

Home School Books – 13 January 2017.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Our Fairy tale theme has come to an end and our new topic after the half term break will be ‘Pirates and their Parrots!’ We will be looking at sailing the seven seas and all of the adventures that will bring.

However, this week we have focused on Language, literature and maths. The children have enjoyed playing a variety of maths games with Mrs Tolentino and reading all about floppy the dog and his adventures, with Mrs Davies.

The nursery group have also practised their first letter sounds, which are, S.A.T.P.I.N. many of the children recognise letter names but not letter sounds. So we used our very best listening ears to hear the sound each letter makes. Each sound is made by using the tongue and mouth in different positions, some sounds are long and some are short, which takes practise and can be quite tricky! Take a look at the following link to help your child listen to the sounds each letter of the alphabet makes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KCMvsQho4ZE>

In music this week, the children enjoyed listening to a variety of classical music that represented the sound of an animal. They had to guess the animal and then move around in time to the music, pretending to be a lion or a mouse etc. Great fun was had by all!



Your child should have brought their February report home this week, unless they were absent or Mrs Davies has spoken to you about it already, please let us know if you didn't receive it.

Remember next week is holiday, school resumes on Monday, 6th March, if, you intend to take an extended break can you please send an email to nurseryteacher@telenet.com or to the school office informing us.

Our talk topic for discussion after the holiday is, ‘If you had a parrot, what would you teach it to say?’

Enjoy a relaxing break, where ever you are and whatever you are doing.

Thank you

Alison Davies, Ena Tolentino

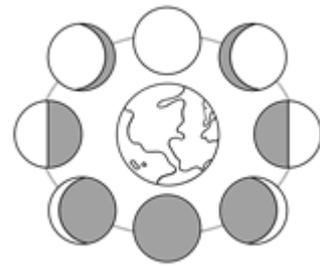
nurseryteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This week in Reception we have been focussing on the phases of the moon. Looking at why the moon changes shape and some names of the different phases we see. For example, new moon, crescent moon, quarter moon, gibbous moon and full moon. The children are becoming experts at naming the different phases, if we're lucky to have a clear night during the holiday ask your child if they can recognise which phase the moon is in. We also started the week with a brainstorming Talk Topic session of questions they wanted to know the answers for and we spent about 15 minutes each day answering different questions that were asked.



In phonics this week we learnt the sound /ar/ as in star. We revised rhyming words and came up with some rhyming words for moon and star to bring in our topic. Our focus story was Jill Murphy's 'Whatever next!' and after reading this story the children had two different written activities, one writing a list of things they would take the moon and then writing a postcard about what they experienced when on the moon.

In maths we have returned to measuring, revising specific vocabulary such as smallest, biggest, heavy and light. The children completed activities ordering different space objects according to size, and we even looked at the relative sizes of the planets in our solar system and ordered these. The children were introduced to balance scales, looking at how they work and what they are used for.

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. We also watched a few cartoons on the same subject.

Last Friday you should have all received a letter regarding the start of Reception's swimming lessons on Thursday 9th March, for Group A. If your child is in group A and thus swimming on Thursday 9th March, please could your child come to school wearing just their P.E. trousers, white t-shirt and school jumper without lots of under layers (tights, leggings etc.). Although there will be four adults to help the children dress and undress for swimming, they will be encouraged to show independence when changing. We currently have one parent helper and need one more. If you are available and would like to come along to the swimming pool to help, please sign your name on the signup sheet on Reception's classroom door.

Talk Topic for Monday 6th March will be answering the question 'If you were an astronaut where would you go? What would you see?'

We wish you a lovely half term break,

Naomi Irakoze and Ivana Julaton
receptionteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

The end of another busy and productive week in Year 1.

In Literacy, having finished our work on story-telling, we took a look at non-fiction. The children learnt the difference between fiction and non-fiction books, and we used some of our topic books on toys to help understand the type of information that non-fiction books contain. We looked at a selection of toys and games from around the world, and discussed where they came from, what they were made of and how they were used. Each child then chose one toy or game and wrote a non-fiction report (fact-sheet) about it. You can see your child's fact-sheet in this week's Home School Book. In Phonics, we completed Phase 4 by looking at triple-consonant blends, both at the beginning of words (scr__, spl__, str__) and at the end (__nch, __tch). Phase 5 begins after the half-term break.

We re-visited number bonds and doubles in Maths this week, but this time expanding our repertoire to cover number bonds to 8, 9 and 20, and doubles to double 10. With number bonds to 20, the children are encouraged to spot the similar pattern of bonds to that of pairs making 10 - e.g. 9+1, 19+1, 8+2, 18+2 etc.). For doubles to 10, we made the connection between the sums of doubles (in sequence, from 1 to 10) and the numbers we call out when counting in 2s (2,4,6,8 etc.). The children played a number of carpet-based games to practise this type of problem, and also did several written exercises to check their understanding.

Our Science investigation this week was all about ice. After an initial discussion about water, ice and steam, the eager scientists set about subjecting some ice balloons to rigorous testing! The ice was poked with pointed sticks (to determine hardness), covered in salt (to damage the smooth surface), dripped with green food colouring (to highlight the inner cracks) and finally lowered into a tub of water (to see whether it would sink or float). There are some great photos of this session at <http://www.bisb.org/project/science-investigations/>.

Our collaborative Art/D&T projects (dolls' house, garage, treasure chest and car) were finished off this week, and the children had the opportunity to play with their creations during Golden Time. In Computing, we have almost finished the first unit of coding, with children now well on the way to completing their first 'app'. Once saved to the gallery, the children are then able to modify or improve their own game, or try out each other's games.



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 a

few cartoons on the same subject. We also resumed our story "Une maison de musiciens" in which we had to call the doctor.

Maths homework for the next week of term will be allocated on Monday 6th March (entitled 'Bubble Burst 1.18' - all about telling the time). There are 2 packages remaining from the Autumn Term, which I will allocate in time for the half-term holiday, in case any children wish to play - but this is not required homework.

Wishing you an enjoyable half-term break.

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 case of dodge the raindrops this week but the children had fun nevertheless.

In Literacy we have carried on with the next part of our mythical story and have described the problem. We are doing this story in sections so the children can listen to their classmates' ideas and possibly give suggestions on how to improve. We also need to say what we like about the story and in this way give encouragement. Floppy went missing for a couple of days and we wondered where he had gone. Therefore we wrote our ideas down and in this way created a wall display for the hall. The children came up with some really inventive ideas.

In Phonics we revised phase 5 by finding examples of words with different sounds. There was a lot of collaboration and discussion in the classroom. We enjoyed our guided reading this week again and it is interesting to talk about books in a group situation. I have allowed those who wanted to, to take 4 reading books this week as next week is half term.

In Numeracy we began to look at fractions. We looked at fractions of numbers by halving odd numbers and then moved on to fractions of shapes. At present we are comfortable with halves and possibly quarters and have been introduced to thirds. We have also plotted halves on a number line. There are more allocated games on [activelearnprimary](#) which the children explored in class yesterday so they could still have games to help them revise work done in class.

In Topic we spoke about castle kitchens. We found out in our research (on the iPads) that kitchens were far away from the dining halls for safety reasons. We also discovered this was a problem as food was generally cold when it got to its destination. As you are aware, we made a model kitchen and this was great fun.

Art took the form of making the model and colouring in our Floppy pictures for literacy. We also did some drawing tutorials together.

PE this week was inside and we completed our modules on the Antarctica and penguins. We enjoyed dancing and finding out about the wonderful Emperor penguins and how they move about on ice and greet each other.

In Computing we researched the castle kitchens, did some coding and Maths on activelearn.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about 'la fête de Carnaval' and what we Can do during these festivities: with Pouvoir (Can). they drew, coloured and described their carnival party project with action verbs using Je Peux: I can , in an interactive-festive way. We also finished colouring and cutting the carnival masks



Next week is half term and I have given the class a list of websites where they can play educational games pertaining to the work done in class this term. I suggest restricting computer usage to no more than an hour a day and give them time to play and relax.

The talk topic this week is: Discuss ways that penguins move on land and in the sea.

A very busy half term has now ended.

Have a super week off. Relax and have fun.

Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

Year 3 have spent much of the week tying up loose ends – literally, with the final seams being sewn on the aprons and the neckbands and ties being added. The fabric pens have worked well and the designs are colourful and original. (Let's hope they don't all wash off in the washing machine...!). We will be putting the aprons to good use again after the holiday, when we turn to savoury food recipes, try out some more exciting science experiments and get to work on some large-scale painting... watch this space!

We have also been busy trying to finish off various pieces of work. The Science fact files are looking good and have proved an excellent exercise in collaborative working. Each group had to organize themselves to ensure that they carried out relevant

research, presented their findings in an interesting, eye-catching way and that the end result was a clear, informative explanation of the life and achievements of Marie Curie. We took another look at the skeleton by studying the different types of joints. This resulted in an afternoon crawling around the classroom, practicing sprint starts and waving our arms around, as we tried to analyse which joints are used for which movements. We discussed how muscles work and what we can do to make sure that our bodies are fit and healthy. We continued the theme In PE by trying out different movements to feel how the skeleton moves, and which muscle groups are involved. We also tried to imagine how the body compensates if we are injured – how, for example, is walking affected if we break a toe or damage a knee? This led to an interesting discussion on Paralympians and people with disabilities.

In Maths this week we have worked on symmetry, shapes and angles. Having designed and cut out our aprons, we have a good practical awareness of symmetry, and it was therefore easy to transfer this to identifying lines of symmetry around us, and to completing symmetrical drawings. We then moved on to angles, looking for right angles around the classroom and noting the difference between acute and obtuse angles. We used protractors for measuring and then practiced drawing accurate shapes with specified angles. Our pencil and ruler control is improving significantly! Our maths challenge was to draw and cut out our own 7-piece tangram set, and to see how many different configurations we could discover.



In Literacy, we have been well entertained by all those enthusiastic children who have already done some of their half-term homework, and have chosen and learnt a poem to perform to the class. We are looking forward to a poetry slam after the holiday – I hope it will be warm and sunny and we can do it in the playground. We have read and listened to lots of different poetry, and created our own poems based on a ‘recipe’, which had to include a number, several nouns and related adjectives and verbs.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had assembly in French on Monday and the topic was Carnival and more specifically Arlequin and the "Commedia dell'Arte". The rest of the week was also devoted to the same subject with a quiz and the story of Arlequin. We also conjugated the verb "se déguiser" .

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we presented ‘la fête de Carnaval’ for The French Assembly, where they got to present their fun sketches, expressing in French what they wished to do and have for the carnival festivities. We spoke about the meaning and the origins of ‘Le Carnaval ‘.

They got to wear their lovely hand made masks and to taste le frappe, an Italian specialty made for that occasion. We also got to work on interview questions.

Our talk topic for this week is “What can I do to make the most of every day of the holiday?”



I hope you all have a relaxing, enjoyable week.

Jane Still
year3teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

A miserable week looking out of the window this week (good job then that our Half Term holiday is next week!). Instead, we looked out of some imaginary windows and inspired and cheered ourselves that way.

We read 'Window' by Jeanie Baker – a picture book without words – about how the view from a child's bedroom changes as the boy grows up. We used this and our literary prowess to conjure up very powerful imagery culminating in the writing of a super-superhero poem – 'A window on Gotham City'. Through descriptive words, an awareness of rhythm and rhyme and some fearless 'have-go merchant'ry, we wrote some spectacular poetry!



Comic strips were a recurring theme on Thursday when our new resident student, 'Mrs. Maria', taught the class for her first time. She engaged the children with a Spanish comic front cover and got them to think and talk and finally draw their own strip.

In Maths, meanwhile, we needed no less fearlessness: we continued dividing but also spiralled into the world of factors and bonds to 1000. We also played a superb problem solving/number system webgame which is included as a homework assignment for the holiday. See links and homework slip:

<http://www.wmnet.org.uk/files/Wizardsnumber2.swf> (EASY)

http://www.wldps.com/gordons/Wizards_number.swf (HARD)

In topic, the children were set the task of researching an environmental problem solution or prevention measure. Some of the wind turbine, oil containment boom and solar panel illustrated-explanations were excellent. Pity that no-one chose to do a catalytic convertor or a wave turbine. To end the week with a flourish, the children were given another dose of Superhero gymnastics (which they adore).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had assembly in French on Monday and the topic was Carnival and more specifically Arlequin and the "Commedia dell'Arte". The rest of the week was also devoted to the same subject with a quiz and the story of Arlequin. We also conjugated the verb "se déguiser" .

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we presented 'la fête de Carnaval' for The French Assembly, where they got to present their fun sketches, expressing in French what they wished to do and have for the carnival festivities. We spoke about the meaning and the origins of 'Le Carnaval'. They got to wear their lovely hand made masks and

to taste le frappe, an Italian specialty made for that occasion. We also got to work on interview questions.

Finally, with any luck, the class will finish the Year 4 Superhero assembly playscript. Each child will get a part and will need to learn it as best they can for March 17th.

And that was our week. Have a good, relaxing week off and see you next half term. The MOOF museum, Gare Centrale, did not respond to my emails so I shall continue to try and secure our Year 4 trip – more news when I have it.

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

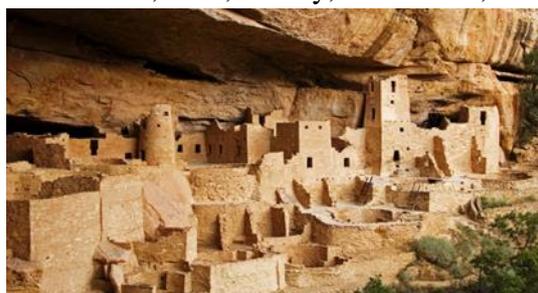
Dear Parents,

We began the week with two mini-tests: determiners and formal and informal writing; (e.g. School is generally regarded as an excellent place in which to learn new facts (formal). The kids in our class were mega chuffed about their trip (informal)). Interestingly, the difference between formal and informal writing generated much discussion.

In book club, students were asked to write ‘five questions you could ask someone to find out if they had read the book carefully’. This task provided us with the opportunity to identify ‘open’ and ‘closed’ questions. Most children demonstrated a sound understanding of at least one of our books. New books have been given out: Warlands and Samurai. Whilst reading their book, students should formulate five ‘open’ questions to test knowledge and understanding.

Our French assemblies are eagerly awaited by all. Carnival turned out to be a colourful, entertaining and gastronomic event. Every child in the department was given the opportunity to speak French during this sixty-minute extravaganza. Thank you to the French teachers for organizing this event.

Fractions and percentages of quantities. This topic usually causes difficulties for students, so we began by calculating fractions of numbers, time, money, kilometres, kilograms and litres which also involved converting units of measurement. Children then progressed to calculating percentages of quantities. Some students revised addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of fractions, using these calculations in various problem solving contexts.



Another fantastic teacher visited on Tuesday; Mr Shaariq taught us about the Mesa Verde National Park. His lesson included an excellent presentation and video. We were given a choice of activities including: writing five paragraphs, create a quiz and draw a scene from Mesa Verde. As a group activity, we made clay models of dwellings and trees from the park.

Our clay plant and animal cells had dried, so on Wednesday, these were painted and are now ready for varnishing; they look terrific.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we presented 'la fête de Carnaval' for The French Assembly, where they got to present their fun sketches, expressing in French what they wished to do and have for the carnival festivities. We spoke about the meaning and the origins of 'Le Carnaval'. They got to wear their lovely hand made masks and to taste le frappe, an Italian specialty made for that occasion. We also got to work on interview questions.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had assembly in French on Monday and the topic was Carnival and more specifically Arlequin and the "Commedia dell'Arte". We also answered a quiz about the same subject, chose books to read during the coming holiday and conjugated "venir" and "aller".

On Thursday afternoon, the pupils were taught by Miss Niclaesen, one of the visiting student teachers, who will be delivering a project about the European Union. This week, the children designed their perfect country – essentials included (in order of importance): access to the internet, hospital, food store, fire-station and a palace!

Sadly, it was our final swimming session at the Castle Club. There were some very impressive swimmers thrashing up and down the pool doing the butterfly stroke.

I wish you all an enjoyable half-term holiday wherever you may be.

Beverley Tranter

year6teacher@telenet.be

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

In EAL this week

Dear Parents,

The children have all worked very hard over this half term, in our EAL sessions. They are all progressing well in their acquisition of English, learning new vocabulary and new grammar structures, as well as becoming more and more confident in expressing themselves in English.

This week, the Year One and Two EAL group practised making sentences using the common words that have learned in class (especially the, this, of, from, I, he, she, they, her, him) . The Year One children made use of some of these sentences in their writing session on Wednesday.

The Reception group have enjoyed talking about their class topic, Space. We have been working on the vocabulary far away, furthest, near, nearest as well as revising bigger than, biggest, smaller than, smallest . Reading the book Whatever Next (in which Baby Bear builds a rocket and goes to the moon) gave us the chance to revise the vocabulary of the home, especially which objects go in which room.

The children have all enjoyed playing games to practise their communicative skills in English. Here are some examples:

Patience – a simple card game, in which children take turns to turn over two cards hoping to find two the same (naming the objects, letters or words on the cards)

Animal Happy Families – children, aiming to collect a full set of animals, ask each other, for example, “Have you got the red cat?”

Guess the animal – children listen to a description of an animal and guess what it is (or they ask yes/no questions to identify the animal)

Guess Who? – a board game, in which two children (or two teams) ask questions to identify a hidden character from a set of 30 characters.



I wish you a very happy holiday, and look forward to seeing the children again in a week's time.

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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