

Home School Books – 24 March 2017.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Our Pirate theme is coming to an end soon but shiver me timbers, the children have had great fun following this project, which also included looking at creatures that live under the sea and ships that sail on the sea. This week we looked at pirate treasure and tried to figure out where to find it! Then we all made a treasure map with picture clues leading to X marks the spot!

The children heard new words like compass and cutlass and we all decided when we find the treasure, we will give it back to whoever those pesky pirates stole it from! Take a look opposite and see your little ones treasure map, ask them to tell you about their picture clues and what they think the treasure will be when they find it! During group time the children talked about where they would keep their treasures hidden and what is precious to them.



During circle time on Thursday the children discussed what sort of stories they liked to have read to them or just to look at by themselves. This was to coincide with our Treasure Trove book sale in school.

Many of the children said Peppa Pig stories! However there were also a few who liked stories about animals, princesses, sharks, ABC and 123! Someone liked to look at cookery books, so we might even have a budding chef in the making!

Next week we will start our mini project which is all about Easter celebrations, there will be a lot of creative crafts going on, so be prepared for some surprises arriving home. Talking about surprises, we hope all of you mummy's liked your beautiful gift for British Mother's Day. You get to celebrate it twice, as Belgian Mother's Day is in May!

Please remember next week is the last one before the Easter break and school finishes at 12.15 on Friday 31 March for everyone, as there is no garderie service. This of course means there is not an afternoon nursery session, so it will be a relatively short week but a busy one none the less!

Have a lovely warm spring weekend and don't forget our talk topic for discussion next week is, 'How do you celebrate Easter in your family?'

Thank you,

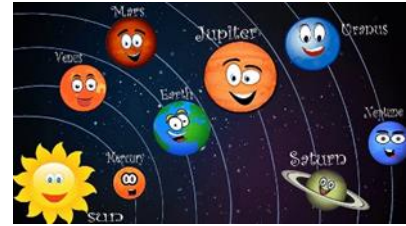
Alison Davies, Ena Tolentino
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Please click [here](#) for our Nursery webpage

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

We started the week by discussing the weekend's talk topic 'what is your favourite planet and why?' and the children were all eager to share their ideas – they are all very knowledgeable! The main focus this week in our topic lessons has been learning about the planets. We have been listening to a song to help us to learn the order of them and we have been using the song while we have been working so that we can remember their names! The children all made a hat showing the planets in their correct order and they also did some writing where they used their phonic sounds to try and write the names of the eight planets.



Throughout the week, the children have completed various phonic based activities and have been learning about the meaning of the words, 'letter', 'word' and 'sentence' and they all completed a sorting activity. As a class, they also reviewed initial sounds in words and played an interactive game on the whiteboard.

Spring has arrived and we have been busy making crafts for the whole school display. We made cotton wool ball lambs and also daffodils using card and cake cases. Please have a look out for them if you are in school over the next few weeks!

In maths this week, the focus has been one more and one less than. The children started by using number lines. They found the numbers on either side of a given number under twenty and then moved on to using the + and – signs when thinking about more and less. They also enjoyed playing the 'Adventure Man' game as a class where they had to count in ones and twos to try and cross a river!

In French with Mrs Scharf, we have been talking, singing and drawing Easter and Spring; poules, lapins, poussins, oeufs, cloches etc. ... We have done many games and activities around this lively and fun theme.

We have received several permission slips for the farm trip in April but if possible, please can you also send 22€ to cover the costs. Thank you to those of you who offered to come and help us – we now have enough helpers for the trip.

Have a good weekend.

Naomi Irakoze and Ivana Julaton

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

This week we have been focussing on the preparations for the finale of our 'Toys' topic: in Circle Time, we decided what categories of toys we would like to display, which is where the decision arose to include a 'modern' section, consisting of one toy brought in by each child. Then in our main Literacy session, we conducted a 'lucky dip' draw, with each child then responsible for producing a fact-sheet about the object they 'won'. These very helpful fact-sheets will be on display when the museum opens to visitors on Thursday 30th March, so you will be able to learn about the origin and history of many of our old toys.

In Phonics, we continued with our Phase 5 sounds, this week covering 2 more 'i' sounds (/ie/ and /i-e/, as in tie and time respectively). Together with the /igh/ sound from Phase 3, the children now know 3 spellings of the same sound. The 'magic e' sounds (a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e and u-e) are now widely recognised by the children, who are always keen to point them out when reading!

Maths this week has been about 1 more / less and 10 more / less than any 2-digit number, and the concept of 'place value'. We began by making amounts of money consisting of 'some tens and some ones', and revised the idea that 36, for example, is made up of 30 and 6, for which we need 3 tens and 6 ones. We practised using a 100-square to help us with counting on, and back, in 10s (e.g. 7, 17, 27, 37 etc.), and then tried it without the 100-square! We also demonstrated 3 different methods for calculating $14+10$: moving one square down on the 100-square, adding 10 beads on a bead pole, and the written form ($14+10=$), to show that all 3 ways give the same answer.

During our Art lesson, the children created and decorated a flowerpot cover, complete with greeting message, in which they carried home their Mother's Day gift - the plants are the very same ones the children planted one messy day back in December - they have been lovingly nurtured in the classroom since then, waiting for this very occasion! Some plants were more spectacular than others, but there was life in every pot when they left school on Friday!

The weather for our trip to the park on Thursday was perfect. We saw a few signs of Spring on the ground and in the trees, had a fun PE session in different surroundings and enjoyed a short play-time on the climbing frames. Mrs Hauwaerts took some great photos, which you can see at <http://www.bisb.org/project/pe-in-the-park/>



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been talking, singing and drawing Easter and Spring; poules, lapins, poussins, oeufs, cloches etc We have done many games and activities around this lively and fun theme.

The Year 1 Toy Museum will be open to parents after school on Thursday 30th March. If you plan to come along, please be kind enough to wait until the Reception

and Year 2 children have left school - we will then have much more room to hand you over to our 'museum guides'.

Finally, as next week is a revision week, there will be no on-line Maths homework.

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,

There has been a decided chill in the air this past week although we have seen the sun as well.

In Literacy we are still revising compound words and have turned our attentions to poetry. We are writing poems about spring. We have also written a story about small people living in small houses. In guided reading we read about body invaders, a boy with superpowers and a huge stick insect. The children really enjoy reading in small groups and discussing the stories together. Our visit downstairs to Treasure Trove to buy books was the highlight of our week and we enjoyed looking at all the wonderful books.

In Numeracy we worked on tally charts and pictograms. We made a tally chart about our favourite wild animals and then drew up a pictogram. We played a game trying to figure out a number. The children are loving this and also learning how to ask questions to narrow down the number range.

In Art we made flowers for our spring wall display and also drew some young animals. We made daffodils and tulips. I am very pleased with how they came out. We are making a surprise for our mothers as well.



In Computing we had a maths game to play on [activelearnprimary](http://activelearnprimary.com). We also did some coding and then played some word games.

PE was outside again! We played 2 class games; Mr. Wolf, what's the time and I wrote a letter to my love. We so enjoyed these games and it was fun to do them as a class.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on 'ma routine et ma semaine' (my week). They learned how to describe 'their weekly routine by telling, acting and singing what they do on each day of the week. We used over twelve verbs and different vocabulary.

Thank you for the farm trip money. We are all very excited to be going. The money for the French trip is coming in too, many thanks for that.

The talk topic this week is: Which is your favourite wild animal and why?
Have a fun weekend,

Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

It has been wonderful this week to have a classroom flooded with spring sunshine and to enjoy a beautiful view of the trees bursting into flower in the neighbouring gardens. We have all enjoyed the outside playtimes and the chance to finally get rid of all the coughs and colds (we hope!). There has been plenty of spring energy in the classroom work too.

In Maths we have worked on time – checking what we remember about telling the time, using both the analogue and digital clock, and also trying to solve different time challenges based on calculating lapsed time. As ever, the ability to understand the written explanations and to follow the instructions carefully determined the success rates in solving the problems. Those who go too quickly, being convinced that they know exactly what to do, often end up missing the vital information! We also practiced 3-digit addition using a variety of methods, comparing which we preferred and why.

In Science, we went back to our ‘Slime’ experiment to see what had happened to the mixture over the past week. We found that it is no longer possible to reconstitute the powder texture of the cornflour, due to the complete evaporation of any water content. The mixture has retained its particular, smooth texture, but has become very brittle. We wrote up the experiment, paying attention to format and presentation with headings, sub-headings, lists and summaries. We also did our best to record our observations of the slime in its varying states. We discovered that it was difficult to find the precise vocabulary to express exactly what it felt like to handle the mixture. We watched an interesting explanatory video on non-Newtonian fluids, as well as a very funny one on how to cross a swimming pool full of slime – definitely not an experiment to try at home!!

In Literacy we turned to the world in miniature, finding examples of books and stories in which humans discover tiny worlds at their feet. We read about Alice shrinking and floating away in a sea of her own tears, Mrs Pepperpot who shrinks ... to the size of a pepper pot, and has all sorts of adventures, the Minpins in the depths of the forest, and the tiny family of Borrowers behind the skirting boards. We then set to work to create our own miniature forest scene in a little box, accurately measuring and cutting paper



to line the insides, and folding and sticking flowers, trees and wildlife to create a magical interior. Each box is unique and beautiful.



It was good to see the children's enthusiasm for the book sale and to hear the discussions as they chose their books. They really are becoming proficient, independent readers and are keen to share ideas and opinions about the books they are reading. Let's hope this enjoyment becomes a lifetime's pleasure.

Our talk topic for this week is "When we look around us, what are the tiny details that we don't see unless we really look?"

I hope you have a lovely weekend, enjoying the fresh air and signs of spring.

Jane Still

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

Our Superhero Topic is coming to its epic finale and this week the children were busy transforming their Eco-Superhero into exciting comic strip reality. Gadgets were designed, plots were dreamt up and action bubbles were kazumpt! onto the strip canvas's. The aim is to get these comic strips on to some form of IT program with an audio soundtrack attached and any other effects the children can conjure up. My quest continues but we will have something to show off and be mightily proud of by next Friday's last day – the planet depends on it!!



In Maths, we worked all week with money: adding and subtracting using the best method; and dealing with the £.p notation and the foxing decimal point. This was also all good practice for Rippledown week, of course.

This weblink might work and is useful if you have Flashplayer:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/dynamo/den/shopping/index.htm>

Elsewhere in Science, we explored the telephone and what factors affect the transmission of sound. Our home-made receivers and our findings from the experiments were really amazing and it was a great investigation - our phone conversations were ace, too!

Remember: don't make the telephone wires too thick, keep them taut and apparently, the longer the better. The children's Eco-Superheroes can of course transmit and receive signals without a telephone – they \neg have super powers.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we conjugated in the present simple the verb "faire" which is irregular and difficult but the children did very well indeed. We used it to ask

the question: "Qu'est-ce que tu fais pendant le week-end?" "Je fais du sport : du foot, de la natation etc.". We also used the passé composé again for telling everybody what we did during the weekend and we started talking about Easter and Spring.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started talking about "La Fête de Pâques et le Printemps (the Easter festivities and the spring season). We talked about the meaning of Pâques (Easter), its origins, and the topics that go with it: Les Cloches & le lapin de Pâques (the Easter bells and bunny), la chasse aux oeufs (the egg hunt) spring, nature's rebirth- animals, blooming flowers and trees, the weather, the clothing..

Finally, we should celebrate the 3 children in the class who were so successful in the FFJM Brussels Maths Competition. In total, a record 6 Year4s were entered in the preliminary phases of the contest and the 3 who progressed to the Semi Final last weekend did a magnificent job.

And not only are the class great at Maths but they have also shown themselves to be great, mature and responsible communicators on Edmodo. Originally created to offer a parent access to homework digitally, the class group account has been alive this week with safe social chat between the children. It's all very good.

And that was our week. Have a good weekend.

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,

It is the school's intention for students in Year 6 to take their end-of year examinations towards the end of May. These will be similar in content to the UK SATs and include: reading comprehension, spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG), arithmetic and maths reasoning. Writing is teacher assessed. In class; we are now revising in preparation for these examinations.

Students will enjoy regular mini-tests in all subjects to help them in their personal revision planning. All students are expected to revise independently; they are aware of where, and how, to access revision materials. Also, on Edmodo, there is a 'SATS Information' folder for you. I am delighted that the Year 5 pupils are embracing the level of challenge in our class and covering similar topics, differentiated as required.

What a very busy week! We finished reading, and watching the film Ruby in the Smoke to rounds of applause. Then, at the book sale, the other three books in the series were pounced upon and purchased immediately. Our adventures in the Far East continue with our new class reader Tintin in Tibet. For revision of non-chronological reports, the students drafted a plan about the 'Tibet question'. Researching about

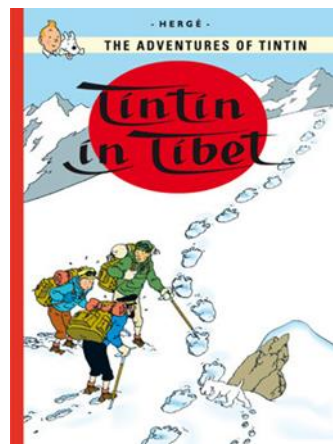
Hergé, provided us with the opportunity to revise features of biographies. We have also looked at newspaper reports and formal letters.

SPaG mini-test 4 will be next week. Revision for this has included: subordinating conjunctions (I SAW A WABUB), pronouns (particularly the use of 'me' and 'I') and the apostrophe.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started talking about "La Fête de Pâques et le Printemps (the Easter festivities and the Spring season).

We talked about the meaning of Pâques (Easter), its origins, and the topics that go with it: Les Cloches & le lapin de Pâques (the Easter bells and bunny), la chasse aux oeufs (the egg hunt), Spring- nature's rebirth- animals, blooming flowers and trees, the weather, the clothing.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched another chapter of "Jack et la mécanique du coeur". We also worked on the plurals of nouns again, had another dictée de mots invariables and started revising all verbs seen so far in the present tense. We also spoke about Easter and Spring.



All students should be able to access Active Learn to support their studies. Revision topics this week were: imperial and metric equivalences, pie charts, scaled pictographs, line and block graphs, long multiplication and division (including decimals and money), finding fractions of amounts. Next week, the children will have their termly Abacus tests; arithmetic and problem solving.

I am looking forward to taking the children to the Hergé museum on Tuesday; let's hope the sun shines!

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

year6teacher@telenet.be

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

In EAL this week

Dear Parents,

This week, we have once again been able to enjoy the signs of spring outside, especially in the Reception group, some of whom spent time bird watching in the playground, and pondering why the trees are dropping so many seeds. The Reception group also had time for conversations about why circles don't have corners, and whether all dolphins are boys. (The latter came up when we were describing the animals of our planet, as part of our explanations about Earth to the alien from another planet, who is visiting our EAL room.)

The Year One and Two EAL group this week spent two sessions talking about how to classify and describe toys, ready for the Year One Toy Museum. This gave us a chance to practise asking and answering questions beginning with When, Where, What.

The Year One and Two EAL group also spent an enjoyable session using drama to practise the language needed to describe a place in the countryside, and to describe characters for a story. This helped the Year Two children to get ready for their class writing session, which was based on the picture above.



In the Junior Department, I am currently supporting individual children with their particular language and general learning needs.

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 1:15pm) if needed. Please contact me through the school office, or through your child's class teacher, or using the email below.

Kind Regards,

Kate Read
EALteacher@telenet.be