

Home School Books – 17 February 2017.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

We can say with confidence that all of the children have enjoyed sitting on our new carpet this week! Lots of rolling around on it too! Everyone agreed they liked how it smelled and how soft it was. We also discussed the figures around the edge of it and of course the map of the world in the middle, so a big hit all round! Of course we would like to keep it as clean as possible for as long as possible, so please remember to wipe your feet on the doormat on the way into nursery. Plus a pair of indoor slippers would be ideal at the moment, so if shoes are dirty from the playground, your child can change footwear.

This week was the last week for our theme of fairy tales and the children continued with the story of the Gingerbread man. If you look opposite you will see your child's own version of this popular story, which they have started to draw and write about, in their own unique style of letters and emergent writing. There are some blank pages left for you to carry on with at home, just ask them about the sly old fox and what happened to the poor Gingerbread man at the end of the story.



We then made some delicious Gingerbread men and women! The girls insisted we had to make both! During circle time we looked at all of the ingredients and the different whisks, bowls, spoons etc. that we needed for the mixture and what was needed to make the mixture in. Then the sifting and the stirring began, followed by rolling out the dough, cutting out the figure and putting on the face and buttons of the gingerbread man/woman. We used raisins and candy peel for this and let's just say most of it was eaten before it even made it onto the mixture! Next we put all of our creations into a hot oven and the delicious smell of Gingerbread wafted throughout the nursery, making us all hungry! The something strange happened, Mrs Davies opened the oven door and out popped all of the gingerbread boys and girls and they ran out of the nursery into the playground! They took a long time to catch but eventually Mrs Tolentino chased them all back into the nursery kitchen! We hope like the sly old fox, you enjoyed them with a nice cup of tea!

Next week is our last week before the half term break and we are going to concentrate on mark making and maths activities. This will be using a variety of materials and resources in a fun and creative way, to give a boost to the development of fine motor skills and mathematical thinking.

Every Thursday from now until the end of the academic year, we have the pleasure of two trainee teachers joining us in nursery. So if the children talk about Miss Laura or Miss Emma, that is who they are referring to. We would all like to give them a warm welcome, I am sure they will have great fun getting to know your children. If you have any further questions about this then please don't hesitate to ask.

Until next week, have a relaxing weekend and keep an eye out for any gingerbread men/women, that may have escaped from an oven near you!

Thank you

Alison Davies, Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

We love space! Wow, what a brilliant first week to our space topic. The children have been enthusiastic, curious and very eager to learn all about outer space. We enjoyed Simon Bartram's 'Man on the Moon' and 'Bob's best ever friend'. Two fun stories based around the life of a man named Bob who works on the moon. We also enjoyed listening to Storybot space themed songs on youtube (https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=storybots+space).



This week in topic work we have looked at the Earth, moon and sun. We have learnt the word 'orbit' and practised using it frequently when explaining how the Earth moves around the sun and the moon round the Earth. We looked at how the sun does not move, even though it seems like it during the day but that it is the Earth that spins as it orbits the sun – how do we not get dizzy?

In maths this week we have reviewed 3d shapes. We continued to work on differentiating between 2d and 3d shapes and naming them. The children began to explore which 3d shapes can roll and which can stack. The children enjoyed listening to this 3d shape song on youtube which quickly got into everyone's heads <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guNdJ5MtX1A> .

In phonics this week we have been working on distinguishing the difference between a letter, a word and a sentence. The children are showing an understanding of the difference. As we have been looking at the moon this week it seemed fitting to learn the sound /oo/ as in zoom to the moon.

Reception have the opportunity to have beginners swimming lessons at the Castle Club. We will be going in two groups, group A and group B. Group A will be swimming on Thursday March 9th, March 16th, March 23rd and March 30th. They will then have a break and return swimming on Thursday May 18th, June 1st, June 8th and June 15th.

Group B will begin swimming on Thursday April 20th, April 27th, May 4th, May 11th and May 18th. They will have a short break and return swimming on Tuesday May 23rd, May 30th, June 6th and June 13th. These dates will be printed out and placed on the classroom door. Please also find a letter inside your child's folder

containing practical information and a list of which children are in which group. If you have any further questions to those not found on the FAQs section of the letter, feel free to come and ask.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we have been talking about carnival and our favourite costumes. We learnt a new song about a clown jumping up to the ceiling and described the way he is dressed. We drew beautiful clowns.

Next week we will be having a brainstorming session for Talk Topic and therefore we would like the children to come up with some questions they would like answered throughout the week about outer space.

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,

Another busy week in Year 1, with some lovely mild weather to help us along!

In Literacy, we finished our 'Mr Gumpy' theme with a flourish, with the children writing their very own version in Wednesday's 'Big Writing' session. There were some very imaginative stories, well told in the children's very best writing. In Phonics, we continued with Phase 4, this week looking at 'final blends' (__st, __nd, __lt, __mp etc.) - there are 14 more sounds attached to the board in the classroom. The children practised giving examples of words which contain each one, and played a number of games to test their knowledge. 'Sounds Bingo' is a very popular (and competitive!) game.

The maths programme for this week was a mixture of counting in 2s and 5s, and a first look at fractions ($\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$). For counting in 2s, we looked at pairs of things, and went around the classroom counting everyone's hands, ears, shoes etc. For counting in 5s, we needed a greater number of things to count, so rather than use the usual blocks and stones in the classroom, we decided to take advantage of the lovely weather and went outside to raid the PE store, where we found loads of hoops, bean bags and cones to make in to 'lots' of 5, ready for counting (there are some photos at



<http://www.bisb.org/project/outdoor-maths/>). The children had a very successful introduction to fractions, and have been learning to shade the correct amount of a 2D shape when asked for either $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$. They also had the opportunity to create their own fractions, by drawing round some 2D shapes and then drawing straight lines across them to make halves and quarters.

In our Science investigation this week, we looked at 'forces' - pushes and pulls, and focused on springs. The children went on a search for things which contain or use springs, and conducted a practical experiment to see how far a metal weight could travel along a board, when subjected to the force applied by an increasingly stretched spring. Cue big excitement, when the weight flies off the end of the board!

We continued our collaborative projects in our Art/D&T session this week: we now have a dolls' house with a swimming pool, a car with wheels, lights and number plates, a garage with a ramp and parking spaces and a treasure chest with a lock and some treasure inside! One more week should suffice to put the finishing touches to our creations.

The Castle Club's swimming coach remarked this week that he had noticed a good improvement in the children's swimming - well done to the current group. They now have two sessions left and then the second group will have their first session on Tuesday 14th March.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked about carnival and read the story of Arlequin and then drew his picture. We also described our favourite costumes and watched "Trotro se déguise".

Please remember to complete and return the permission slip and payment for the trip to the Toy Museum - we still need two more parent volunteers, so please let us know if you can help.

Maths homework for next week is entitled 'Bop a Bird 1.17', and is all about number bonds to 7, 8 & 9 (addition and subtraction).

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,

What lovely warm weather we have had this week. With all the sunshine, our spirits have lifted even higher.

In Literacy this week we have begun planning and writing the introductory paragraph of our myth. We chose a mythical creature and named it as well as deciding on our hero/heroine. We then devised a problem and we are busy committing these ideas to paper. For St. Valentine's Day, we did some adjective work linking items to adjectives and making up sentences. In Phonics we revised the /wh/, and /ph/ sounds as well as tricky words such as so and go. We also refreshed our memories concerning question words.

In Numeracy we estimated and plotted numbers on a number line. We did a lot of this as the class found it rather difficult. This forms the basis of our homework. Rounding is coming easily to the class and we can all round to the nearest 10 without difficulties. We did some counting in 5's and 1's this week (whispering all the even numbers) and it was a fun activity.

In Science we began making our houses. We have been split into 3 groups and all work is done together. We used old crayons and wooden sticks. Joining them was a problem with 2 groups using glue and the other group using masking tape. It will be interesting to see the finished result. We shall carry on with this next week.

Art and DT took a decided turn towards love, focusing on Valentine's Day art. The children took great delight in making cards, paper hugs, little dogs and caterpillars using heart shapes. They were very creative and I have put the photos of this activity on the website



<http://www.bisb.org/project/valentines-day-fun-craft/> We have also begun putting together our castles which the children can explain for you at home.

Of course PE was amazing in the brilliant sunshine. We ran obstacle relays practicing our balancing, throwing and catching skills. After the races, we had a chance to experiment in pairs with these activities.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked with the verb Pouvoir (can/ to be able to) and we combined it with other action verbs, in an interactive-fun activity. We organized an interview game of six pairs, where every student got to ask and answer four questions. The objective was to get them to ask and answer questions and to request permission to do something.

We have a new carpet and this has been a delight for the children. It is bright and colourful and a fun activity as well. Thank you for providing indoor shoes as this is helping keep our carpet clean and bright.

Computing has been all about researching castles again this week. We have found out lots of facts about castles now and will put them up around the classroom.

The talk topic this week is: Love is very important. Explain why/why not.

Well, this has been a very creative week so have a lovely restful 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 had a busy, practical week producing fact files, aprons and cakes. In Science, we got to work on our fact files, planning what had to be produced, and by whom. Most people worked in pairs, which requires discussion, collaboration and organization. Tasks were split between the partners and designs created to ensure the visual presentation has maximum impact. Many children brought in information from home, which contributed to the discussion and knowledge base. We also had a very enthusiastic rendering of an incredibly fast song about the periodic table (which I'm sure will be fondly remembered in a few years' time as they try desperately to memorize all those little boxes and abbreviations!). We decided that we already know a lot of elements and talked about the way in which the Curies carried out experiments to discover new ones and the way in which their achievements changed medical history. We drew up a check-list of essential elements for presenting information; including headings and sub-headings, lists, labelled diagrams and clear paragraphs. We also looked at the process of researching information; selecting relevant sections and reproducing them in our own words, so that we fully understand the content and can explain it.



We made great progress in Design with everyone successfully creating a paper pattern for their apron and transferring it to the material. This involved accurate measuring, careful drawing, straight, parallel lines and the folding of the pattern to create a symmetrical design. It was good to see such team work and collaboration, and some real design talent. Many children discovered they have a natural, practical ability to visualize and create a design. The aprons were cut out and then – with great excitement – we got out the sewing machine! Everyone sewed the straight side seams, successfully guiding the material and mastering the foot pedal. We decided it was good practice for driving a car, although probably more difficult as it didn't have a brake! The final calculations were made to find out how much ribbon is needed for the neckband and ties. The aprons are being decorated with special fabric pens, so each one will be a unique creation. We are also writing an account of how the apron was made.

In Maths we have started work on angles, shapes and symmetry. We are identifying different angles and will be creating geometric art work using different overlapping shapes. We tested the symmetry of different shapes by cutting them out and trying to fold them along the lines of symmetry.

In Topic we used up the bunch of bananas from last week to make banana bread. This was a team challenge, with each group having to assemble their own utensils and ingredients, and follow the recipe unaided. The quantities in the recipe had to be recalculated – which led to a very interesting discussion on the properties of an egg and why halving an egg in a recipe just by separating the yolk and the white will not work. We did end up with one egg on the floor, but one of our practical wizards also gave us a very impressive demonstration of how to separate an egg by using a plastic bottle!

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. We also read the story of Arlequin and conjugated the verb "aimer" for Valentine's Day.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we've been working on ' Ma fête de Mardi Gras' (or My Carnival party) where they got to write, draw and come up with a fun sketch, expressing what they wish to do and have for the carnival festivities. We spoke about the meaning and the origins of 'Le Carnaval '. The objective was to get them to talk and interact with their classmates, in a 'theatrical way' about things they like and want and things they don't.

Our talk topic for this week is "What signs can we see around us that 'spring is in the air'?"

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,

What a blessing to have such spring-like weather and we even had children asking to open the window on Wednesday afternoon. The rays of sunshine filled our souls.

In literacy, we had to compare before and after scenes for Typhoon Haiyan and this was ideal for drawing out descriptive adjective and powerful verb 'wow' words. It was also ideal because many of the children have the target of expanding their stock of adventurous vocabulary.

The recent magazine article writing assessment gave mixed results but everyone now has a target to focus on. Those in the class who thrive on non-fiction and Science registered good scores whilst others were less hooked and so found it harder to give that bit extra.

Back in lesson, we also wrote our first poem of the year: the aim was to write the poem about a superhero but each line had to begin with an adverb followed by a comma. Skillfully, the children battled to follow the set rhyming pattern and finish with the same ending-flourish. My group did Wonder woman proud.

In Maths, we looked more at 2D shape properties and in particular symmetry which is what I call an exam banker - you always get a symmetry question in tests.

Less popular was the lesson on division the next day - learning to divide mentally by chunking. Use the biggest multiplication fact you know to get close to the target then calculate the difference left to 'chunk'.

In Science, we followed up our popular materials experiments with a final one to test stretchiness. Old tights (no longer fitting!) donated by my daughters were trimmed, weighted and stretched in order to see which were the most elastic. The children were left with more independence again and it was interesting to see where it would head. Measurements would need to be entered on a table and graph on the iPad.

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. We also read the story of Arlequin and conjugated the verb "aimer" for Valentine's Day.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we've been working on ' Ma fête de Mardi Gras' (or My Carnival party) where they got to write, draw and come up with a fun sketch, expressing what they wish to do and have for the carnival festivities. We spoke about the meaning and the origins of 'Le Carnaval '. The objective was to get them to talk and interact with their classmates, in a 'theatrical way' about things they like and want and things they don't.

In Topic, we focussed on the threat to the oceans. We read a reader, The Black Tide, as a group, everyone with a copy taking a turn to read aloud. Then, we used pastels and/or charcoal to draw a striking image from the book.



And that was our week

best wishes

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

Home School Book – Year 5/6

Dear Parents,

Signatures, detention, strict teachers! Oh, dear... The students enjoyed the opportunity to talk to a Year 7 pupil, Noah (previously at BISB), about his transition from primary to secondary school. I am sure that you would have loved to have been a fly on the wall, watching their faces, as they listened to Noah's account of the first six months as a secondary student.

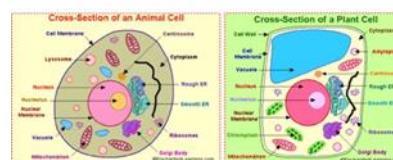
Monday proved to be rather dramatic, as many of the Year 6 pupils had their LAMDA examinations. The examiner was pleased that the candidates were so well-prepared

for their performances. So, notwithstanding being understandably nervous, they all survived the ordeal and we enjoyed a terrific (and relaxed) after-school drama club on Tuesday.

'Ruby in the Smoke' continues to thrill us! Sally Lockhart continues in her quest to discover the true story surrounding her father's death; what is the connection with the Indian Mutiny? I am delighted that the children are so eager to continue reading this book. On Monday, we shall have our Year 6 Book Club to discuss 'One Thousand and One Arabian Nights' and 'Tales of Ancient Egypt'. In grammar, we studied the subjunctive mood and revised determiners. The students had two mini-tests on clauses and the use of the apostrophe.

Our Friday current affairs presentations are always eagerly awaited. No doubt about it, the students put in an enormous amount of effort to make these sessions informative and exciting. They should feel very proud of their achievements. This week, we were taught by Mr Aditya, who delivered an excellent lesson about the 'Colt Revolver' as part of our 'Around the World in 80 Treasures' project. This is a tricky treasure to teach in Primary, but the lesson was pitched perfectly and we learnt a great deal about this invention.

In Science, we continued our investigation into animal and plant cells, learning about different organelles including: nucleus, ribosomes, the mighty mitochondria and Golgi bodies. Students have made cell models out of clay, hopefully these will be ready for painting next week.



Animal vs Plant

Maths was all about solving word problems involving ratio and proportion.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we've been working on 'Ma fête de Mardi Gras' (or My Carnival party) where they got to write, draw and come up with a fun sketch, expressing what they wish to do and have for the carnival festivities. We spoke about the meaning and the origins of 'Le Carnaval'. The objective was to get them to talk and interact with their classmates, in a 'theatrical way' about things they like and want and things they don't.

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". This week we conjugated the "venir" and we also read the story of Arlequin.

We enjoyed a challenging game of netball on Tuesday and an enjoyable swimming session on Thursday.

Enjoy the 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, as the Reception class started their new topic, the Reception EAL group spent several sessions talking about Space, practising some essential vocabulary (including planets, stars, near, far, turning, spinning), and hypothesising about what it would be like to visit other planets in our solar system.

On Monday, the Year One EAL group took some time to talk about their own amazing and highly imaginative versions of the Mr Gumpy story, focusing on sequencing sentences with simple devices like the word then, and on using simple past tense verbs.

The Year One and Two EAL group this week practised recognising and writing capital letters. We then used atlases to find oceans, continents, countries and cities, writing some of these proper nouns carefully with capitals.



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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