

Home School Books –06 October 2017.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Watch out the finger family are about! The nursery finger family consist of, Tommy thumb, Peter pointer, Toby tall, Ruby ring and baby small! If you look opposite you will see them all singing. The children had great fun making the hand print and drawing the faces on each finger. We then practised the song during rhyme time and next week we will have a look at what the finger family are called in other languages around the world.

This week we have also spent time looking at our numbers from 1 - 10, many children can count by rote but find it tricky identifying numbers and placing real objects into groups. You can help your child to practise this at home for example, when you set the table for supper ask them to count how many bowls, cups, spoons etc. Or while walking home, count how many red cars, yellow buses etc. you can spot. This is not only great for number work but it is also good for extending their conversational English.

We have also tried very hard this week to practise our cutting out skills; this is just the beginning of something your little one will have to continue throughout nursery. Perfecting the art of holding and using scissors the correct way is something that needs to be done on a regular basis. At the moment we don't have scissors as free choice use in our creative areas but we will introduce them in the next few weeks. If you wish to help your child at home in this important skill, take a look at the following, which has some useful tips on what and what not to do:



The proper scissors grip requires a child to twist his hand from the palm-down position so that his / her thumb faces upward and her / his pinkie finger points at the floor, like (s)he's getting ready to shake someone's hand. As if that position wasn't unfamiliar enough for a child, (s)he then needs to spread their thumb and pointer finger as far apart as possible to make the blades of the scissors open.

Due to the complexity of the correct scissors grip, it is common for young children to hold and try to use scissors incorrectly.

While cutting, your child will also need to learn how to use the non-dominant hand to hold the paper. Initially the non-dominant hand will just need to hold the paper still as the dominant hand moves the scissors forward in a straight line. Eventually, though, the non-dominant hand will need to move and turn the paper as the dominant hand opens and closes the scissor blades.

Tips for teaching your child the proper scissors grip

Most children become interested in scissors around age two and a half or three. When your child first shows an interest in using scissors, here are a few tips that are recommended to help him/her quickly master the proper scissors grip.

- Let your child just practice holding the scissors without the stress of being expected to cut anything. Getting your child to hold the scissors the right way each time she/he picks them up is a challenge in and of itself, so encourage him/her to pick them up then put them down as many times as he wants.
- Show your child how (s)he needs to spread the index finger and thumb as wide as possible to open the blades of the scissors and then how he/she needs to close his/her fingers to close the blades of the scissors. Explain that the wider he/she opens his/her fingers, the longer his/her cuts will be.
- Don't go too far away. I realize that most parents likely won't leave their child unattended with scissors at the risk of the child giving themselves or a sibling an impromptu haircut. But you should also stay nearby so you can continue giving your child verbal clues such as "Now open your fingers really wide" or "Turn the paper with your left hand so you can cut out that circle." Without these supportive comments, until your child is comfortable with the correct scissors grip, he/she may revert to an incorrect grip (or to use both hands to open and close the blades of the scissors by putting one hand on each handle). These incorrect approaches will likely produce a snip in the paper, but they are inefficient and imprecise.

You can buy small child friendly scissors at any good stationary shop; remember they only have little fingers, so large scissors are not safe or efficient.

Our talk topic for discussion next week is ' What is a telescope used for?'

Hope to see you at our walk in the woods adventure on Sunday, look at the newsletter e mail for more details on this.

Until next week, wrap up warm it's getting chilly!

Thank you

Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This week we have enjoyed looking at mountain climbers, both human and animals. We watched a documentary showing the expert ibex and mountain goats climbing steep mountain faces. You can ask your child what purpose the mountain goats horns give as we have talked lots about what makes these animals such skilled climbers. We have spent the week using newspaper and lots of glue to create our own class papier maché mountains. We have currently applied two layers and will try and paint them next week.



We have learnt the new sounds /m/ as in mountain, /d/ as in dinosaur and /g/ as in girl. The children are blending sounds regularly during the week and are showing increasing understanding of how this is done in order to read. We have continued to practise the correct letter formation which the children are beginning to show independently when writing the sounds.

In maths this week we have been looking at both positional language and the days of the week. The children are good at placing objects on, in or under and are working hard at behind, in front of and in between. We have been listening to the days of the week song (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tx0rvuXIRg>) and sang it multiple times throughout the week to help us when working out questions such as 'if today is...then tomorrow will be...and yesterday was...'

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are able to count up to ten and we know more colours. We have coloured the French and Belgian flags and looked at other flags too to describe the colours. We continue singing all our songs and I can feel that the children slowly feel more at ease with this new language. We also started our new topics : autumn and the weather.

On Thursday 12th October we have the opportunity to visit a park to explore the effects of the changing seasons and the signs of autumn. Please find the letter in your child's home school book for more information. We will need three parent helpers who are happy to come along with us to the park so we have the correct child adult ratio. If you are available and would like to attend this outing please let one of the teachers in Reception know and we will keep a note of your name. Please be aware this is on a first come first serve basis.

Talk topic for Monday will be responding to the following 'If you were an astronaut in space what would you see?'

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Irakoze and Patrick Tranter
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Please click [here](#) for our Reception webpage

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

This week we enjoyed discussing how we've changed since we were a baby and we were surprised at just all of the things that we can do now that we couldn't do before like walking, talking, feeding ourselves, running and jumping and how we've grown bigger and stronger in every way. We have a gallery in our classroom of baby photos and photos of how we look now. If you haven't yet given us a photo of your child when they were a baby you still can and we will add it to the ones we have.



This week in Literacy we read a story called ‘Nobody wanted to play’ where a boy called Wilf went on different things in the playground and imagined he was doing all sorts of exciting things such as going into space and being a cowboy. The children wrote a list of the things he played on in the park using their sounds and then we wrote about a trip we went on to the park. We continued to revise all of the single letter sounds from phase 2 of letters and sounds in our phonics lessons and in grammar we talked about using capital letters for the start of days of the week.

In maths we practised estimating quantities and counting objects by grouping them into sets of 5 and 10. We revised doubles up to $6 + 6$ and the pairs of numbers that make 10 when added together. We also practised comparing and ordering numbers and saying which number in a set is the smallest and the largest. We made our own repeating patterns with shapes which are in the home school books this week.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still singing all the songs we know to say hello and to ask “Comment ça va ?” This makes the new children feel very much at ease with French. We have learnt a new song about colours “Léo le caméléon” and have created a memory game with animal pictures which the children can play at home. We also created another memory game with the 11 colours we know.

Thank you to everyone who has already sent back the letter about coming to the park on Tuesday. Please send this back soon if you have not already done so. Also if anyone is available to come along with us to help please let us know. We will be out of school from 11.00 until approximately 12.45. As the weather is getting colder please also ensure that your child brings a warm, waterproof coat to school. The new homework game ‘Reel It In’ is available now. If you have any problems with accessing this please let us know.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Camilla Rutayisire and Ivana Julaton

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

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

For the most part we have been able to go outside and play as per usual. However the weather is very changeable so it is good for the children to be prepared by bringing a warm, waterproof coat to school every day.

In Literacy we have continued with our Room on the Broom activities. We have retold the story and, on Thursday, wrote a class play script and did some ordering exercises. We finished our poster on the /ee/ sounds. We have since moved on to the

/ie/, /igh/ and /i-e/ sounds. We practised our handwriting in the form of joining up at, ad, ab, all.

On Tuesday the non-swimming group created a book on Floppy's Park Adventure. It has come out so well. I will send the book home with each child in that group so they can show and tell you what they did. If any of the others would like to take it home, they definitely can as well. I plan on doing something similar with the next group as well.

In Numeracy we have moved on from 2D shapes and symmetry and have been concentrating on more/less and 10 more / 10 less. We have revised the signs < and >. We have counted in ones, changed direction and counted in tens, both forwards and backwards. We have worked with our 100 charts and practiced finding 10 more and 10 less on the chart.

In Topic we went back in time with Magic Grandad to see how Samuel Pepys lived and how he experienced the fire. You can watch this recording on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VarSSAwimU> ; it was such fun to see how he lived, dressed and buried his treasures. We also found out that he was lucky in that the fire stopped a street from his house.

In Art we had a lot of fun making our puppets for our Room on the Broom activities. We had the pictures on the board to copy but the children generally did their own drawings. The puppets look very cute and I can't wait for the dramatizations next week.

In PE we moved hula hoops from person to person and tried to hula hoop ourselves. Most children tried although only a few are good at it. More practice is necessary. Swimming went very well again. If you are able to, please sign up to help at one of the swimming lessons.

In Science, we began our individual food pyramids but have decided to make a class one. It is on the wall and we will be filling it next week. Our bean experiment failed, sadly. We have therefore redone it using soil now. We also planted more beans in the hope that at least one will germinate.



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed greetings and introductions, *bonjour!* *comment tu t'appelles?* *Comment ça va?* *J'aime les couleurs* (my favourite colour), numbers from 0 to 25, *Quel âge as-tu ?* (How old are you?) and *mon animal préféré*. We used all this information to create, draw, color and describe In French our personal passport for la Rentrée.

Library is on Thursday and thank you for sending in your child's books to change. Our talk topic this week is: Why are books important? Which is your favourite book?

Don't forget the Walk in the woods on Sunday. Have a lovely weekend.

Regards,
Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

In preparation for Space week, we began the week with a special set of Space spellings and checked their definitions. The spelling tests have been very impressive this term – many thanks for encouraging the children to learn the words, it makes a big difference to their writing and to their vocabulary.

We have done a lot of group work this week, in maths, science, literacy and in topic. This is a useful way of improving listening and discussion skills, and develops the children's ability to work as a team, encouraging everyone to participate and bringing together collective ideas to produce really interesting pieces of work.

In literacy we started our volcano stories to go with our group models, deciding on the characters and time frame for the story. We have also enjoyed two more chapters in Erik's saga – meeting the Enchantress and the Sea dragon. This vivid writing gave us plenty of ideas for our collective art work to create a Viking frieze – so far, we have a fleet of impressive Viking ships, an amazing seascape and some spectacular monsters! We used mixed media, including paints, pastels, crayons and felt pens to create a rich variety of pictures. (If anyone has any old shirts that could be used as painting aprons, they would be much appreciated!)



In Science we looked at the three different types of rock and, with a focus on research skills, used iPads to investigate these rock types and geological formations. In topic we studied specific texts and diagrams from books to compare different information on Viking ships. We discussed how to identify key information and made mind map charts to record our findings.

In maths we worked on halving and doubling numbers and on place value. We also revised the months of the year and started work on calendar challenges.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we introduced ourselves and asked “Quel âge as-tu?” which gave us the opportunity to revise counting up to 50. We wrote down numbers up to 20 in our notebooks and worked in our ZigZag exercises books. We also started our very own French space week and talked about the solar system.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started talking about les planètes et le système solaire in preparation for Space week and we sang a fun song “Bonjour les planètes”. We also went over la Rentrée & les fournitures scolaires (Back to School) in order to create a personal passport where they could draw, color and describe their favourite colours, animals, days, age, present themselves and what they have and need for school and their French class.

Our talk topic for this week is: If you went on a Space Mission, what special possession would you take with you, and why?

Enjoy a peaceful weekend,

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

This week the children learnt a lot; lots of new concepts and lots of new terms. In Literacy, using brilliant texts from Peter Pan and Tom's Midnight Garden, they were introduced to words like personification and simile. Reading groups discovered new and rich vocabulary.

We focused on paragraphs and dialogue and how to use speech marks accurately. Excellent practice!

In Numeracy, key methods were learnt. Mastering the 9x table was followed by the crucial grid method for multiplication: crucial not for the skill of using them but rather the fact that they give a solid, basic understanding of multiplying larger numbers and that they occur in nearly every test the children will do this year. Last year, the number of children who became unstuck because they did not fully grasp the method was notable.

In Science, we changed history again by introducing electricity into our Tudor homes. The aim was to see what happens when you increase the number of batteries (the voltage) in a circuit. Cue whoops of joy again as the homes lit up and lit up the classroom - in some cases very brightly! There were no explosions as the class had predicted, however.

Today was 'Planets in the Park' (the opening ceremony of BISB Space Week) and off we went to chart and map the solar system. Our part of the Milky Way is quite large so this was an exercise in scaling, measuring and following a bearing. Plenty of maths, therefore, and skills like ordering, dividing by 10/1000, comparing and understanding mass, using a compass and a tape measure. Outdoors, running about, using maths and navigating and realising how incredibly small we, and our Earth, are - a fantastic Friday!!!



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started talking about les planètes et le système solaire in preparation for Space week and we sang a fun song "Bonjour les planètes". We worked with Zig Zag and we did three oral comprehension activities. We also reviewed la Rentrée & les fournitures scolaires (Back to School & school materials) in order to prepare, draw, color and write the sketch for la Rentrée & à la librairie"

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we worked in our ZigZag exercises books and did some revisions. In grammar, we revised “être” and “avoir” and we also worked on which prepositions to use with country names and cities : “Je vais à Paris; je vais en France; je vais au Portugal”. We also talked about Europe and the European Union and nationalities. We also worked on our animal presentation and were very lucky to visit the local French library Thomas Owen on chaussée de Rodebeek.

Hit of the week, however, was art and computing when the children had the task of creating a 6-photo storyboard. Draw the comic strip first, take the 6 photos around school with your classmates and then create a Keynote (PowerPoint) presentation with dialogue and narration boxes. The class adored this and it created much excitement. The school’s drama swords were much in demand as was me in shots looking stern at children or acting as Elvis Presley?!?

And that was our week.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman and Ena Tolentino
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 4 webpage

Home School Book – Year 6

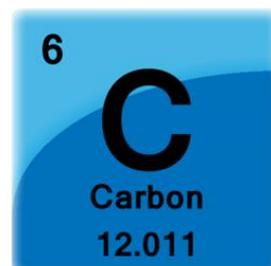
Dear Parents,

I can confirm that our outing to visit the Antwerp Diamond Centre will be on Tuesday 14th November. Children will need to arrive at Gare Central by 07.40; would you please be so kind as to begin to make the necessary arrangements for your child to be there on time on that day? Details will be sent out within the next week. Also, would you please check that your child has all the necessary ‘kit’ for our night in the Atomium on Thursday, 19th October?

It has been a tough week fighting ferocious fractions but we are winning! Students have covered a range of topics including: equivalent, mixed number, vulgar and ordering fractions. Some pupils are now working on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of fractions.

In SPaG, (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) we looked at homophones and fronted adverbials. Students are now preparing for their first writing task. Together, we compiled a list of techniques that we have studied, which should be used as a reference point for independent essay preparation. This week we learnt about the use of signposting for paragraph cohesion.

We studied the element carbon in our science lesson. After learning about atoms, protons, neutrons and electrons, the



children constructed a model of the carbon atom using paper plates and coloured balls. These are on display in our classroom. The Year 6 pupils wrote a computer programme to draw a carbon atom using JavaScript on Khan Academy.

In computing, we enjoyed our second Excel tutorial; the children, for homework, are required to create a DVD lending library in their preferred currency.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started talking about les planètes et le système solaire in preparation for Space week and we sang a fun song “Bonjour les planètes”. We worked with Zig Zag and we did three oral comprehension activities. We also reviewed la Rentrée & les fournitures scolaires (Back to School & school materials) in order to prepare, draw, color and write the sketch for la Rentrée & à la librairie” In French with Mrs. Scharf, we worked in our ZigZag exercises books and did some revisions. In grammar, we revised “être” and “avoir” and we also worked on which prepositions to use with country names and cities : “Je vais à Paris; je vais en France; je vais au Portugal”.

We also talked about Europe and the European Union and nationalities. We also worked on our animal presentation and were very lucky to visit the local French library Thomas Owen on chaussée de Rodebeek.

We are looking forward to Space Week – our first adventure is Planets in the Park!

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend,

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

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

EAL

Dear Parents,

We have had fun this week in the Year One and Two EAL classes, reading the story “Nobody Wanted to Play” and practising the words and phrases we need to talk about playing in the park or playground. If you have time (and good enough weather) to go to a playground or park at the weekend, and/or to talk to your child about what they like to do in the playground, it would be very helpful. We also talked about our journeys to school, practising the vocabulary of transport and our environment.



The Reception EAL group this week read the story “We’re Going on a Bear Hunt”. We enjoyed talking about the family in the story, and how they are feeling, and then we wondered how the bear felt. We also talked about the different natural

environments they pass through (grass on a hill, a river, mud, a forest and snow on a mountain). The children can watch the author of the book, Michael Rosen, performing the story here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gyI6ykDwds>

In the Junior Department this week, we practised talking and writing using the past simple tense of common words, in the context of our weekend activities. I am pleased to see the children being aware of verb tenses, and beginning to use them. We also looked at a picture of a street scene, to learn and practise the vocabulary of a town environment. We listened to, and compared two songs: Singing in the Rain, which is here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIZYhVpdXbQ> and Raining in my Heart, which is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgr1mWjUENE>

We practised some mathematical language, especially the language relating to fractions, which all the children are currently studying in class. The children have borrowed some games to reinforce this language and their understanding of fractions. They might also like to look at this website : <https://www.mathsisfun.com/fractions-menu.html>

I wish you a very happy weekend.
Kate Read
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