

Home School Books – 12 May 2017.

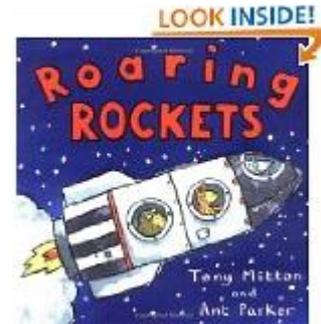
Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

What a busy week we have had exploring our transport theme.

We have looked at many different ways of transporting ourselves and in our P.E. lesson we even tried walking on stilts! Which could be an interesting and environmentally friendly way of getting to school and back!

Apart from that, trains and rockets have been our two main transport features this week. The children did some small group work on rockets with Miss Emma, our trainee teacher. She told them the story, 'Roaring Rockets' and then each child made an individual 2D shape rocket. So not only were they blasted off into space but they knew how to name all of the shapes the rocket that transported them there, consisted of!



Trains were also chugging around nursery this week and if you look opposite, you will see your little ones number train, with all of its carriages carrying a different number. Ask them how many carriages the train has and which number is written on each carriage; don't just do this in order but point to random numbers and ask your child to tell you what it is. This was another simple but fun transport activity with a maths theme.

We have started our new wall display in the book corner, which when it is finished will be all about the train ride and what a little girl saw through the window, during her journey on a train to her grandmothers. We will continue with this over the coming week, so watch this space or train track we should say!

Miss Emma is also doing the circle time activities with the children over the next couple of weeks, this is also part of her teaching practice. This week she has been talking with the children about 'feelings', what makes them feel, happy, sad, angry etc. Using prompts and props she had encouraged each child to give an appropriate response to the question posed. Great for language and listening skills but not so easy for turn taking and waiting patiently!

Thank you to all of the parents who came to the second session of the parent, teacher meetings, if you still haven't met with Mrs Davies, you will over the next few weeks, so don't worry!

Our talk topic for discussion is 'Where did your roaring rocket take you?'

Until we land next week, have a great weekend.

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

Reception children have shown amazing enthusiasm throughout our minibeast topic, eagerly searching for them and sharing any they find whilst outside in the playground. This week was no exception! When the idea of focussing on snails and slugs was first introduced to the children there were many ‘eughs’ and ‘yuks’ but the more the children learnt about them the more fascinated they became and the more questions they asked.



In phonics this week, we have been playing many different phonic based games as revision and have been focussing on correct letter formation. The children have been practising copying simple captions, paying close attention to the way their letters are formed, where to start, where to finish, whether or not they take the pencil off the paper.

In maths we have been busily reviewing the different methods we have learnt to help us solve addition and subtraction problems. For addition we have looked at using fingers, drawing lines and then briefly at the counting on method for those larger numbers. For subtraction we have looked at using fingers and drawing dots.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been talking about our very special and unique mummy and why we love her so much. We made beautiful pictures and learnt to say "maman, je t'aime !" for Mother's Day this Sunday. We also sang all our animal songs.

Talk Topic for Monday will be completing the phrase ‘I love mini-beasts because...’

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Irakoze and Ivana Julaton

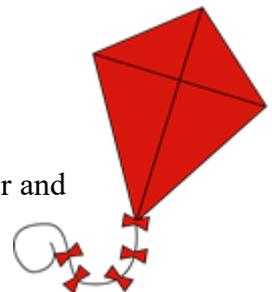
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Please click [here](#) for our Reception webpage

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

This week the sun has come out and we’ve all been thinking about summer and how the year has gone by so quickly. We have started to prepare for our summer show in just over a month’s time. The children have been busy learning their ‘Kite’ poem which they perform together on the day. I have



sent a copy home so if you could help your child to learn the words to the poem at home as well that would be great. We have also been busy making our beautiful kites that we will use as part of our performance. Each kite is unique and different, just like the children themselves!

This week in literacy and our topic work we have learned all about snakes. We knew a lot about snakes already but we also had quite a few questions about them such as 'can they hear?' 'can they smell?' and 'do they have bones?' Some of the things we found out were surprising, such as the fact that snakes smell using their tongues and they have ears hidden inside their heads! You can see a fact file your child wrote about snakes in their home school book this week. In phonics we have finished the phase 5 sounds. This week we focused on reading and writing words with the /ou/, /oy/, /aw/, /au/ graphemes. We also continued to revise and review the other letter sounds.

In numeracy this week we have learned all about capacity, or how much liquid a container will hold. We learned the words full, empty, half full, half empty, nearly full and nearly empty. We learned how to compare two containers to find out which held the most. We also practised comparing the weight of objects by using balance scales to find out which out of a set of two objects was heavier. We then compared by finding out how many cubes it took to balance different objects. The maths homework game for next week will be 'Seaside scuffle 1.24'.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been very busy drawing "le grenier" and talking about our very special and unique mummy and why we love her so much. We made beautiful pictures and learnt to say "maman, je t'aime parce que " for Mother's Day this Sunday.

In science we were delighted to see that our cress heads have grown some hair! We made sure they had lots of water and light although what was even more amazing was that they grew without any soil at all. We made a little diary to describe the changes we saw and what we did. We also discussed the parts of a tree and the parts of a flower and compared them. And that was our busy week!

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Anna Nagy

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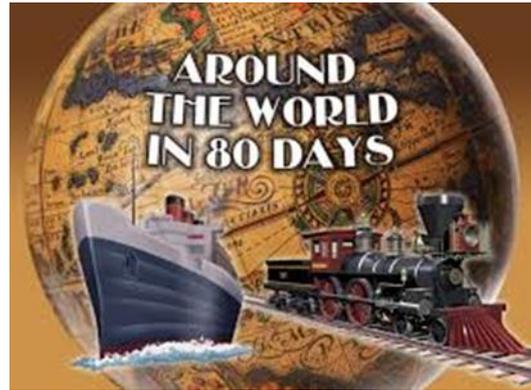
Please click [here](#) for our Year 1 webpage

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

Our week at the Junior building has flown by and we have many memories of the fun times we had there.

In Literacy we are almost finished our story of *Around the world in 80 days* and have just to see the final chapter in the story. Poor Mr Fogg! It seems like he has lost his bet. We have also spoken about Spring and written the ending to a story. We spent a while recalling the story of Phileas Fogg and I must say I was very, very impressed at the details the children can remember.



In Numeracy we have been working on addition strategies and we have needed to work on our counting as well. This week we have been adding on the tens and then the ones. There has been a focus on mental addition using these strategies.

In Science we learned all about photosynthesis which is the process of plants making food. Our cress grew very nicely thanks to the tender care the class gave it. Year 3 have also been learning about plants, so we had the opportunity to plant some radishes. As yet they have not sprouted but time will tell. On Thursday afternoon, the children made the most delicious salad sandwiches which they ate with gusto. We also discovered the life cycle of a butterfly and made a lovely wheel to explain the process.

In Topic, we are currently looking at the countries of Europe. We marvelled at the shape of Italy and can see which countries are the largest. In Art we made a paper folded book mark and did some outdoor painting.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had a very fun activity to work on the use of 'la forme négative' (ne pas) and 'les contraires' (the opposites). We also did a beautiful card for 'la fête des mères' (Mother's Day).

As is the custom, when at the Junior building, we took the opportunity to learn how to play cricket. We practised holding the bat and hitting the ball. We also learned a bit of bowling. After that, we had a lovely game of cricket with the Year 3's who are so much better than us. Even so, we had a wonderful time in the sun.

This has been a wonderful week and we have taken the opportunity to picnic a few times and thoroughly enjoyed the sun as well as playing with our friends in Year 3. The talk topic this week is: What is your favourite sport? Do you get to play it often?

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,

What a great week! Year 3 really enjoyed welcoming Year 2 and sharing the week with them. The time has flown by and the children have really enjoyed being the ‘big’ ones. As I watched them all playing together, I was proud to see just how much Year 3 have matured and grown over the year (both physically and in terms of personality and confidence). They should be proud of themselves too!



They are not the only things to have grown – our plants continue to shoot up and out, and there is fierce competition between the sweet peas and the sunflowers. We had an excellent practical demonstration of the importance of light, when we forgot to move our cress seeds out of the shuttered classroom overnight. Mrs Vetter’s cress started the next day green and healthy, as the Year 2 children had taken it home – ours was yellow and wilted! Interestingly, it only took half a day of sunlight to turn the leaves green again. This was a good opportunity to look at the process of photosynthesis, and to study the life cycle of plants and the importance of flowers. Along with Year 2 we planted radishes outside in the greenhouse box. The amazing weather this week will certainly help the germination process.

It has been a busy week in maths, with work on shapes and their properties. There is a lot of vocabulary to take in, so we have been trying to find our own ways of remembering the differences between perpendicular, parallel, perimeter, horizontal, vertical, vertices, edges and faces. Cartoon pictures are useful aids! We also worked on grid multiplication.

In Literacy, we have worked with our student teacher on a rhyming poem comprehension and on some word puzzles, all based around a plant theme. After revising the needs of plants, we did a very interesting exercise deciding what we, as humans, need in order to grow. The children had lots of excellent ideas of what makes them grow, such as family, friends, exercise, books and play.

Our new class book ‘Beetle Boy’, is getting exciting and we are well into our predictions of what is going to happen. Reading as a class is a real pleasure and an excellent way for children to discover books that they might not necessarily choose themselves. It generates rich discussion and a real shared empathy with the characters and their experiences.

Having enjoyed a friendly cricket match with the Year 2s, we finished our week with them in fitting fashion by using our cress to make salad sandwiches – a genuine cricket tea! Year 3 prepared all the ingredients for each person to make their own sandwich and everyone had the chance to cut their own cress. As there was nothing left on the plates at the end, it must have been delicious!



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had a fun activity using ‘les comparatifs’ (comparative adjectives) with the adjectives they have learned to describe themselves

and 'ma maman' (my mom). We also did a beautiful card for 'la fête des mères' (Mother's Day).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we read a story and we worked on adjectives specially chosen for mummy. We made a poster and a special card for mummy.

Our talk topic for this week is "If you had your own garden, what would you grow, and why?"

Have a lovely weekend – we all need catching practice before our next match, so head to the park if you have a ball!

Jane Still

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

Home School Book – Years 4, 5 and 6

Year 4/5/6 children have been away at Rippledawn House this week.