

Home School Books – 27 April 2017.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Firstly, thank you to everyone who attended Wednesday's parent teacher meetings this week and Mrs Davies will see everyone else next Wednesday, unless you have been given an appointment on a different day.

It has been another short week, this week, because of the bank holiday Monday, which we hope you enjoyed. However we have managed to fit a lot in as usual! Our theme on transport has continued and the bar graph of how each child told us they travelled to and from nursery, is now on display on the wall in the role play area. You can't miss it, as it is very bright and colourful and full of lovely little faces cheekily looking out at us! All credit goes to Mrs Tolentino for putting it together. Ask your child which is the most popular form of transport to come to nursery on, see if they can remember.



As an extension of this, our unaided writing samples for this term have been based on the same theme. If you look opposite you will see a copy of your child's piece of work, as the original needed to stay in Mrs Davies folder. It was such a joy sitting and talking through the activity with each child and seeing just how far they have progressed in a number of areas of development. Fine motor skills, language, letter recognition etc. to name a few, plus of course it was just fun to do! Give your little one lots of praise for all of their efforts, no matter how big or small they are!

Please remember if your child comes to school in Wellington boots, to bring some indoor shoes for them to change into. Wellies are too cumbersome to wear inside and sometimes the rubber material they are made from had a strong odour!

Next week we are going on a train ride, inside of the nursery of course! Our talk topic for discussion is 'if you could go anywhere on a train ride, where would you like to go to?'

Until then, have a super weekend.

Thank you

Alison Davies, Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Reception

We have continued our minibeast adventure in Reception focussing this week on tadpoles and their journey to becoming frogs. We have read two stories this week, 'Growing Frogs' by Vivian French and 'In the Pond' by Anna Milbourne and Mat Russell. Both of these stories look at the different stages of a frog's life cycle, including specific vocabulary such as 'frogspawn' and 'froglet'. We also had a very exciting package arrive...some caterpillars! We have five pet caterpillars who are currently growing big and fat before making a chrysalis; we hope to this this happen very soon. We then have a special butterfly pavilion when we can put the chrysalises so they have space to spread their wings when they emerge as butterflies.



In maths we have looked back over symmetry. We have used different materials to make symmetrical patterns and have studied symmetry in nature e.g. the symmetry of butterflies and ladybirds.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been singing another very famous French song that all children sing: "Une souris verte". We made our very own book of this and had fun singing it.

We had a fantastic trip to the farm last week with the children eagerly participating in a range of farmer activities. The children were able to feed some cows in the 'hospital', stroke the lambs, feed the bulls, stroke the calves, play with goats, catch chickens, feed the turkeys, hold some chicks and play with some baby rabbits – a fantastic fun filled trip!

Talk Topic for Monday 8th May will be answering the question 'what's your favourite minibeast and why?'

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,

It might have been a slightly shorter week in year 1 but we've been very busy! Thank you to everyone for coming to see me and Mr Tranter for parents evening this week, we really enjoyed meeting with you all and sharing with you all of the progress we have seen with the children this year. In class this week we have enjoyed talking more about our topic 'waking through the jungle' and the children came up with some fabulous ideas about what they would take with them if they were visiting the jungle including a tent, sleeping bag, torch and even some bug spray to keep those ants away!

This week in literacy we looked at two poems; 'Snake' and 'Chimpanzee' from the poetry book 'Rumble in the Jungle'. We read the poems then watched short video clips of how these animals moved. We then changed the original poems to add our own ideas. In phonics we have been continuing with learning the phase 5 sounds. This week we focused on reading and writing words with the /wh/ and /ph/ sounds. We also continue to revise and review the other letter sounds.

In numeracy this week we have practised adding three small numbers together to get a total. We have talked about strategies to make this easier such as looking for two numbers in the sum that make 10 or doubles, and counting on from the biggest number. We also practised subtracting 10s. The maths homework game for next week will be 'Marching Madness 1' on subtracting 10 from 2 digit numbers.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, since we resumed our story "Une maison de musiciens" we have been busy drawing our house. We have learnt a lot of vocabulary and have had fun discovering all the rooms and furniture in our houses.

In science we have started our topic on plants. After talking about all the different types of plants there are and going on a plant hunt in the school playground, this week we turned our attention to growing plants. We talked about what they need to grow and we made our own 'cress heads' by planting seeds in a pot. Hopefully the seeds will grow into really long cress plants and our cress heads will have hair! And that was our week.



Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Patrick Tranter Year1teacher@telenet.be
Please click [here](#) for our Year 1 webpage

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

It was very good to see you all this week to discuss your children's progress.

In Literacy we are still enjoying the antics of the characters from 'Around the world in 80 Days'. This week we have found out all about Jules Verne, the author, and made an author study and a timeline which are stuck in the literacy books. Poor Mr. Fogg and his travelling companions keep missing the boat. I hope he finds one soon. In Phonics we have been looking at the words beginning with -w and how the sounds change.

In Numeracy we have been revising the bonds of 10 and 20 and using the “frog” method of addition and subtraction to solve problems. It was interesting for the class to find out that one can, in fact, use addition to solve a subtraction problem. We have also learnt to use doubles and number bonds to add three 1-digit numbers.

In Science we have excitedly been discovering the growing process of plants by growing watercress in the classroom. We sprinkled the seeds onto cottonwood, added water and then put the seeds in a warm place. The first morning, the children were disappointed because nothing seemed to be happening. However after taking a closer look we could see how big the seeds had become and that some of the seeds had split and were growing. We even have some leaves!



In Topic, we have begun plotting countries on our map and thereby learning where the countries are on a map. This week we spoke about the Americas and found out that in South America, Brazil is the largest country and Chile is long and skinny.

In Art we are currently drawing the steamers and trains that Phileas Fogg has been taking on his journey.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on ‘le docteur du français’. We reviewed the use of the singular and plural by asking them to transform the phrases from singular to plural.

It was fun and exciting because that who spotted a mistake, would be called “le docteur du français’. He or she would come to the board to correct the sentence and give it the right ‘medicine’, in other words, the correct answer.

Our outing to the Farm was excellent and the class behaved impeccably. We learnt a lot and had the opportunity to feed animals and even touch some of them. Thank you to the moms who accompanied us on our outing.

The talk topic this week is: It has been raining a lot this week. Who do you think enjoys the rain and why?

Have a lovely weekend,

Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

There was great excitement in Year 3 on Tuesday when we saw how our seedlings had shot up over the long weekend. The sunflowers and sweet peas are huge, considering they are only 10 days old, and, although the poppy seedlings are tiny,

there are a lot of them. We are observing the way in which the initial leaves turn into groups of four, and can now see the different ways in which the different types of flower are developing. We decided that the small pots were not providing enough space, so have repotted the seedlings into larger pots before putting them into the flower boxes outside when the risk of frost has gone. As we repotted the plants, we could see how the sunflowers had burst out of their seed pods, leaving them to dry out in the soil. Snack times have generated a wealth of potential plants, we are now talking kindly to pots containing orange pips, date stones, avocado stones and kiwi seeds – we might need to sing to them too...

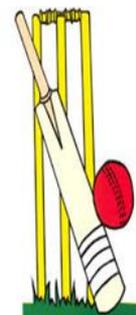


We continued our plant research by studying plant pollination and different types of seed dispersal, and worked in pairs to prepare written presentations of the information. Our variegated tulips are beginning to open out, exposing the parts of the flower that are essential to pollination.

In maths we have worked on bar charts and pictograms, choosing appropriate ways of presenting different data. We are recording the growth rates of the seedlings and comparing the differences between them. We have also been working on strategies for solving problems effectively. This involves analysing questions carefully and taking specific instructions into account to ensure that we look for the appropriate answers. We have checked that we understand mathematical vocabulary such as ‘fewer than’, ‘greater than’, equal to’... etc.

In Literacy we read a legend about a shaman in the Rainforest and discussed the importance of plants for making medicines. We also looked at direct speech using speech marks, and compared this to the way in which speech is shown in play scripts.

In PE we had a friendly cricket match against Year 4, giving us useful practice for the Junior department tournament. Test Match Special should come and record a session at BISB – excitement and enthusiasm are high up the order!



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we described the clothes we were to come to school and wrote them down in our books. We also chose a friend and described what he/she was wearing. We also listened to a song "La valise" listing clothes we pack to go on holiday. An exercise requiring their listening and comprehension skills.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on the techniques of describing events and stories, using interrogative words, action verbs, être (to be), avoir (to have) , Il y a (there is/there are), adjectives, and the target or designated vocabulary. It was challenging and fun.

Our talk topic for this week is “Imagine the journey of a seed that is transported by wind, or by a bird or an animal. Where might it land?”

Enjoy the weekend. If you are not busy on Sunday, the commune greenhouses in Schaerbeek are open to the public from 11h to 17h, and I am sure will be worth a visit. (<http://www.schaerbeek.be/agenda/portes-ouvertes-serres-communales>)

Jane Still

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

A four-day but an exciting week in Year 4 this week, we went deeper into Space; in particular, how to get there and what people do once they make it.

The children are well into writing biographies for key figures in the Space Race. They are busy researching facts and the achievements of Neil Armstrong, Yuri Gagarin, Buzz Aldrin and even Laika the dog. (a monkey, a cat and a pig – unverified - have also cropped up too).

The topic has really caught the children's imagination and Wednesday afternoon's lesson was a hit: the class had to map the most important launch stations on Earth and the YouTubes we watched of rocket launches had us glued to the screen. Particularly fascinating was a documentary presented by a female NASA astronaut who took us round the International Space Station – good for the girls to see but so interesting and exciting for all of us to watch.



Science was related to this as we explored how light travels, the Earth's orbit of the Sun and the idea of opaqueness, translucence and transparency. Unfortunately, the experiment we had planned on shadows didn't occur as the Sun didn't show up for the lesson. That will be something to look forward to after Rippledown.

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On the subject of Rippledown, the children have been high as kites with the forthcoming trip and they were thrilled to have to plan an outstanding piece of work for it.

Year 4 need to Perform in an athletic and adventurous challenge.

Well, the mighty Rippledown is exactly that but specifically, the children must create a Superhero-themed assault course during the week and this morning they revelled in coming up with ideas. Hopefully, you will see the photos of the end result before we even return.

When we do return, Shivang will be entering the Belgium Maths Problems Final the very next day and we all wish him the very best of luck

Elsewhere this week, we covered more decimals; attempted to learn the x11 and x12 tables and won our first match (convincingly) in the Junior School Fifteen15 Cricket Tournament.

And that was our week.

Have a good weekend.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman & Anna Nagy

year4teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 5/6

Dear Parents,

As you are no doubt acutely aware, the students are suffering from a severe case of Rippledown fever! I am most impressed with the organisational skills of some pupils: cryptic messages on Edmodo, snatched, quiet conversations in the common room and bursts of hysterical laughter in the corridor. However, I am a little concerned about what exactly is being organised! What, I wonder, are they concocting this year to challenge the sanity of the teachers? The long-awaited 'Ripply numbers' have now been announced. We are practising lining up in a range of formations. Seven years of making this trip has taught me to be prepared for the unexpected, when attempting to navigate a group of 30 children with passports from all over the globe, through immigration control.



Revision remains on the menu in Year 6 and at home. I hope that students have realised that personal revision does not involve chilling out listening to music on YouTube, playing computer games and watching television. Being able to work independently is a terrific skill which must be developed as early as possible.

During the afternoons this week, we have learnt about latitude and longitude, to enable us to plot the course of the Titanic and to pinpoint the locations of the icebergs, as detailed in the telegrams that Captain Smith received.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on the techniques of describing events and stories, using interrogative words, action verbs, être (to be), avoir (to have) , Il y a (there is/there are), adjectives, and the target or designated vocabulary.

We also had a brief written and an interview quiz based on that activity . The result was brilliant.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we worked very hard on the passé composé to be able to write our diaries during the week in Rippledawn.

I can put away the lipsticks as we have finished our study on lip-prints. Our next investigation will be about hair and fibres. Be prepared to provide a hair sample; a few strands will do; the pupils have been told that they do not need to cut your hair!

As always, it was a pleasure to meet with you this week and discuss the progress of your child. I hope that you enjoy a relaxing week during our absence; I can assure you, that I shall NOT be relaxing!

With best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

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

In EAL this week

Dear Parents,

This week, you have had the opportunity to meet the class teachers. If you would like also to meet with me, to discuss your child's progress in English, please send an email either to the school office, or to me directly ealteacher@telenet.be. I am able to meet either before school (between 8.30 and 9am) or between 12:45 and 1:15, on most days of the week.

In our Year One and Year Two EAL sessions this week, we have been revising the vocabulary for describing places (different types of environment and landscape, as well as names of continents, countries and cities). At the same time, we practised using past and present tenses, especially I was, I am, I went, I am going, I saw, I see.

The Reception EAL group revised some of the language needed to describe animals and how they live, especially parts of the body, colours, food, and things in the natural environment.

We are continuing to revise all the phonics covered by the children in their respective classes, with Reception this week focusing on the short vowel sounds, and practising pronouncing them clearly (as in cat, pet, sit, log, rug). Year One continued to revise the vowel digraphs a-e, o-e, i-e, u-e, oi.

I wish you all a happy weekend.

Kate Read

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Reception