

Home School Books – 10 February 2017.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Run, run, as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man! The children guessed who the funny little man made out of a biscuit was when Mrs Reed told them the story. Ask your child to tell you the story and see what they can remember.



Then Mrs Tolentino played the run, run, as fast as you can game with everyone. Each child had to run on the spot and then in different sized groups stand on a template of a gingerbread man. The group that stood on the one with the most buttons was the winner.

We ran out of time and never got to make our own gingerbread biscuits, so we will do that the following week and hope when we bake him, he doesn't jump out of the oven and run away! However the children have been writing their own big cook, little cook recipes, with Mrs Nagy, in readiness for the big event with Mrs Davies next week.

If you look opposite you will see your little ones gingerbread man made of sand, which is meant to represent sugar. We didn't want to use the real thing, as there would have been a lot of paper tasting going on! If you look closely underneath the sand, you can see the gingerbread man's features, including his jelly bean buttons, which each child drew on themselves.

The shoebox castles are coming along nicely and the children are having great fun designing and painting their castle. We are still short of a few shoe boxes, so please bring one in for your child if you haven't already done so.

The cold weather has returned for a little while, so please make sure your child has a hat and mittens to wear outside during playtimes and don't forget to send indoor shoes if your little one is coming into nursery wearing boots or wellingtons.

We still have a lot of viruses and particularly a gastric bug going around and as you know these spread very quickly in nursery. So please do not send your child to school if they show any signs of illness and keep them at home until they are fully recovered. See the schools sickness policy on the school website for more information. Keep reminding your child of good hygiene practices, like washing hands and putting dirty tissues in the rubbish bin; this reinforces what we do in nursery.

Until next week and don't forget to discuss our talk topic over the weekend 'Why did the gingerbread man believe the sly old fox?' What is a lie? Have you ever told a lie?

Have a good weekend

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 we read two fun stories ‘Ketchup on your cornflakes?’ by Nick Sharratt and ‘Carla’s sandwich’ by Debbie Herman. Both these stories looked at mixing foods and we discussed why some foods go together while other foods do not.

We have done lots of practical work during topic work this week; you can enjoy the many photos on the website (<http://www.bisb.org/project/topic-work-continued/>). As one of our stories was about tomato ketchup we made our own in the class. Although we did not start with fresh tomatoes we did have tomato paste which alone was not very nice! The children mixed vinegar, sugar and salt to the tomato paste and they could see the consistency and the smell begin to change. They did a taste test at the end and many said it tasted just like ketchup they have at home. We then looked at food colouring, and discussed how it does not taste like anything but makes food brightly coloured. The children painted a piece of bread with the food colours which we then toasted and ate later on. Finally, we looked at what happens when we mix vinegar with baking soda – we even added a balloon and saw how it was blown up by the gas produced from the mixture!



In maths this week we have looked at number bonds to ten. We have been doing lots of work with the numicons to help us see which numbers fit together to make ten. The children are slowly beginning to learn these number bonds off by heart which will help them with their addition further down the line.

In phonics this week we have been practising our letter formation, and distinguishing between a letter, a word and a phrase. The children learnt the high frequency word ‘like’ and have shown good recognition of the tricky word ‘the’. The children made their own food combinations using the template from the story, having fun mixing weird and wonderful foods.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we are still singing "Promenons-nous dans les bois ..." and we are reading other wolf stories. We also made a wolf mask and spoke about Carnival.

Next week we start our new space topic and so in preparation we will be answering the question ‘What do you think outer space is?’

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

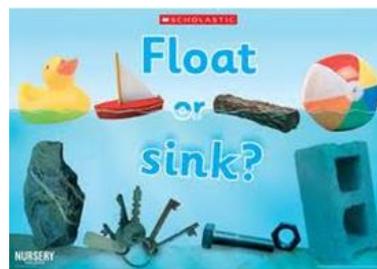
Dear Parents,

I open with an apology for the paint-covered faces and clothes which resulted from our whole-class art session on Wednesday... People say not even to try painting with our full class of children at the same time - now I know why!

In Literacy, we pursued our 'Mr Gumpy' theme: in Circle Time; each child gave the outline of his/her own version of the story, then in our main session on Wednesday, they each created a story map, containing a few pictures and key words, from which they can now re-tell their story. With their ideas now secured, next week they will have the opportunity to write their story, in our Big Writing session. In Phonics, we started on Phase 4, which is all about 'consonant clusters' - this week we looked at initial blends (bl\_\_, gr\_\_, sp\_\_, tw\_\_ etc.) - there are more than 20 such blends attached to the board in the classroom, and the children practised giving examples of words which contain each one.

The maths programme for this week was revision: we looked at all the things we have learnt over the last five weeks, and practised them again. We also spent two sessions on word problems, which seek to apply maths to 'real life' situations. For example, there were 12 nuts on a tree, and 5 fell off, how many were left? Although the maths in the example is quite straightforward, the fact that it is 'disguised' among words can be difficult for the children. They are encouraged to 'translate' the problem in to a 'number sentence' e.g.  $12-5=7$ . We also used some maths games to reinforce the concepts of tens and units, and odd/even numbers.

We returned to water for our Science investigation this week - this time looking at whether objects sink or float. Before testing began, the children had to make a prediction of what they thought would happen, then, one by one, a number of everyday items were dropped in the water. All predictions and results were recorded on a 'data sheet', which you can see in their Home School Books. I have also uploaded some photos of the session (and our previous Science experiments) to the School website - the children were certainly focussed, as you will see <http://www.bisb.org/project/science-investigations/>



We used our Art/D&T session this week to link to our 'Toys' topic: in four separate collaborative projects, and over 2-3 weeks, the children will be making some large toys - a doll's house, a garage, a car and a treasure chest. This week's first step was to paint the basic structure (in each case, a cardboard box!) - everyone made a contribution to his/her chosen project (there are some photos on the Year 1 webpage), and the constant calls of "Mr Tranter, we need more paint" meant that the classroom paint supply took a severe hit!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still working on our story "Une maison de musiciens". We have been learning the parts of the body and made a picture of ourselves describing and writing each part of the body. We also started talking about Carnival.

Maths homework for next week is entitled 'Bingo! 1.16', and is all about halves, quarters and three-quarters - enjoy!

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 a bit wet this week but this has not dampened our spirits at all.

In Literacy we have been concentrating on description this week. We have been looking at pictures and answering questions relating to what we can see and what we can infer. We have also been looking at how we can make sentences more exciting by adding adjectives and descriptive phrases. We have also revised the –oa, -ew, -igh, -ea and –oy sounds. In guided reading we read a mixture of fiction and non-fiction books.

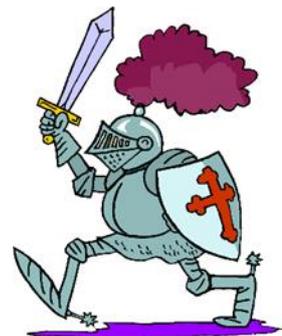
In Numeracy we wrote our half termly progress tests and I am happy with the overall results. We carried on with the theme of time and should now know how to tell the time in hours, half hours and quarter hours. We have been working with both digital and analogue times. We have also now moved on to plotting numbers on a number line and sequencing them from largest to smallest and vice versa. We have also learnt how to round a number to the nearest ten.

In Science we spoke about the materials used to build a castle and then moved on to houses. We spoke about the need for the roof to be waterproof and have discovered that slate is a rock specifically used on roofs. I have now split the class into 3 groups and these groups have devised a plan to build a small waterproof house. They excitedly discussed their plans and what they need to build these houses. Next week we shall be attempting to build these houses.

In Topic we learnt all about knights and what they did in life. We read about some famous knights who fought in the crusades which were holy wars fought in far off places.

In Art we drew a little knight from a tutorial. I think the children were proud of this little figure.

For PE we worked in pairs to see how we could use bats, balls and hoops together. A lot of fun was had by all.



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we introduced La Nourriture (food): J'aime bien manger (I like to eat well). We worked with regular: manger (to eat) and irregular verbs : avoir & boire (to have and to drink) in a fun way, by having them select and sing their favourite food.

Our talk topic is: Would you have enjoyed being a knight? Why / why not?

Have a wonderful weekend.

Valeria Vetter

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

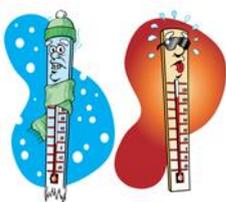
### Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

Year 3 have been finding out more about bones and our skeleton. We looked at x-rays and how they show what is happening inside our body. We identified various photos, and had a preview of Mrs Van Wassenhove's imminent baby by studying the scans that show the face and various parts of the skeleton. We tried to calculate how big the baby might be at birth and also how much it might weigh. Thanks to a handy bunch of bananas lurking in the kitchen, we were able to visualize and feel what the reality might be!



We have been studying Marie Curie, and are planning fact files on her life and work. We compared several video clips portraying her life, and discussed whether we learned more from the cartoon version or the, slightly more difficult, documentary-style version, based on photos of the time. This was a useful discussion that highlighted how difficult it is to imagine life and science as it was in the early 20th century. We used iPads and reference books to look for more information, and are now planning how we can make our fact files informative and interesting.



In Maths we have done more work on fractions, and are making the most of the ups and downs in the weather to create a temperature chart documenting the temperature every day, both inside and in the playground. We estimate the temperature in the morning and in the afternoon, and then check the correct reading. We are beginning to understand what  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$  feels like, and to be able to calculate temperature differences and changes. I think we have now established that it is generally not  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the playground nor  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the classroom!

In Sport we had our second attempt at hockey and made good progress with dribbling, passing the ball and shooting. We discovered the importance of keeping to team positions in our mini-match and thus avoided collisions. It was definitely cold in the playground, but we came in warm and glowing after a good run around.

Our latest design topic is to create an apron for cooking and painting. We studied different models, worked out what aprons need to do, and have been measuring and drawing draft paper patterns. We had a fascinating discussion about sewing machines and what they are used for. It may take a few more drafts before everyone has an apron pattern that actually fits the design brief, but the sewing machine awaits!



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have started talking about Carnival; its meaning, its origins and its traditions. We also looked at various worldwide famous carnivals and looked at famous paintings on the same subject. Many painters have been inspired by it and we are going to discover them.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on how to report and describe events and actions through a picture. The objective was to use Il y a (there is/there are) and to use action verbs: courir, jouer, nager, porter. We also reviewed and worked on Avoir (to have) and Manger (to eat) through a game.

Our talk topic for this week is “How has the design of household objects changed over the last century?”

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,

In Year 4 Numeracy this week, we finished off fractions finding equivalents through simplifying but we ended a long run of very pure maths over recent months with an adventure into angles too. The whole class loved this and some were even sad that the maths lesson had to end. They should now be experts in acute, right and obtuse angles (the special forces of the class doing reflex angles, too)

This was a good game we played:

<http://pbskids.org/cyberchase/math-games/melvins-make-match/>

In Literacy, the class did more work on metaphors (to correct some of the children's misconceptions) and adverbs, while Topic included superhero gymnastics in which we had to move rhythmically to Batman and Superman (and other) theme tunes - kapow indeed!!!

A reading test filled our thoughts on Wednesday and it's interesting to see how far (or not) we've come in 3 months in our reading. This was a tricky one featuring a non-fiction piece, an adventure, the usual poem and some challenging questions.

In Science, we did another great experiment but the children were left with more responsibility and groups were combined to make 2 larger groups. Lots of discussion, negotiation and flexibility was required to come to a decision on the plan and make it work. The aim was to find out which of the various papers we use at school (for all manner of purposes!) is the most absorbent and therefore 'the best'.

Elsewhere, we were commissioned by Madame Scharf to produce some artwork for Carnival and next week's French assembly. As inspiration, we used Miro and Picasso's interpretations of this festival of spring as well as the typical images that come to mind with Mardi Gras.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have started talking about Carnival; its meaning, its origins and its traditions. We also looked at various worldwide famous carnivals and looked at famous paintings on the same subject. Many painters have been inspired by it and we are going to discover them.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on how to report and describe events and actions through a picture. The objective was to use Il y a (there is/there are) and to use action verbs: courir, jouer, nager, porter. We also reviewed and worked on Avoir (to have) and Manger (to eat) through a game.

Meanwhile; tennis continues to entertain the group that goes with hitting, catching, dodging, darting and skipping about with game after game. Just 2 sessions left, then it's swop-over time.

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,

It has been a very busy week! SPaG attack on Monday... First on the 'shopping list,' was clauses, this was swiftly followed by use of the apostrophe. I do hope that by the time the students have completed all their homework associated with these two topics they will be able to recognise different types of clauses and contractions.

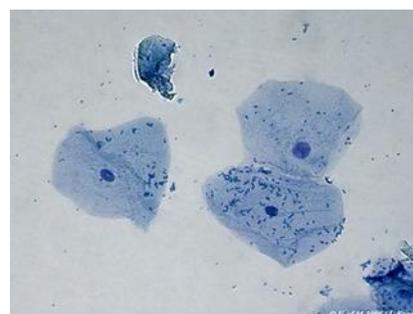
Our lesson on P.E.E. (Point, Explanation and Evidence) was a great success which resulted in some excellent work about a particularly unsavoury character, Mrs

Holland, from the novel, 'Ruby in the Smoke'. Using the P.E.E technique, students designed questions to answer, in order to create a character profile about this evil woman. In future, when answering questions in the weekly comprehension(s), pupils should try to use this formula to improve the quality of their answers.

On Tuesday, we revised features of instructional texts by cooking Thai Jasmine rice in a rice microwave pot. We read the instructions and then rinsed and sieved the rice (this, apparently simple task proved to be problematic and I have no idea why the rice ended up in a bucket!). The rice was put in the pot with 500 ml water (and various lids clipped on) then popped in the microwave for ten minutes. During the cooking process, we learnt about chopstick etiquette and how to use them. The rice was a delicious and another batch was prepared. Pupils were given the option of adding seaweed to their rice. I was astonished by how much they ate!

In maths, the students analysed their test papers before we began to work through topics that caused the most difficulty. These included, ordering decimals, prime numbers and factors. We also studied square numbers and square roots which opened the door to the magical world of Pythagoras' Theorem. Some students progressed to calculating the length of the hypotenuse and the length of the other sides.

This week's science experiment was investigating cheek cells. The Year 6 scientists prepared microscope slides, then scraped the inside of their cheeks with toothpicks to harvest cells, which they added to water and methylene blue. The results were terrific – identical to the slides we had viewed on the internet.



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on how to report and describe events and actions through a picture. The objective was to use Il y a (there is/there are) and to use action verbs: courir, jouer, nager, porter. We also reviewed and worked on Avoir (to have) and Manger (to eat) through a game. In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked about Carnival and Mardi Gras in particular. We did a reading comprehension on the subject and understood many of its customs. In grammar, this also gave us the opportunity to study pronominal verbs such as "se déguiser".

On Monday, many of the Year 6 students have LAMDA examinations; I would like to wish them all the best of luck.

Enjoy the weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

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