

Home School Books – 17 March 2017.

Home School Book – Nursery

It has been a very busy week indeed! We have carried on with our Pirate theme but we have also participated with the rest of the school on the theme of ‘celebrating our differences’.

We talked about how we all look different on the outside but to nourish us on the inside we all need food and water and we all need to be loved and cared for. The children were then asked to tell each other what makes them feel special. There was a variety of answers ranging from eating ice cream to playing in the park with mummy and daddy.

We also looked at a variety of illustrations of other children, some who needed walking frames to help them walk because their legs didn't work properly, children who had special glasses to help them see because their eyes didn't work properly, children who needed hearing aids to help them hear because their ears didn't work properly etc.

Without a doubt we all decided that our differences made us special but we always needed to be kind, friendly and respectful to everyone we meet now and as we are growing up. We must try hard not to make anyone feel left out and sad just because they don't look like us. Maybe more government bodies and people in authority need to listen to our nursery children's good advice!



Getting back to our pirate topic, we have been talking about pirate ships and what is under the ocean that they are sailing on. If you look opposite, you will see a colouring activity, showing both the ship and what lives in the deep blue sea! Please remember the end product and what it looks like is not the important factor but the process that took place to get to the end. This was primarily a language activity, introducing new vocabulary to describe what your little one saw on the paper and they were then asked to connect that to different objects around the nursery. So please ask them to tell you all about their under the sea adventure.

Everyone should have brought their fairy tale castle home this week, if you look inside there are little figures for you to use as prompts to help your child tell an imaginary story. So have fun exploring the castle, which was expertly designed with help from Mrs Tolentino and a lot of shoe boxes!

Until next week, have a great weekend and don't forget our talk topic 'what makes you special?' Tell mummy and daddy.

Thank you

Alison Davies, Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

The current topic of ‘Space’ is certainly engaging the children! They are all eager to participate in lessons and share their ideas. The focus this week during topic lessons has been stars. We have been learning about constellations and the children made a picture of a constellation using stickers. They answered yes and no questions in an ‘All About Stars’ booklet and they developed their reading skills, particularly focusing on cvc words. The class book this week was How to Catch a Star – it was a story that we all enjoyed!

Various art activities have been completed too which has been fun. The children worked on self-portraits, used sequins to make a star window display and also made mobiles with pictures from How to Catch a Star.



Money has been covered in maths this week and we have been talking about why we need money and what we can spend it on! We have particularly focused on recognizing 1€ and 2€ coins and have been counting coins, making money totals (counting in twos) and grouping different amounts of money.

In phonics, the children have been introduced to the /ey/ sound and we discussed how there are different ways of making this same sound (ee or ea). The children looked at pictures and worked out which words make this sound. There are lots of fun games on the internet for the children to review the phonic sounds.

There has been a definite improvement in the weather this week so we made the most of the sunshine and played some games on the playground for PE. The children played ‘colours chase’ and ‘hoop game’. Half of the class also went to the Castle Club for their second swimming lesson. They all did well using noodles to help them swim around the pool; they worked on blowing bubbles and also practised the stretch and pull motion using their arms. The rest of the class stayed in school with Mrs Read and took part in a PE lesson. If you would be able to come and help during the swimming visits, please let us know by adding your name to the sign-up sheet on the classroom door.

In French with Mrs Scharf, we have slowly started talking about Easter and Spring which fit in perfectly with our new topic: animals. We talked about hens and chicks and drew them. We also learnt a new song about a hen on a wall eating hard bread. We will continue discovering more animals and have fun next week.

Finally, this week has been 'Celebrating Differences' week and as part of this, the children in reception have been learning how to do some basic sign language. We watched a video of 'The Wheels on the Bus' and copied the actions and also memorized the signs used in the song, 'I Can Sing a Rainbow'. The class performed this song in assembly on Friday – well done to them all!

A letter has been sent home this week regarding a class trip to a farm in April so please return the permission slip and money to school (the exact amount in an envelope would be appreciated).

Our talk topic for next week is, "What is your favourite planet and why?"

Wishing you a nice weekend.

Alison Godwin and Ivana Julaton

receptionteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

The highlight of this week was the fantastic poetry produced by the Year 1 children in our main Literacy session. Although the children had previously learned about rhyme, and had produced a collaborative, whole-class poem, this time they each wrote their own acrostic poem on the theme of 'Spring'. They all grasped the concept, were fully engaged and worked incredibly well. Their poems will soon adorn the main staircase display. A photocopy of your child's poem is in his/her Home School Book for you to admire.

In Phonics, we continued with our Phase 5 sounds, this week covering 3 more 'e' sounds (/ea/, /ey/ and /e-e/, as in seat, key and swede respectively). Together with the /ee/ sound from Phase 3, the children can now recognise 4 different spellings of the same sound, and are able to sort words according to which variation they contain.

Maths this week has been all about addition and subtraction of 1-digit numbers to and from 2-digit numbers. Using a variety of strategies such as counting on (mentally and/or with fingers), number lines and number squares, the children are increasingly at ease with both + and - signs, and know which way to count when they see them. Some of the sums they tackled were presented using UK money terms (i.e. in 'pence' instead of 'cents') - the children were completely unfazed by this, and quickly appreciated that their additions and subtractions were the same sums, regardless of which currency they were written in.

During our Art lesson, the children designed and created the new 'Spring' display for the main classroom window - I hope you noticed! In Computing, we took a break from coding, and started to explore some of the other uses of our iPads, such as typing

and drawing. The children each created a document containing a few facts about themselves and a drawing or design of their choice.

As our part of 'Celebrating Differences' week, we looked at differences such as blindness and deafness. We had a very interesting circle-time discussion and then learned about guide dogs, blind football and lip-reading. We also spent some time outdoors trying to understand the difficulties presented by being blind: the children wore blindfolds and tried to perform actions which are ordinarily quite straightforward, such as kicking a ball, jumping a hurdle and placing a bean-bag into a bucket - all agreed that these things are not easy when you can't see.



Swimming for children in Group 2 got off to a good start on Tuesday. We currently do not have a volunteer to accompany us for next Tuesday (21st March) - if you can spare 2 hours from 11.00, it would be very helpful - please sign up on the list on the classroom door, or send us an email.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we learnt cutlery vocabulary: cuillère, fourchette, couteau. To help us remember these words, we made a beautiful place mat. We also pretended to be in a restaurant and called the waiter to ask for cutlery or a plate, a glass or a napkin.

Next week on Thursday (23rd March) we will be going to Wezembeek park using the regular swimming bus. We will take a short nature walk, followed by a PE session in the park. Please send your child to school in PE clothes that day. We will be back at school in time for lunch.

Finally, Maths homework for next week (to be allocated on Monday 20th March) is entitled 'Marching Madness 1.20'. It is about money, using UK coins and symbols.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

Year1teacher@telenet.be

Please click [here](#) for our Year 1 webpage

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

One could be forgiven for thinking that spring has arrived this week. What lovely warm and sunny weather we have had.

This has been a week of celebrating differences and we spoke about how people can look different but essentially we are all the same. We also found out about Helen Keller and her amazing teacher Anne Sullivan, proving that even if you are deaf and blind, you can still learn to communicate. Thus being different is good for a varied world.

In Literacy we began learning about compound words. It has been fun putting words together to make new words. We also briefly touched on homophones which are words with the same sounds but different spellings and meanings; see and sea being one example. We are still working on the present and past tenses in our phonic work. In guided reading, we had fun reading and discussing a variety of fiction and non-fiction books. This being done in small groups gives the children the opportunity to discuss the stories and the author's intentions. We discuss features of the books and ask why the author has used these features.

In Numeracy we have completed our unit on multiplication although we have not left this area completely. We have been using UNO cards to make up our own calculations and this has led us to discover that any number multiplied by 1 is that number and if multiplied by 0 is 0. We also discovered that multiplication sums are like addition sums in that they can be inverted. So $2 \times 3 = 6$ is the same as $3 \times 2 = 6$. We have moved on to time again and we recapped the months of the year as well as time periods. We then learnt that if we count using a 1 syllable word we can easily determine 30 seconds. We then had fun timing various activities such as writing our names.

In Art we made jousting knights. These were such fun and so successful that we all made 2 to take home and add to our castles. We also began work on our contribution to the spring wall display.

In Science we looked at a variety of materials, feeling them and discussing their waterproofness. We then tested these by pouring water on to them.

In Computing we worked on phonic and word games this week.



PE was outside! We had a lot of fun with hoops, balls, ropes and rackets working in pairs and small groups.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on 'ma belle maison' (my beautiful house). They learned how to describe 'la maison et les meubles' (the house and the furniture) of every part of their 'maison imaginaire' (imaginary house) using 'Il y a' (there is/there are) and the possessive adjectives Ma, mon, ta, ton (my, your).

Thank you very much for the offers to help with our farm trip. It is much appreciated and I will let you know more details later. Please could all the money be in by next Friday at the latest.

The talk topic this week is: What do you think the first signs of Spring are and has Spring arrived yet?

Enjoy your weekend and get some rest.

Valeria Vetter

year2teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

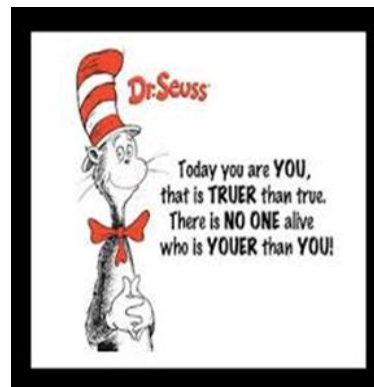
This has been a really exciting week in the Junior Department, with all of the classes working together to explore and celebrate difference. We started the week with a challenge – to design a wheelchair to suit the needs (and desires) of Sebastian, one of our school neighbours. This involved finding out about wheelchairs and how they work, and coming up with designs that could be used to create a possible ‘dream’ wheelchair of the future. The ideas had to be clear and practical, and had to be set out imaginatively in a poster format, to include labelled diagrams, explanations, headings and information.

Having looked at the theory of wheelchair design and use, it was time for some Paralympic sports, and we headed out to the playground to find out just how it might actually feel to need a wheelchair, or to have some form of difference. We tried out several sports, ranging from blindfold football, where we discovered how difficult it is to have any idea of where the ball is on the pitch when you can’t see it, despite the valiant efforts of the sighted coach on the side-lines, to sprint races using arm power and upper body strength on the little foot cycles. This was incredibly difficult and made us realise how much Paralympic athletes need to train in order to develop particular parts of their body. We also had a go at wheelchair fencing, and seated volleyball, again using arm and upper body strength only. The blindfold shooting competition was particularly popular, but we were way off Paralympic standards, even with the expert coaching of the sighted guides!

To bring all of this work together, we had an afternoon listening to extracts from selected books, all of which explore various facets of ‘difference’. Some of the stories were based around specific physical differences, others looked at ethnic differences, and others at differences arising from different personal circumstances and experiences. The resulting discussion was particularly rich, with children expressing themselves remarkably eloquently.

In our general classroom work we have continued the theme, looking at how we, and society in general, react to people who are different in some way. We also studied a picture book, written in braille, but with beautiful relief pictures, that can be enjoyed by both sighted and non-sighted readers.

In Maths we continued to work on estimating and measuring angles. We used the hands on the clock to move through acute and obtuse angles and identified different right angle configurations. Our maths challenge this week needed quick reaction times table calculations – some children know them perfectly and have instant recall, others are definitely in need of more practice ...



In Literacy we did more detailed work on homophones, worked on word families and patterns, and started a spelling challenge game that will be continued next week – the results are very close at the moment! In Science we took a closer look at the body, examining the different organs and their functions, and working out how everything is interconnected, resulting in an amazing, and perfect machine. We also discussed the body's fantastic ability to compensate for physical differences.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we used the passé composé again for telling everybody what we did during the weekend. We also worked on prepositions like "sur, sous, dans, devant, derrière, entre, à côté de" and made a little booklet to remember them. In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed Être (to be), the adjectives, the professions and the age. We role-played a detective interview of five questions and answers. Then we worked on 'ma belle maison' (my beautiful house). They learned how to describe 'la maison et les meubles' (the house and the furniture) of every part of their ' maison imaginaire' (imaginary house) using 'il y a' (there is/there are) and the possessive adjectives ma, mon, ta, ton (my, your).

Our talk topic for this week is "What makes each of us different ... and special?"

I wish you all a peaceful weekend. If anyone is interested, the Braille league have a special campaign at all the markets this weekend, encouraging people to experience what it is like to buy products when they are blindfolded.

Jane Still

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

What smashing weather we had this week! We loved the sunshine and the warmth and felt very lucky. Feeling lucky was a thoughtful theme of the week as we celebrated 'Valuing Differences Week'.

To develop an appreciation and an empathy in the children, the Junior School designed a new state-of-the-art wheelchair for Sebastien, who lives in the apartments next to the school and spends all his life in a wheelchair and communicates with us through his special computer; competed in the BISB Paralympics with me; and listened to stories and learnt about Braille with Mrs Still. Half of the class had also raised money and swam for mentally disabled people in Brussels at the weekend at Splash. By the end of the week, the class could feel justifiably proud that they had shown such people their rightful respect.

In the usual timetable, we continued working with decimals, designed a gadget for our invented Superheroes and learnt how to use the present perfect tense.

Topic took the form of our much-anticipated trip to the MOOF museum. We were blessed with the exposition all to ourselves and apparently, they opened it just for us!! Our guide was a delight and I learnt many new things which had passed me by on previous visits. The children learnt all about Belgian cultural icons from Tintin to the Smurfs and loved looking at the superb model displays. The class behaved very well respecting the exhibits and the space but I was a little disappointed by some of our attention levels. The guide really kindly spoke to us in good English and offered interesting facts and insights but many were quick to switch off easily. This is something to work on in class.

See the link below for photos of this and last week's Science lesson
<http://www.bisb.org/project/y4-trip-to-moof-museum-of-comic-strip-characters-and-figurines/>

<http://www.bisb.org/project/science-light-sound-pitch-activities-carousel/>



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we used the passé composé again for telling everybody what we did during the weekend. We also worked on prepositions like "sur, sous, dans, devant, derrière, entre, à côté de" and made a little booklet to remember them. In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed Être (to be), the adjectives, the professions and the age. We role-played a detective interview of five questions and answers. Then we worked on 'ma belle maison' (my beautiful house). They learned how to describe 'la maison et les meubles' (the house and the furniture) of every part of their ' maison imaginaire' (imaginary house) using 'il y a' (there is/there are) and the possessive adjectives ma, mon, ta, ton (my, your).

Today, lots of the class will have played in the Easter Asia V Europe football match and all will have performed their DC comicstrip show in front of the Junior school.

And that was our Spring-like week!

Best wishes

Tim Stedman & Anna Nagy

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

Home School Book – Year 5 / 6

Dear Parents,

If your email account is linked to your child's Edmodo account, you may (like me) occasionally be subjected to a deluge of digital dispatches! As I explained at the beginning of this academic year, I use Edmodo as a learning tool; to encourage students to use social media in a responsible way; to help them avoid a myriad of social networking pitfalls during their teenage years and beyond.

Discussions about the joys and dangers of the Internet are weekly occurrences in Year



6! Children are enthusiastic, naïve and spontaneous. This is evident from some of the postings that you may have seen: ‘edgy’ avatars, ‘cool’ videos, exchanges of presentation software and perhaps, most importantly, errors of phraseology that could be misinterpreted. These digital posts are powerful teaching opportunities, which I hope will help your soon-to-be teenager communicate sensibly and stay safe on the World Wide Web. So, thank you for enduring Edmodo!

See

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/490001/Social_Media_Guidance_UKCCIS_Final_18122015.pdf.pdf

It has been a hectic week in in the Junior department with the BISB 2017 Paralympics, the ‘design a wheelchair’ competition and story readings chosen to highlight how we are united by our differences. Sometimes we need to be reminded about how fortunate we are... Warlands (our class reader) proved to be an emotionally challenging read, which generated much discussion in this week’s Book Club meeting.

We continued our work on algebra and began revising units of measurement. Last week’s homework about time highlighted a few misconceptions that we shall address next week.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed Être (to be), the adjectives, the professions and the age. We role-played a detective interview of five questions and answers. Then we worked on ‘ma belle maison’ (my beautiful house). They learned how to describe ‘la maison et les meubles’ (the house and the furniture) of every part of their ‘ maison imaginaire’ (imaginary house) using ‘il y a’ (there is/there are) and the possessive adjectives ma, mon, ta, ton (my, your).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched another chapter of "Jack et la mécanique du coeur" and answered some questions about the beginning of the film. We also worked on the plurals of nouns and resumed our dictées de mots invariables to which we added sentences.

Well, the Year 6 grammar boot camp appears to be working! The test 3 SPaG results were encouraging but we must not become complacent... I updated the TES Spag online revision folders on Tuesday; students have until next Tuesday to work through this set of exercises. On Monday, we studied the following verb tenses: simple present, present continuous (present progressive), present perfect continuous (present perfect progressive).

Thank you to Mr Edward Prescott for organising Monday’s ukulele rock concert. In front of a packed crowd, students strummed and sang their hearts out.

We shall be studying ‘Tintin in Tibet’ as part of our Oriental Studies module before we visit the Hergé Museum on Tuesday, 28th March.

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

year6teacher@telenet.be

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

Dear Parents,

In EAL this week

We have all been delighted to see more signs of spring outside in the playground: trees are budding, flowers are growing and we have heard birds singing, and seen them collecting sticks for their nests. We have incorporated this into our learning this week in the EAL sessions.

The Year 1 and 2 group spent some time talking about what we can see and what we can hear in spring, and making posters about this. The Year 1 children made use of this work in their class poetry writing session.

The Reception group met an alien from a far away planet. He is visiting our EAL sessions while Reception are studying space. The children are talking to the alien about our own planet, and this will give them a good opportunity to practise a lot of vocabulary, associated with describing landscapes, cities, people and animals.

I wish you a happy weekend.

Kate Read

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.