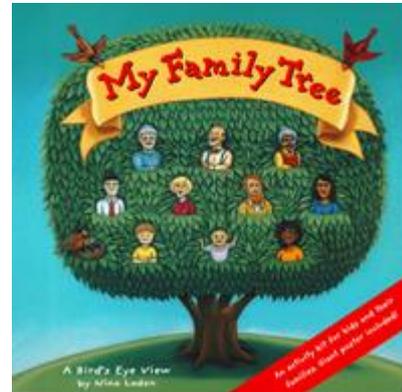


Home School Books – 22 September 2016.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Our topic work on 'Myself and My Family' has really taken off this week. The 'all about me' booklets that most of you have returned were just delightful and we have enjoyed looking through them with the children during circle time. They really like to hear about themselves and other children, the family page was lovely and most importantly it was something you and your child did together. Some parents have requested it to be sent home again to add drawings, photographs etc. Please don't forget to send it back in next week in the folder.



Can we also remind you to keep everything together in the plastic folder, the home-school book and library book should not be sent in to nursery separately, as we will soon lose track of who returned their library book if we don't mark it back in to the system. Also, if your child is absent on a Friday, then you will not receive their folder until the following Friday, unless you have requested someone else to take it home for you.

To extend the discussion on my family, you can see on the opposite page the end result of this week's language activity. The children worked either on an individual basis or in small groups, with the teacher, to talk about their family and who lives in their house with them. They then choose the template that represented each family member and coloured it in.

Remember it is the process that happens during the activity that is important and not the end result. Every child is unique in how they draw or colour in etc. and some children can draw recognisable figures before others. So don't worry if your child has not reached that stage yet; they will in their own time.

We just want to reassure parents regarding the sand play in nursery. This is an essential material we use as part of the curriculum and covers areas such as; science, eye hand coordination, maths, language, social development and a whole host of skills. The sand we use is non-toxic, non-dust generating and very safe, even if it finds its way into our mouths! Some children have not experienced playing with sand before and are just learning the rules about keeping it in the sand tray and not covering themselves and others in it! So please bear with us, especially if they come home with a sandy head, it will wash or brush out and will shake out of clothes without too much trouble!

The weather has been rather good this week, so we have tried to get out and do some large equipment play every day. Some children have already mastered how to ride the scooters and others are trying very hard to pedal the tricycles. We are working on turn

taking and sharing; this is not an easy concept for three and four year olds! We have discovered that everyone knows the word 'mine'!

Just a quick reminder, all of the children are settled and happy on the playground in the mornings now, so please just drop your child off with the member of staff on duty, say bye-bye and then leave. If you hang around in the corridor this will make it difficult for other children to go in and out and it will also unsettle your child if they see you are still there. Thank you for your understanding.

Our talk topic this week is “What is your favourite activity/toy in nursery?”

Have a lovely weekend, enjoying the autumn sunshine.

Thank you

Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove

nurseryteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

“Walking in the jungle, walking in the jungle. We’re not afraid, we’re not afraid!”

We have enjoyed a great week learning all about jungles and jungle animals. We’ve enjoyed singing and acting out the song ‘Walking in the jungle’

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GoSq-yZcJ-4>) where we have looked at toucan birds and even made our own using paper plates. The children are showing an increasing understanding of the vocabulary such as ‘habitat’ and looking at how different animals live in different habitats.



We have continued our phonics program by learning the sounds /t/ as in tiger and /p/ as in pirate. We have spent the week practising these sounds, and their letter formation. The children have also been working hard on writing their names in lower case. We have also begun blending the sounds we have learned to read words. For example, s/a/t – sat and t/a/p – tap.

In maths this week we have been working on repeating patterns. The children are very good at completing patterns and have been working hard throughout the week on creating their own repeating patterns using a range of different objects, shapes and colours. For example, they used autumnal conkers, acorns and leaves to create their own patterns as well as potato printing!

As the ‘Our World’ topic visits different habitats around the world we would like to make a large igloo using recycled plastic milk/juice bottles by the time we reach our ice caps week. Therefore, we would really appreciate it if, for the coming weeks, you

could bring in any clean, empty plastic bottles (clear or white only, please) you have at home for use in our whole class igloo. Feel free to keep them coming, we need as many of them as we can!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still singing the “Comment ça va ?” song in which there are various answers : “ça va bien, très bien, comme ci comme ça, mal”. We are also counting and we now know six colours with the help of Boowa and Kwala “bleu, rouge, jaune, orange, vert, violet”.

Talk topic for Monday will be responding to the following ‘If you could live in any habitat where would it be? Why?’ For example, I’d live in a desert so I could make sandcastles.

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Irakoze and Patrick Tranter

receptionteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

This week we’ve been inspired by the sea in our topic work on water. We did an ambitious art project where we have made our own seascape collages inspired by the painter JMW Turner. This has involved quite a few processes. First we looked at his paintings and discussed the colours he used and how rough the waves looked. Then we added interest and texture to the paper with paint and wax crayons. Next we tore the paper into strips to make waves. We then glued the waves onto our paper to make the sea. Then we used paper to make boats and put them on the waves. This work will soon be on display in the classroom.



This week in Literacy we revised more of the single letter sounds - r, l, ll, m, g. Also we read the story ‘By the Stream’ together and the children wrote what the main characters said in the story. You can see their efforts in their home school books this week. We have also talked about using capital letters for names and the word I in our grammar lesson. We practised writing our names and the names of other children in the class starting with a capital letter.

In maths we started to learn doubles up to double 6 through practical activities and a super song called ‘Mr Double Trouble’ who makes every mistake twice! We also practised counting on and counting back, one more and one less than numbers to 20. In science we investigated a question ‘Do people with bigger hands have bigger feet?’ by measuring and comparing the length of our own hands and feet. We found out that this wasn’t always true as the person with the biggest hands in the class did not also have the biggest feet.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still singing all the songs we know to say hello and to ask “Comment ça va ?” But we are also revising/learning colours and names of animals because in our story, Tourloub Blanc is now in the country of colours and meets various animals.

Thank you to everyone who has already sent in a picture of their child when they were a baby for our science project. We will be discussing these photos very soon so if you haven't yet sent one in you can send in a photograph and I will copy it for our work or you can send one in electronically to the year one teacher's email address at the end of this letter. I hope that everyone has been able to access the first maths homework game on the website www.activeprimary.co.uk. The new homework game 'Rainy Daze' is available now. If you have any problems with accessing this do please let us know.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Ivana Julaton

Year1teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

We have been lucky with the weather this week but please note that the children still need to bring a waterproof coat to school every day.

In Literacy we finally were able to have our first spelling lists. These lists are phonic based and I have given 3 extra words. They seem long and difficult but can be broken up in order to spell them more easily. However, if your child is battling with them, don't worry as it is a way of them learning new words. We are also still working on our – ai sounds and capital letters and full stops. We all created an autumn sensory poem for our stairs display and discussed the harvest. On Friday we tried our hands at a 'roll the dice' story that you can see in the home school book.

In Numeracy we moved on to learning how the bonds up to 10 help us to add and subtract larger numbers. We have even been adding across the 10 using bonds to help us. It has been fun working in our workbooks and on white boards.

In Topic we discovered how we know about events that happened in the past; we learned that we can look at paintings and diaries as well as eye witness accounts and artefacts. We also learned about smoke breaks for protection from the Great Fire of London and that some people even buried things to keep them safe from the fire.

In Science we have begun an experiment with beans. We have a bean in the fridge (to see the effects of warmth), a bean in the cupboard (to see the effects of light) and one in front of the window. To date the one near the window has swelled up and begun to sprout a root. We also learnt how plants make food via photosynthesis.

In Art we completed our harvest baskets. We coloured and cut out vegetables and fruit to add into our baskets which we weaved last week.

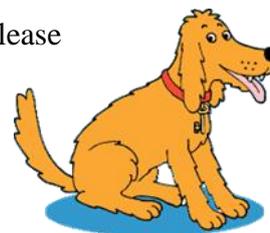
The weather was not ideal for outdoor PE so we did a dance unit with a Fire of London theme indoors. The class really loved doing this.

In Computing we did a coding unit on fairy tales then we logged on to activelearn to play our maths games.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on Qui es-tu? (Who are you?) . We organised a short and a funny scene in a group of two or three. They got to ring the door, meet their peers, ask and answer three questions and conclude with 'au revoir'. We also worked with four 'prépositions': sur, sous, derrière & devant through an interactive game - Où es-tu? Where we had to move around using: Je suis + the preposition.

For Swimming we still need one or two moms to volunteer to help. Please could you consult the list on the office door and see if you can assist? Thank you.

The non-swimmers went to the park and had such a lovely time that we have decided to take Floppy on a park adventure next week and we will use this experience to create a story.



On Wednesday we would like to make a fruit salad. I would like each child to bring a portion of fruit to school on Wednesday so we can mix it all together and create a lesson on instructions.

The talk topic this week is: Why are the world's rainforests so important?

Valeria Vetter

year2teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

What a week - volcanic eruptions and a visit to the park!

As this was our first science experiment, we looked at working in groups, setting up equipment, following a method and measuring accurately. We talked about safety rules and made sure they were respected. As the volcano models are so superb, we wanted to create a spectacular eruption, but without destroying the models. We therefore calculated the magma 'mixture' carefully. It was fascinating to watch how

the lava flow differed, depending on the strength of the eruption and the physical shape of the model. We learnt about active and dormant states by adding more baking soda. We also carved the skin of a large orange to create a simple model of plate tectonics.

Armed with a much better idea of rocks and rock formations, we then headed off to the park - in the sunshine! In true detective style, we investigated different paving stones, looked at buildings and tried to decide whether the park bridges and 'furniture' were made of wood or stone. We also went Minpin hunting and found lots of the trees and plants illustrated in the book. We were even lucky enough to see a swan. It was a great morning and a pleasure to be out with such a responsible group. Many thanks to Srija's and Hithaishi's mum for coming with us.



It was time for tables in maths, with lots of games, quick-fire quizzes and number pattern identification in an attempt to reinforce rapid recall of number facts, rather than rote learning. We are getting there! We also worked on bar charts; collating data on our measurements to create our own charts, and on ordering and classifying numbers as bigger or smaller than a given number.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we listened to a few songs about greetings and about school material. We also worked on asking "qu'est-ce que c'est ?" and answered the question by using "c'est un / une ...". We revised the alphabet to be able to spell our names and all others words.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about la Rentrée & les fournitures scolaires (Back to School) using Avoir and Avoir besoin (to have and to need).

We also worked with four 'prépositions': sur, sous, derrière & devant through an interactive game - Où es-tu? Where we had to move around using : Je suis + the preposition. We introduced and sang a beautiful song on the topic of la rentrée.

It is great to see the children reading so enthusiastically. In addition to their reading scheme books they may also bring home classroom books that can seem difficult. However, they are well on their way to becoming extremely competent readers, so please do take up the challenge with them – enjoy the parts they can read, and help them with the words they can't!

Our talk topic for this week is: What interesting things can I see around me when I look really carefully?

Have a lovely weekend,

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

year3teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

This week we were highly creative in Year 4. On Tuesday, we did extensive writing using the iPads and using Showbie (a virtual in and out tray) properly for the first time.

Describing settings with powerful language was the goal and every child demonstrated a fine imagination. This year is looking very promising academically, especially in composition.

The afternoon was spent drawing up building plans for the ground and 3rd floor. The children have great spatial awareness and they had no trouble with this (not usually the case when I do this activity). Mapping the rooms was fairly straightforward but adding doors and the direction of their opening proved more challenging. And what about those rooms/cupboards that we don't normally notice?

The next day, we set about constructing our Tudor Homes once we had researched their features. 16th century 'wattle and daub' walls (using animal waste as mortar) raised some eyebrows but the children couldn't wait to get cracking. Thank you for the shoe boxes which have come in.



In Maths, we covered key concepts such as comparing numbers using the greater than and less than signs, placing numbers on a number line and using cunning strategies to add numbers (TU + TU + TU).

In Science, we watched electrical safety videos (from my childhood; they were the best!) and learnt about where electricity comes from and how it is made safer. This involved comparing class circuits with the National Grid and culminated in the children filming their own information videos. Every year, the children love doing this and this year's recordings were really good although one group appeared to use judo as a medium to persuade people rather than mere warnings. Quote of the films was: 'If you touch live wires, it can kill you or cause certain death'

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about la Rentrée & les fournitures scolaires (Back to School) using 'Avoir and Avoir besoin' (to have and to need).

As an exercise, we created a fun and an interactive scene "à la librairie" (at the bookstore) where they needed to go in order to shop and buy their school materials. The objective of the exercise was to come up with 3 concrete questions and three answers through the vocabulary and the exercises that we have been practicing together.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched a movie about a dog, we read fact sheets about wolves and giraffes to help us prepare our animal presentations and we also revised the various means of transportation. In grammar, we conjugated the verb "aller". We also "played" the journalist game and interviewed each other.

Some of the children are not regularly changing their stage reader books. You may be aware of this and I'm aware of this but the net will start to tighten and the children have been warned. They are now Year 4's and are being given much more

responsibility to organise their own reading but reading is over and above the most important thing that we do at school. Together we must keep it 'ticking over'. The alternative is much slower progress and even being left behind.

And that was our week.

best wishes

Tim Stedman and Ena Tolentino

year4teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

I am delighted, that despite the date of the sleepover at the Atomium clashing with the Diwali festival, nearly all the students are participating in this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Thank you for making alternative arrangements to celebrate Diwali. The children have been given a 'kit list' (which is on Edmodo) including 'Top Secret' items that they may bring. Next Wednesday we shall be visiting the EU 'Science is Wonderful' exhibition in Brussels.

Sport or reading 'The Falcon's Malteser'? This proved to be a difficult decision, but as we are almost half-way through the book and the sun was shining, sport won the argument and we went outside for a game of football rounders. The children also practised their hockey skills on Wednesday.

The students have been given their Year 5/6 'Book Club' reading books. Our first meeting will be on Monday 2nd October when they will be expected to demonstrate a thorough knowledge of plot and characters. In SPaG, we have studied the FANBOYS coordinating conjunctions.

Maths this week has been a combination of negative numbers and long division including decimals. This can be a challenging concept to grasp, however with the help of the GUZINTA method, I am convinced that all pupils will succeed! I have included a Khan Academy video to support the children with their homework – please check the Edmodo weekly support folder.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about la Rentrée & les fournitures scolaires (Back to School) using 'Avoir and Avoir besoin' (to have and to need).

As an exercise, we created a fun and an interactive scene "à la librairie" (at the bookstore) where they needed to go in order to shop and buy their school materials. The objective of the exercise was to come up with 3 concrete questions and three answers through the vocabulary and the exercises that we have been practicing together.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched a movie about a dog, we read fact sheets about wolves and giraffes to help us prepare our animal presentations and we also revised the various means of transportation. In grammar, we conjugated the verb “aller”. We also “played” the journalist game and interviewed each other.

Also on Edmodo you will find photographs of our salt crystal experiment; the students are recording their findings in their science log books as well taking photographs using our digital microscope. They are now in the process of compiling a blueprint of the anatomy of a diamond and famous diamond cuts.



Wishing you all an Indian Summer of a weekend...

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

year6teacher@telenet.be

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

EAL

This week, in our EAL sessions in the Junior Department, we continued to look at the past, present and future tenses, and at nouns, adjectives and verbs. We are practising using the right word order in sentences, as well as changing sentences, by adding adjectives, changing the tense of the verb, and adding time clauses (e.g. 50 years ago...) The children each have a calendar of the school year in their EAL folder, and we are marking important upcoming events on the calendar. This week, we practised the months of the year, and ordinal numbers, leading to an interesting quick listening game, with questions such as What is the 4th letter of the 8th month? Please remind your child to keep his or her reading book in her bag. Thanks.

In the Reception EAL group this week, we talked about jungles, going over some of the vocabulary they are hearing in class. We read about a walk in the jungle, and remembered which animals live there. We also played a listening lotto game, involving everyday activities, with the aim of developing some useful everyday vocabulary.



In the Year 1 and 2 EAL group this week, we talked a lot about the Year 1 topic of Water, revising some important words connected with water, and reading the story of Mr Gumpy’s Outing, in which animals go for a boat ride with Mr Gumpy. The children very much enjoyed acting the parts of the animals and asking for a ride on the boat.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

With thanks and best regards,

Kate Read

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