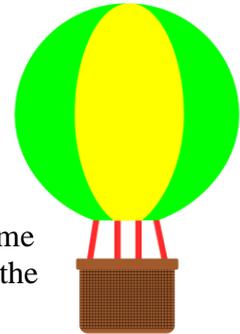


Home School Books – 19 May 2017.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

What an amazing adventure the children have had this week, going up, up, up in their beautiful balloons! Take a look opposite and see who your little one took with them on their journey; was it you?



Apart from enjoying the art and craft, there were some very creative patterns put together to make the balloon. This activity brought forth some wonderful new vocabulary and great conversation about flying through the sky in a hot air balloon.

We also learned another new song from bare foot books, about what happens if we take a ride in a hot air balloon, how does it feel, what would you see? etc. Take a look at the following link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lrd0TiER_J0

First just listen to the song with your child, then turn on the visuals and watch the illustrations together. Talk with them about the song and then you can imagine your own adventure up, up, up, in your beautiful balloon.

Something very exciting happened in nursery this week, which caused a lot of interest and created a sense of awe and wonder! Ask your child what happened to our caterpillars who had been fast asleep for a long time in their warm tight coats! Suddenly they woke up nibbled their way out and emerged as.....?

During our maths sessions this week, the children looked at wiggly worms and then we made our own wiggly worms to introduce length. We had long and short worms, we measured them against each other's wiggly worms, to see who had made the longest or the shortest worm. It was a super fun activity and introduced some great mathematical language.

Miss Emma talked about healthy eating and exercise this week and everyone made a delicious fruit salad and ate it in nursery or at least tried a little bit of it! Fruit is such a must to have in your child's diet, as it contains lots of different vitamins and other good stuff. Not all children like all fruit but please try and encourage them to eat at least one or two varieties. We really would like to see some healthier snack boxes, as biscuits, cakes and chips are still appearing too often for some children.

We have had some very hot days this week and hope they return more frequently! When they do, please feel free to send your child into nursery in a pair of shorts, preferably in plain colours, no whacky patterns or football shorts please. The jogging pants are too hot in the warm weather, so a little pair of, black, blue, green or grey shorts would be perfect. **NO DRESSES OR SKIRTS**, shorts are unisex and are fine for everyone to wear.

They can of course still wear the little white polo shirt as this is part of the school uniform, so no whacky tee shirts either please. We would still like to see the children dressed in the bits of the uniform that are suitable for warm weather.

We hope to see lots of you at international day on Saturday, for a fun packed and delicious food tasting day! Throw in some good weather and it will be just perfect!

Our talk topic for discussion next week is, 'what did the caterpillars turn into and how did it happen?'

See you all on Monday.
Thank you

Alison Davies, Ena Tolentino
nurseryteacher@telenet.be
Please click [here](#) for our Nursery webpage

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

Our butterflies have emerged! What an amazing surprise on Tuesday morning when we saw that two of our caterpillars had emerged from their chrysalises as beautiful butterflies, closely followed by two more on Wednesday.



We have all enjoyed observing them as they stretch out their wings for the first time and started fluttering around the pavilion. We looked closely at them as they used their proboscises to suck up the sugary water we provided for them. When not watching the butterflies, we spent the week looking at bees, honey bees in particular. We read a collection of information books telling us different facts about honey bees and we noticed that the names of many parts of a bee's body are the same as that of a butterfly. It has been another successful topic for Reception and we are sad to see it come to an end. However, next week we will be starting our new, and final, topic of this academic year all about Under the Sea.

In phonics this week, we have been doing lots of revision. Revising all the sounds we have learnt in Reception especially working on remembering digraphs and writing them in the correct order. For example, /sh/ rather than /hs/.

In maths we have looked back over shapes, remembering the difference between 2d and 3d shapes, and naming as many as we can. We also looked at hexagons and how the bee's make hexagon cells that perfectly fit together to make their hive. We went on to look at whether any other shapes fit perfectly together. The children noticed that you can also mix shapes together to accomplish this.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished our books with the song "une souris verte" and revised all the animal names we learnt so far.

Talk Topic for Monday will be in preparation for our new topic and will be sharing what we already know about the sea world.

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Irakoze and Ivana Julaton

receptionteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

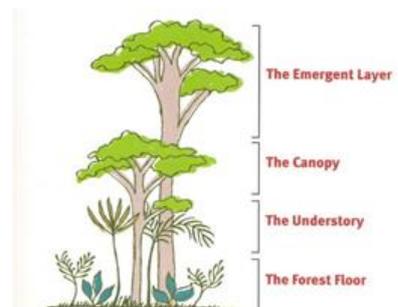
This week it has been wonderful to enjoy the sunshine! Do please remember that while winter hats, thick and heavy padded coats, gloves, scarves and ear muffs are no longer needed it is still a good idea to bring a lightweight raincoat and a school jumper to school each day to deal with the unpredictable changes in the weather that occur in the Belgian summertime. In class this week in our music lessons and whenever we can, we have continued to practise our songs for the summer show and we've practised performing our poem in different ways including in two parts as a round. This is challenging but wonderful! We have also finished making our kites so they are ready to fly.

This week in literacy we have worked hard on our end of year assessments across the curriculum. Most children have completed these and shown some super progress in their reading, writing, phonics, spelling and grammar skills. We also reviewed reading high frequency words. We did an extended writing session based on a short video clip of an enormous flower at a garden centre in London. The children had to use their imagination to write about what would happen next if they climbed the enormous flower into the clouds. We had some very imaginative ideas!

In numeracy we have also completed assessments covering the whole mathematics curriculum for year 1 including time, money problems, measuring weight, capacity and height and number problems. The children have also reviewed and worked on their addition and subtraction skills in class and worked on finding change from different amounts. The maths homework game for next week will be 'Nimble Knome 1.25'.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished drawing our houses. They will be assembled and will look very nice. We learnt a song about a funny house made of cardboard with paper stairs.

In our topic work we talked about the different layers of the rainforest including the emergent layer, canopy, understory and forest floor. The children have drawn a picture showing these different layers in their home school books this week. The talk topic for next week is 'Which layer of the rainforest would you like to live in and why?'



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 has been an eventful week and we have really enjoyed the hotter weather.

In Literacy we are busy putting together our little concertina book study on ‘Around the world in 80 days’. We have answered questions relating to the book and given our own opinions. This week had a grammar focus and we learnt about joining sentences with ‘and’ and ‘but’. We also spoke a lot about alternatives to those words. Hopefully we will use these strategies in our next piece of story writing. Guided reading was once again a highlight. The children really enjoy reading aloud and discussing what they are reading.

In Numeracy we have come to the end of our current unit on addition and subtraction strategies. We now know how to add and subtract by using the frog method and by adding the tens and units then combining the answer. We also had an opportunity to revise our skills in plotting on a graph. We are now moving on to measurement. I have set the class a task to invent a scale in next week’s design technology lesson.

In Science we very excitedly planted our beans into cotton wool. There was great excitement on Thursday when we all saw the first shoots extending from our beans. Some have grown very long (up to a centimetre) and some are smaller. We have started a little plant diary and will record the progress to keep.

In Topic, we plotted the places that Phileas Fogg visited on the map in our class display.

In Art we drew and coloured a train engine for our play. I am very impressed with the colour and brightness of these engines as well as the teamwork.

In PE we practiced our dribbling skills and having fun in the sun. We split into groups of 5 and worked together to hone these skills.



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had a dynamic activity to work on the use of ‘l’impératif’ and to put in practice how to ask someone to do something. We also sang and acted “ les yeux arc-en-ciel”(rainbow eyes) to go over vocabulary related to food and colours.

Tomorrow is International Day and I hope to see you all there for this very special day of the year.

The talk topic this week is: What is your favourite sport? Discuss it with your family.

Have a lovely weekend,

Valeria Vetter

year2teacher@telenet.be

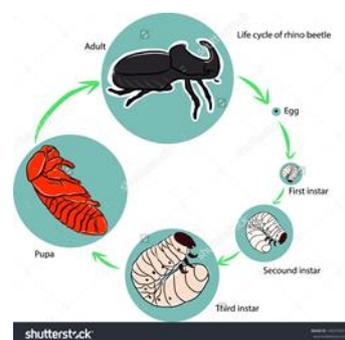
Please click [here](#) for our Year 2 webpage

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

Yet another week has flown past in Year 3, and, thanks to the glorious sunshine, we are at risk of being overtaken by our plants! The sweet peas are in need of a trellis support to help them to grow, and even the various seeds and fruit stones from snack time are beginning to germinate.

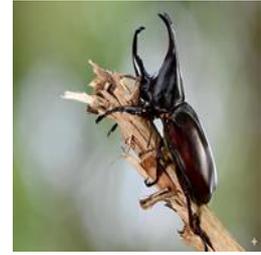
In maths we have been revising time and the interesting things that go with it, such as Roman numerals, the calendar, timetables and different ways of measuring time. We have also been estimating lapsed time and seeing who can get the closest to counting seconds. Some people's minutes definitely go much faster than others!



We had an enjoyable and exciting morning in the new computer suite, doing our first 'online' standardised tests in proper exam conditions. The computer skills on display were impressive, from following headphone instructions, to using the keyboard proficiently, and being able to navigate forwards and backwards through the tests to check information – and that's without even thinking about the actual content of the tests! The results were excellent and the children should be very proud of themselves. They wanted to go back and continue after lunch – let's hope the same confidence and enthusiasm continues throughout their academic careers!

In literacy, we have been looking at how an author uses language to describe characters and events. 'Beetle Boy' is a vivid, fast-paced story, and we can easily picture what is happening and how the characters feel. We have had interesting discussions on starting a new school, making friends, and feeling lonely, all based on the characters' experiences. We are getting very good at picking up clues in the text to help us identify the personalities and to understand how they interact with one another. We also have clear ideas about what we think will happen – at the moment science fiction seems to have the vote, with some amazingly inventive predictions of a world take-over by giant beetles. The book uses a lot of technical vocabulary to describe insects and the work of entomologists, which has led to discussion on how Latin terms are used for plant and animal species, and how these 'root' words appear in word families in other languages.

Last week's science homework generated some excellent work on plants and plant life cycles, so the children were keen to use the same skills to produce similar reports on beetles, and on the Rhinoceros beetle (the star of our book) in particular. Using iPads and reference books we are beginning to find out just how fascinating they are. Did you know that beetles are the largest group in the Animal kingdom, representing nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ of all animals, or that the rhinoceros beetle can lift 850 times its own body weight? We are trying to decide what we would have to lift to demonstrate the same strength. The habitat of the Rhinoceros beetle is the rainforest, so we are continuing to look at what makes the rainforest special, and at how deforestation poses a threat to the beetle population.



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on 'les contraires & les prépositions' using action verbs to describe a scene of people doing different things. We also sang and practiced the song 'les aventures de Robin des bois' to prepare for the school show in June.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked about Rippledawn and worked in our exercises books and focused on the possessives. We also started singing a song "les adventures de Robin des Bois" in French for the show.

In sport, we battled valiantly in the tropical heat against Year 6, losing gracefully but demonstrating much improved fielding skills. We have decided that our strength lies in our fantastic team work and our determination in the face of all odds. (There are some seriously competent cricketers in the Junior department!)

Our talk topic for this week is "Imagine you were a beetle - what would the world look like from your perspective?"

I'm looking forward to International Day on Saturday, there is certainly a lot of excitement about it in class! I hope to see you all there. Have a lovely weekend.

Jane Still

year3teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

Rippledawn was gone but not forgotten and the children still had a spring in their step and some perhaps walked that bit taller. No-one seemed to be suffering from tiredness - indeed even this week's heat didn't make us sleepy.

Surprising as, while Rippledawn was physically tiring, this week was a true academic challenge. The children had PIRA reading tests, a spelling test and a short writing task to contend with. In Numeracy, there were also 3 consecutive days of HTU x U so the class's multiplication was also put to the test.

Furthermore, we began charting a timeline of space travel across history.

But it wasn't all serious graft. Our lovely student teachers were let loose on Year 4 and came up with some lovely lessons in Literacy and Art. The work was very much focussed on nurturing creative and growth mindsets and the children happily got absorbed by the tasks set – working as a team, taking full ownership of their work and exploring avenues without confines. The responses were great and I was left impressed by everyone - both pupil and (trainee) teacher - wishing I had been just as confident when I first started teaching myself.

Also enjoyable was listening to BBC radio's Journey into Space from the 50's! The children's main aim in this term's Topic is to produce their own play script for such a radio programme. The story was advanced (& older than I am!) but to listen to a 30-minute audio transmission is something we're not used to doing these days (especially when so much media is visual) and the children found it quite tough to maintain the level of concentration necessary. Much more work on this Journey into Space is coming, however.



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on 'les contraires & les prépositions' using action verbs to describe a scene of people doing different things. We also sang and practiced the song 'les aventures de Robin des bois' to prepare for the school show in June.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked about Rippledawn and worked in our exercises books and focused on the possessives. We also started singing a song "les adventures de Robin des Bois" in French for the show.

Next week, we could become the Junior School Fifteen15 Cricket Champions with a trophy to boot. In the meantime, five children in the class have taken part in the International Schools Netball and Football Tournament today. And on a final note, last weekend Shivang became the 2nd best problem-solver in Belgium in the FFJM finals held in Southern Belgium which was truly astonishing! Outstanding.

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,

What a week at Rippledawn! I am sure that you have read the blog and seen the photographs... Notwithstanding being kept awake at night, the after-light antics and Treetops dormitory boys needing to vacuum their carpet after 36 hours, the Year 6 pupils were terrific and great fun to be with. Each pupil has written a thank-you letter either to our guide at Chatham Dockyard or the staff at Rippledawn House, to thank them for making our visit so memorable; these letters will be sent next week.



Unsurprisingly, it was a slow start to the week, as everyone was still coping with the tiredness of our expedition. Nevertheless, we continued with our revision boot-camp focusing on SPaG and maths. On Thursday, the children sat their English SAT examination; their next exam, maths, is scheduled for Tuesday. The mock GCSE Foundation maths test will take place immediately after half-term.

The pupils have enjoyed being taught by our student teachers, who are in the final week of their placements. Lessons included creative writing using music and art, a book challenge to design an advertisement about the content and an art workshop about feelings.

The Titanic has struck the iceberg and Captain Smith has informed the Marconi wireless operators to send out an SOS. This week we studied Morse Code and have learnt the letters T, E, I, M, A and number 5 by heart. The Year 6 wireless operators then coded and decoded messages. Imagining that Captain Smith had ordered them to send a signal, they each wrote an 'official' Marconi telegram using Morse Code. We have finished studying the Board of Trade's enquiry into the disaster and the students will be writing their own analysis of the tragedy.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked and wrote about Rippledawn using the passé composé. We also studied modal verbs like vouloir, pouvoir and devoir. In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on 'the use of 'avoir & être' (to have & to be), with a particular focus on the 'exceptions' used with 'avoir' and certain expressions. We followed up with practical activities and mini-dialogues. We also sang and practiced the song 'les aventures de Robin des bois' to prepare for the school show in June.

Thank you for providing hair samples for our hair and fibre analysis in science this week, the scientists assure me that all hair was willingly provided!

I am looking forward to the International Sports Competition on Friday, which most of the Year 6 pupils are participating in.

Have a relaxing weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter

year6teacher@telenet.be

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

In EAL this week

Dear Parents,

Our EAL sessions this week have focused on the language needed to talk about our natural environment.

The Reception EAL group spent some time talking about plants: what a plant is, different kinds of plants, parts of a plants, and why we and other animals need plants. The children were able to make connections between our discussions and their study of minibeasts (in class). They especially practised explaining the stages in the life cycle of plants and of minibeasts, in the right sequence, and using the connective word 'then'.

The Year One and Two EAL group looked at maps of the world in an atlas. This sparked much lively discussion about different countries that we know, with the children spontaneously forming questions to ask each other, for example, is it always cold in Denmark? and 'Have you seen tigers in India'? Good observations were also made, including that most rivers seem to start in the mountains and finish in the sea. These discussions gave good opportunities to practise the vocabulary of landscapes and the environment.

The children are making very good progress in English. Please don't forget: research into language acquisition tells us that it is very important for children to grow up in a home environment that is full of fluent, rich conversation, in which they can express themselves fully, in their home language. Please prioritize speaking in your home language with your child, encouraging him/her to tell you about the school day and what s/he has been thinking about. This will support her/his English language development.

Please contact me if you would like to meet.

I wish you all a happy weekend.

Kate Read
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