

Home School Books – 13 January 2017.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Welcome back one and all after the half term break, hope you all had fun! The children certainly did and during our circle time this week, we discussed the array of activities the children participated in during their week off. They ranged from going to the park, swimming, painting, drawing, and playing on the iPad, to shopping in Colyut!

We are now back into the swing of things in nursery and have started our new theme for the rest of this term, which is all about, Pirates and their parrots! Our story and song for coming weeks is "Portside Pirates" by Oscar Seaworthy and published by barefoot books. You can see a copy of the title and the first verse of the song on the page opposite and if you look underneath, you will see your very own little pirate on board! If you would like the full version of the song you can find it on the following link, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qAngsMJD3I>



We also had great fun dressed up as pirates on Friday, with lots of pirate dancing and jiggling around our pirate ship!

To tie in with book week in school, the nursery children had some of their favourite stories read to them by the junior classes this week. A great experience for all concerned, especially the junior children who can't quite believe they were ever small enough to be in nursery!

You will also find a selection of maths activity sheets, that the children completed before the break in your child's folder this week. It is difficult to replicate the real object activities we do in the nursery, so this is a little taster on paper, of what our focus will be over the coming weeks.

We have a new little one who has just started in the afternoon nursery, her name is Kashvi, so please join us in welcoming her and her family.

Next week will continue with Pirate treasure and treasure maps! Our talk topic will be "what objects do you think you would find in a treasure chest?"

Have a great weekend.

Thank you

Alison Davies, Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

The children have had a great adventure in outer space this week! They donned their space helmets, we closed the blinds and turned off the lights in the classroom and our spacewalk began! We tried not to bump into too many planets along the way and kept far from the sun, which of course everyone knows is a star and not a planet but it is also very, very hot and we didn't want to get burned! Please don't forget to look at our fantastic space display to the right of the reception class door as you enter, you can see the children defying gravity in their fantastic space suits!



In maths this week the children concentrated very hard on learning how to count accurately. We used activity sheets to cross off the objects as we counted them and then had a quick recount to make sure the answers written in the box were correct. During literacy everyone tried very hard to use their sounds to make, write and read, space words like, astronaut, telescope, star, planet, sun etc. We also had a visit from the children in the junior department and to finish off book week, they read favourite stories to small groups of children. The children also enjoyed dressing up as their favourite book character on Friday, we had some great costumes, well done everyone.

Thursday was the first swimming session for half of the class and they did brilliantly! Thank you to our parent helpers who did a great job as well. The other half of the class stayed with Mrs Reed and had a lovely P.E. session outside, with some fun gross motor skill activities to keep everyone fit and flexible.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we have started our new topic : animals. We knew a few already but now we will learn many more. We started revising the songs we learnt which include animals names and we sang two new songs : un petit canard au board de l'eau and coccinelle demoiselle. We also drew ladybirds, ducks and sheep.

We have a new member of our class his name is Jay so please join us in welcoming him and his family.

Our talk topic for next week is, "If you could name a star, what would you call it?"

Have 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,

Dear Parents,

The highlight of our week was undoubtedly the class outing to the Toy Museum on Wednesday. Despite the miserable weather, the day was a great success - the children enjoyed every aspect, including the walk to and from the bus stops! My initial concern that the children might not be sufficiently captivated by the exhibits proved unfounded, and we ended up staying for four hours! The hands-on demonstration of wooden and wind-up toys had the children enthralled, as did the working model train display. There are some photos of our day at <http://www.bisb.org/project/trip-to-the-toy-museum/>. I would like to thank the parents who volunteered to accompany us, and helped to ensure the children were safe at all times.

Meanwhile, back to our routine. In Literacy, we began to learn the sounds in Phase 5 of the Phonics programme, starting with /ay/ and /a-e/, as in 'play' and 'tape'. In addition to the /ai/ sound we learnt in Phase 3, this now makes 3 different letter combinations for the same sound. We made a table with one column for each of the three sounds, and sorted words into the correct column, according to their spelling. We also learned a new song - 'The Magic E Song' - which will be sung repeatedly over the next few weeks, as we learn the other split digraph sounds (the 'magic e' changes the short sound in 'tap' into the long sound in 'tape').



Telling the time has been the focus of our maths lessons all week. We started by learning to read 'o'clock times' on analogue clocks, and by the end of the week had progressed to converting 'half-past times' on analogue clocks into digital clock times and vice versa (ie half past 7, and 7:30). Correctly positioning the clock hands for 'half past times' is quite tricky to begin with, as is making the connection between 'half past' and ':30', so I have placed an extra worksheet in each child's folder, for a little extra practice at home. This is not compulsory, but if your child completes it, I will, of course, mark it.

This week's Science investigation was about changing states. Having discussed ice/water/steam last time, we switched to chocolate, as something which changes from solid to liquid and back again relatively quickly and easily. The Year 1 chocolatiers had great fun breaking up the chocolate, watching it change to a thick liquid (with the help of a microwave) and then spooning some of it into a mould of their choice - car, flower, heart, cupcake, burger(!). They should each have brought home what remains of their confectionery creation - given the amount of surreptitious finger-licking that went on during the session, it's quite remarkable that there was enough chocolate left to fill the moulds! There are some photos of this session at <http://www.bisb.org/project/science-investigations/>.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we resumed our story "une maison de musiciens". The piano is very ill indeed and the doctor came but he does not want to play again so the parents will move him to the attic. Our topic is now : the house.

Maths homework for next week (to be allocated on Monday 13th March) is entitled 'Starfish Strike 1.19' - subtracting 1-digit numbers from 2-digit numbers.

Finally, please note that swimming for children in Group 2 begins on Tuesday 14th March. We would appreciate the help of one parent each week, to accompany us and assist with getting the children ready - please sign up on the list on the classroom door.

Wishing you an enjoyable 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,

The weather was very wet at the beginning of the week so did PE inside and had a lovely time.

In Literacy it has been our World Book Week celebrations. We spoke about beloved books and discovered a few new ones. We talked about authors and their books. We read *Peace At Last* and *Room on a Broom*. We listened to the *Gruffalo* as well. This week we have also



focused on present and past tenses with different activities almost every day. Our myths are almost finished and will go up in the hall soon. They are very interesting and show the imagination of each child. As usual we really enjoyed our guided reading. The books are interesting and lend themselves to discussion about topics such as recycling and rubbish. Please note that Wednesday is our library day and the children should have their books at school on that day. The culmination of our week has to be the dressing up day and the older children coming to read to us in the afternoon.



In Numeracy we have moved on to multiplication. We have been counting in 2's, 5's and 10's as this helps with our tables. We have written the tables down, have spoken about the multiples of numbers and investigated numbers that belong in 2 or more tables. By now the children have a working knowledge of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. They understand the concept of repeated addition and that writing a multiplication sum is quicker and easier than repeated addition.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed Être (To be) by role-playing the adjectives and the professions. We also talked about and introduced the vocabulary of "ma maison" (my house).

In Art we made delightful paper flowers for our moms to celebrate International Women's Day. This involved folding and sticking shapes together. We also illustrated our myths.

PE was inside again this week and we did 2 modules of dance focusing on the traditional tale of the Emperor's New Clothes. This was fun and we had to become the Emperor, the townsfolk and the tricksters whilst moving around the classroom.

In Computing we reinforced our Maths on activelearn and did some coding. We also played some phonic games to revise sounds.

The talk topic this week is: Who is your favourite book character? Why?

Enjoy your weekend and get some rest.

Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

What better way to start a new half term than to join in the World Book Day celebrations?! This is the ideal opportunity to look at all sorts of books, to discuss them and to share them. The year 3 children came back to school full of enthusiasm for the titles they had chosen to read over the holiday, and were able to describe the characters and plots in detail, explaining what they had enjoyed (or not), and why they would recommend the book, and to whom. Many chose their new books as a result of the recommendations that were made. We also enjoyed a great poetry slam morning, with almost everyone demonstrating their dramatic talents performing the poems they had learnt. Some people performed in pairs, and those who had not learnt the poem joined in by reading them out. In preparation for our visit to the Infant Department, we chose a selection of different picture books and tried out different ways of reading them aloud, deciding on the best ways to hold the attention of an audience. I'm sure that our shared reading afternoon will be exciting, and that everyone will discover new books and new storytelling talents.

In maths we have continued to look at shapes and their properties, measuring and estimating angles and calculating perimeters. We had a detective mystery to solve in our maths challenge this week, with all the clues based around geometry problems. It's amazing how quickly you get through calculations in the race to find a culprit! The classroom has resembled a witch's workshop this week with potions and lotions bubbling and fizzing on every spare surface. In science and topic, we have once again been studying ways in which substances or ingredients can be transformed, either by being heated or by having other substances added to them. This week we took a look at solutions, and set up an experiment to test what happens to salt, sugar, icing sugar and flour when water is added. This involved observing the reactions very carefully, describing what we could see in detail, forming a hypothesis about what might happen to each solution after it had been left to stand overnight, and then recording what did actually happen. We discussed the importance of recording results accurately, and of only reporting what we could really see happening, rather than what we imagined. Once we had analysed the differences between these substances we turned our hand to

making ... slime! The reaction of cornflour in water is totally different and totally fascinating, and the attraction of putting your hands into the mixture is completely irresistible, so we thoroughly enjoyed mixing in the food colouring and experimenting with the resulting slime. Despite our practice at following recipes, there were several groups that managed to add far too much water, but this led to an interesting, and unexpected discovery. We ran out of cornflour to add to the solutions that were too liquid and therefore had to wait overnight before we could buy some more. However, much to our amazement, the solutions had all gone hard and we were able to crumble the mixture back into a powder and add yet more water. We are now wondering how often we will be able to repeat this process, and whether the mixture will at some point be unable to absorb any more water – watch this space!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed Être (To be). They interviewed each other, while role-playing the adjectives and the professions.

We also talked about the use of “Il Y A (there is/there are) and combined it with the vocabulary of “ma maison” (my house).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked and wrote about our holidays using the passé composé. We noticed that some we use "avoir"; j'ai joué, j'ai fait in stage, j'ai regardé la télévision and sometimes we use "être"; je suis allé(e) en Écosse, je suis resté(e) à la maison. We also described how to organise a birthday party.

Our talk topic for this week is “Why do different substances react in different ways?” I wish you all an exciting weekend experimenting with the contents of the food cupboard!

Jane Still

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

It was a very tiring week but one with some great lessons and on Thursday lunchtime the sun gave warmth for the first time.

The children were also super-excited and we staff tried to assess why as there didn't seem to be any real reason. We decided in the end that the children were just thrilled to be back, at school, with their friends and that they really, truly enjoy what we do with them.

In literacy, we started off by looking at real life heroes instead of this term's super ones as we had been. We read the start of 'Henry's Freedom Box' – a story about a slave in America's Deep South who seeks a way to escape and rescue his stolen wife and children. We examined the text and its language then wrote dialogue to guess what might happen next in the story.

We were mad for money in Numeracy and the children enjoyed using the 'Shopkeeper's method' of counting up to find change. This was followed up by a couple of days' work on decimals which the class strode through confidently.

In Topic, we focussed very firmly on the subject of waste and recycling; where it goes and why it might be harmful. This all helped the children create their own Eco-Superhero. They had to design the character and we had ideas ranging from The Ozone Angel, Volcanur and Mrs.Green to name a few.

Science's Light & Sound was all about pitch and how sounds are made and the lesson took the form of a carousel of activities which explored vibrations, volume and wavelengths. The children were thrilled by this hands-on learning (at least Deepesh said so but one gets the vibe from the class atmosphere)



On Thursday, groups swapped and tennis players stayed behind and did maths and PE with Year 3, while the others started their sessions with a new tennis coach.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed Être (To be). They interviewed each other, while role-playing the adjectives and the professions.

We also talked about the use of "Il Y A (there is/there are) and combined it with the vocabulary of "ma maison" (my house).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked and wrote about our holidays using the passé composé. We noticed that some we use "avoir"; j'ai joué, j'ai fait in stage, j'ai regardé la télévision and sometimes we use "être"; je suis allé(e) en Écosse, je suis resté(e) à la maison. We also described how to organise a birthday party.

On a closing note, I look forward to seeing any of you coming to Splash on Sunday but I also warn you regards a trip next Wednesday to the MOOF museum. Apologies for the short notice but more information will be coming shortly. The cost of the trip will be 12€.

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 have begun our revision programme for the summer examinations; students (at all levels: GCSE Foundation, Year 6 and 5) have been given revision check lists for maths, which they are expected to work through as part of their homework. I have suggested to them that they create a revision timetable using either Excel, Word or paper; they will be required to share their progress with me on a weekly basis. In

maths, all children studied algebra which included: expanding single and two brackets, simple formulae for converting miles to kilometers, area, perimeter, inverse relationships and missing numbers in equations.

In literacy, we continued our reading of *Ruby in the Smoke*. Also, pupils completed a second SPaG test and were pleased to see that their 'knowledge gap' is reducing. We analysed subject areas that continue to cause problems and will be revising these next week. The first of the SPaG revision workouts is available at TES SPaG; these exercises should be completed by next Tuesday.

Having been asked to create a Prezi account, by this week's 80 Treasures teacher, we guessed that the lesson would include a computing element. So, as part of our lesson about Monticello, we created digital presentations and, using clay, made copies of its neoclassical façade. Again, this was another excellent lesson, as part of this student-led teaching module, by Miss Ishika.

We enjoyed a fantastic, educational and physically demanding outing on Wednesday in support of the Make a Wish Foundation. Students from the Business Administration School in Leuven invited us to participate in an architectural and historical scavenger hunt. We met at St Michael Cathedral, where the children were delighted to be given a snack goodie bag. After introductions, we visited: The Grand Place, City Hall, Place de Martyrs, The Palais of Justice, Place du Petit Sablon and Coudenberg. The routes had been planned so that our three groups would only meet up at designated locations; speed and solving riddles added to the pressure to win the challenge. Very kindly, the winning team were each given cinema tickets and other groups received waffles and sweets.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we resumed watching "Jack et la mécanique du coeur". We also revised and worked on the use of prepositions depending on the noun gender: je vais au cinéma, à la piscine, aux Pays-Bas, etc. We also read a text on whales which gave us the opportunity to read aloud.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed Être (To be). They interviewed each other, while role-playing the adjectives and the professions.

We also talked about the use of "Il Y A (there is/there are) and combined it with the vocabulary of "ma maison" (my house).

On Wednesday, we varnished and labelled our clay plant and animal cells. Our next science topic, which we hope to begin next week, is Forensics.

What a thrilling week!

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

year6teacher@telenet.be

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

In EAL this week

Dear Parents,

Dear Parents,

It is great to see the children again after the holiday. In our EAL sessions, we have continued to work on the vocabulary and structures that the children are using in their class curriculum.

The Year One and Two EAL group revised the months and seasons of the year, and practised using phrases such as “in January” and “in summer”, as opposed to “on Monday” etc. We looked in the playground for signs that March really is in spring (despite the weather), and we were pleased to see spring flowers growing and leaves budding on trees.

The Year One group, separately, talked about what they hoped to see on their trip to the Toy Museum on Wednesday, and reported back to us after the trip. This gave us the chance to practise both the vocabulary associated with playing with toys (including the verbs: roll, spin, shake, throw), and the past simple tense (especially went, saw, had).



The Reception EAL group revised their vocabulary for the space topic, talking about what an astronaut does, and what it would be like to travel into space. We were especially interested in the concept of gravity (and its absence in space).

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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Reception

Year 1

Year 3/4

Year 5/6

Year 2

Year 3&4

Year 5&6