need to be mixed in. The fun started as we measured and mixed - sieving flour, cracking eggs, pouring milk, measuring half teaspoons of oil and beating everything together. Then off to the kitchen to start cooking! Despite each group having started with identical recipes, the mixtures were very different – ranging from the very runny to the distinctly stodgy. However, as the essential bubbles started to appear, the pancakes all rose to the occasion and were transferred to plates to be sampled with blueberries, jam or sugar. We will be looking further at how the raising agents work and how the different mixtures produced pancakes with different textures.

In maths we have been looking back over work covered this term and deciding which bits we need to look at further. Putting the theory into practice by measuring and calculating is the ideal way of checking what we have fully understood. Dividing the left-over pancakes into the maximum number of pieces to be shared out certainly covered fractions and division very effectively!

In literacy we continued work on our stories, making sure that they include time sequences, interesting vocabulary and detailed description. We read each other's work, commenting on what we enjoyed and making suggestions on how the writing might be improved. This is also a useful exercise in spotting spelling mistakes. We noticed in our dictation this week that, although we usually get full marks on a classic spelling test, we often don't spell the words correctly when using them in a piece of writing.



We added the final touches to our winter paintings, using fine black pens to draw in the birds and animals that we observed and sketched at the park. Research is underway to identify the species, but there may well be a few 'unidentifiable' breeds – there is talk of a 'dragon duck' and a 'vampire vulture' spotted in the vicinity of Wezembeek...

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we dedicated the week to talk about 'Theatre and Surrealism' in Belgium and Europe. That was in preparation for our field trip to the Montagne Magique theatre, where we went to see the brilliant and surreal play "Bizar." It was fun and exciting.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been revising the parts of the body and went on learning to say "J'ai mal à la tête (la), J'ai mal au ventre (le), J'ai mal à l'oreille (l'), J'ai mal aux dents (les)". We listened to two songs about the body. We also went to the theatre to see a play "Bizar" and had great fun.

Our talk topic for this week is "Why are there so many different types of pancake all around the world – what makes it such a popular food?"

Enjoy a peaceful weekend.

Jane Still

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

It was a week of experiments in Year 4 this week - both with language and our writing and in the literal sense.

In literacy, the class focussed heavily on metaphor and adverbs and analysing poems whilst doing this. Without knowing it, the children seem to have their own metaphors that they use; Indeed, over the years in Year 4, children always seem to have had one (albeit a euphemism) for the toilet?!? (E.g. the necessary room or 'I have an emergency, Mr Stedman')

We learnt about air pollution in Topic and then tested both the acidity of rainwater from the playground and the effects such acid might have on different rocks. The children were fascinated by the idea of acids and acid rain and the global significance of the Greenhouse Effect.

Later in the week in Science, the class were asked to devise an experiment to measure the hardness of materials. We had some great suggestions and the discussion about how to make the test professional led to a super experiment which everyone could access and contribute to.

Tuesday's trip to the 'Montagne Magique', meanwhile, was a surreal delight which hooked the children and made both them and we adults, chuckle out loud. The double-act show (aptly called Bizar) was off-the-wall fun and comedy, with carrot telephones, splashes and sounds and a man trapped in an exploding TV - the aim, to get the children to look at and think about things differently. We also had a little extra time to take a look at the bottom floor of the comic strip museum around the corner.



Maths was all about finding fractions of amounts and as usual the topic of fractions drew both glee and misery in equal amounts. Much needed practice is included in this week's homework. You can also have a stab at this:

<http://mathszone.net/mw/decimals/fraction%20of%20amount.swf>

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we dedicated the week to talk about 'Theatre and Surrealism' in Belgium and Europe. That was in preparation for our field trip to the Montagne Magique theatre, where we went to see the brilliant and surreal play "Bizar." It was fun and exciting.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been revising the parts of the body and went on learning to say "J'ai mal à la tête (la), J'ai mal au ventre (le), J'ai mal à l'oreille (l'), J'ai mal aux dents (les)". We listened to two songs about the body. We also went to the theatre to see a play "Bizar" and had great fun..

In Topic, we also read a Spider-Man comic strip and had a good go at retelling it as a story.

And that was our interesting week.

Best wishes

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Please click [here](#) for our Year 4 webpage

Home School Book – Year 5/6

Dear Parents,

We had a testing timetable this week.

On Monday, the students worked through a Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) test. After analysing the answer sheets, certain topics will need to be revisited over the next few weeks. These include: clauses (main, subordinate and relative), determiners, apostrophe for possession and omission, prepositions, prefixes, suffixes and verb tenses.

The PIRA reading comprehension test was on Tuesday. Many of the pupils were dismayed to discover how many marks they had ‘thrown away’, by simply not circling the correct number of words or statements required, even though this pitfall had been pointed out prior to the test! I do hope that an important lesson has been learnt... Areas of difficulty proved to be: identifying modal auxiliaries to differentiate between fact and opinion, when being asked to provide three different details or reasons, only one was given, but written in three different ways, and not identifying features of different genres. However (how often have you heard this?) the need to read the question carefully remains the most important factor.



I was pleased with the Abacus Arithmetic results and the Problem and Reasoning test highlighted topics that some students need to revise. Problems involving money, fractions and properties of shapes were the least well-answered.

Children were asked to write an essay about Chinese New Year and I am looking forward to marking these at the weekend.

All the above tests are formative and used to identify topic areas where subject knowledge requires reinforcing.

Our trip to the theatre ‘Montagne Magique’ was most enjoyable. I doubt if the children have ever seen anything like ‘Bizar’ before. At one point, I thought that I was going to be told off for laughing too loudly! A very clever introduction into the world of surrealism.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we devoted the week to talking about "Bizar", the play we went to see at the théâtre de la Montagne Magique. As the title indicates it was a little strange but very amusing. It was surreal and we therefore spoke about surrealism in the art field and discovered painters like René Magritte, Joàn Miró, Salvador Dalí, Max Ernst, Giorgio de Chirico ... We also played surrealist writing games In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we dedicated the week to talk about ‘Theatre and Surrealism’ in Belgium and Europe. That was in preparation for our field trip to the

Montagne Magique theatre, where we went to see the brilliant and surreal play “Bizar.” It was fun and exciting.

After having concentrated so hard for the greater part of the week, it was a joy to jump in the pool on Thursday. One of our novice swimmers managed to swim half a width today which was a superb achievement.

Enjoy a relaxing weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

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

In EAL this week

Dear Parents,

The Reception group this week spent some very interesting sessions looking at a globe, an atlas and a digital map, in connection with their class study of where our food comes from. We talked about how the countries and the oceans look on the globe and map, and how we (and the food we eat) can travel from one place to another. There were many opportunities for the children to use their language for the functions of inquiring and explaining, and we learnt some geographical vocabulary, especially sea, ocean, land, country, and the names of some countries.

The Year One and Two EAL group talked about questions. All the children were able to tell the difference between a question and a simple statement. They had practice making up and asking their own questions, and they practised adding question marks at the end of written questions. We spent a separate session revising the phonics that they have covered so far in class, in particular the sounds ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ear and air.



On Monday, the Year One EAL group will be discussing Year One’s talk topic, with the intention that this will give enhanced opportunity to speak using longer messages and to develop our listening skills. Please take some time over the weekend to talk about this week’s talk topic with your child, in preparation for this. Many thanks.

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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