

Home School Books – 13 October 2017.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Thank you to everyone who has faithfully brought in cardboard tubes for our telescope project; we now have lots plus some spares, well done!

The children have now painted their telescope and have been looking out for anything that caught their eye when looking through them. On the page opposite we have asked everyone to draw a picture of what they saw through their telescope. When you bring it back into nursery next week we will discuss everyone's findings in our circle time.



During maths activities this week, it has been all about shape and each child was asked to identify basic shapes around the classroom. We will continue with shape next week and do some more activities to help us remember that shapes can be found everywhere and in everything! When you are out and about this weekend or coming to school next week ask your child how many different shapes they can spot on their journey.

Next week is the last week for our topic work on myself and my family and we will finish off with looking at the different rooms we might find in someone's house. To link in with this, our talk topic the discussion next week is 'What is your favourite room in your house?' and why?"

Photograph day was a busy one on Wednesday but all of the nursery children who participated were super stars and no one cried this year! The photographs will not be ready for a little while but you should get them in plenty of time before we break for the Christmas holiday.

The nursery individual parent/teacher meetings will be on Wednesday October 25th. Next week you will receive your appointment time. Please remember we have a lot of parents to see, so please try and stick with the time you have been given. It will not be possible to accommodate everyone's personal time preference. The meeting will be a short 10 minutes to update you on how your little one has settled in so far. Your child can not come into the meeting with you, therefore there will be a garderie service provided for the duration of the meeting only, any time before or after the meeting will be charged. If both parents wish to attend that is fine but only one parent attending is also fine.

Until next week enjoy the unusually warm weather!

Thank you

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This week has seemed to rush by; a week full of new and different activities. We started the week celebrating space week, a week full of fun in one short day! We watched a video of a real rocket launch which the children enjoyed so much we watched multiple times in a row. The children made their own paper rockets launched by blowing through a straw.

On Thursday we had the opportunity to go across to the junior department to have photos taken with their astronaut suit. Year 5 and 6 came to collect us and walk us round to their building. We took astronaut photos, which you can see in their home school books, and finished off with a spectacular rocket show. Using a bottle, cork, baking soda, vinegar and food colouring, Mrs Tranter was able to demonstrate how a rocket launch happens. The children loved watching the bottle fly up high into the sky. On Friday we used these same ingredients, vinegar and baking soda, to create a volcanic eruption.



We have learnt the sounds /o/ as in orange and the two /c/k/ sounds this week. The children completed their first independent writing activity and showed a good recognition of all the sounds we have so far learnt this year and how to write them.

In maths we have continued to look at positional language. Throughout the week the children have done a range of practical activities to reinforce such vocabulary.

We had a wonderful morning on our autumnal walk on Thursday. We were blessed with sunshine and warmer weather. The children enjoyed collecting different autumnal objects which will be used for an autumn craft next week. There was also enough time at the end to have a play in the playground there – what fun! You can see the many photos from this week on the school website.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are fully absorbed by our new themes: autumn and weather. We sang a song about autumn and many others about the rain. We have also learnt some vocabulary concerning the weather and we talked about the fruit and vegetables of this season.

Talk topic for Monday will be discussing the question ‘what are the best clothes to wear for an ice caps expedition?’ Try to get your child to think not just about over clothes such as coats but also what could be worn underneath to keep them warm.

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,

We departed from our usual topic on water this week to focus on Autumn and the changing of the seasons. In spite of the transport difficulties most of us made it to the park on Tuesday where we collected autumn leaves in many different colours. We also had a go at making our own designs out of leaves, inspired by the work of the artist Andy Goldsworthy. We talked about the signs of autumn and we learned an autumn song called ‘Autumn leaves are falling down.’ We also painted our own autumn trees with colourful leaves on them. At the end of this fun week we did our own Autumn assembly for the whole infant department where we showed the other children our wonderful work and taught them our autumn song.



This week in Literacy we read a story called ‘A cat in the tree’. After reading and discussing the story we practised writing cvc words that rhyme with cat and reading simple sentences where we counted the capital letters and full stops. This week was the last week we spent revising the single letter sounds before we will move on next week to learning about double letters at the end of words. Also in literacy this week the children have done their first reading assessments of the year to check their progress. I was pleased to see the children doing their best to use their sounds and make sense of what they read.

In maths we completed our first assessment of the year for the first half term of topics and the children showed me all of what they have learned about 2D shapes, more and less, number bonds to 10 and doubles. We then moved on to learning about numbers being made up of tens and ones and making amounts of money with one 10 cent and several 1 cent coins.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been practising using prepositions like “devant, derrière, sur, sous, dans etc.” The children made another memory game to help them memorise them. We also talked about autumn and the weather.

Thank you to everyone who has already sent back their confirmation slip about parent’s evening on the 24th and 25th of October. If you have a problem with the time please come and see me so we can discuss it.

Also the new homework game ‘Excellent Estimating’ is available now.

Have a lovely weekend.

Camilla Rutayisire and Ivana Julaton

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

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy and productive week yet again. We have had a chance to shine and show what we have learned through the various tests we have done. We also survived a fire drill and Photograph day!

In Literacy we have been practising our little puppet plays based on the book 'Room on the Broom'. We have split into groups and been practising with our partners. It has been very hard for the children to keep the puppets facing the audience. I think we need more practice before we show the other classes what we have learnt. Our phonic focus this week has still been the /ie/ sounds.

On Thursday we baked again. This time we decided to make pumpkin muffins. We used this opportunity to revise fractions and more and less. We spoke about whether a cup was more or less than a $\frac{1}{4}$ cup. We also discussed how a $\frac{1}{2}$ cup is the same as 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups. We discussed the ingredients of the muffins and even loved the fact that the cinnamon container was empty! We smelled the various ingredients and spoke about how vanilla essence smells better than it tastes. Instructions were also a part of our lesson. The muffins were delicious and the recipe was sent home for you to try.



In Numeracy we spent the week doing tests and finally managed to begin work on ordinal numbers. Overall the test results are very pleasing and I am happy at the progress of the class as a whole.

For Topic we began work in our workbooks and we had a chance to discuss how news is spread today and how it was spread in the past.

In Science we are working on our class food pyramid. This is looking very good and we still need advertisements that have pictures of food.

In Art we made our wands, hats and bows to use in our plays. We also began work on a rainy day picture.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, every present student was so proud and happy to talk about and to describe In French their personal and colourful passport for la Rentrée. We also introduced 'la météo' (the weather forecast) in order to be ready to talk about the four seasons and the weather.

In PE we played class games and had fun together. We played I wrote a letter to my love which is a lovely running and chasing game.

In Computing we did some coding. The exercises showed the children how to change a balloon's colour and make it disappear totally. We then moved on to our active learn maths games.

Have a super weekend.

Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

What a week! The fun started with our ‘Planets in the Park’ adventure, as we set off, clipboards in hand and equipped with hoops, balls and a paddling pool, to plot out a scale model of the Solar system across the Cinquantenaire park. The gardeners were bemused, the joggers fascinated and the dogs determined to run off with essential planets, but the groups were engrossed in measuring and plotting out their calculations.

Mr Stedman did a fantastic job ensuring that the sun rose at one end of the park and that Pluto just about fitted inside the opposite gate, and most of us ended up within a reasonable range, so the maths worked well, even on a cosmic scale!

Year 3 have worked brilliantly in their Space groups this week. Earth, Moon and Rockets have been orbiting the Junior Department with enthusiasm, enjoying science experiments and spectacular rocket launches with Mrs Tranter, researching and creating cosmic constellations with Mr Stedman, and making large-scale rockets and satellites with Mrs King and myself, which will transform the hallway into an Intergalactic Gateway if I can get the glue to stick...

This type of activity requires the children to be independent and enterprising. They work with children across the department, which forges new friendships and gives them the opportunity to discover new ways of working. It is great to see how their confidence develops as they realise that they all have a positive contribution to make, despite being the youngest.

In Maths they have been working with Mrs King, our trainee teacher, on capacity and measuring. They also worked on a diary of a Viking explorer in Topic, and shared and wrote poems in Literacy.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked with Zig Zag and we did two fun oral comprehension activities. We also dedicated the week to talk in details about les planètes et le système solaire and to sing “Bonjour les planètes” for Space week. We started a project about the solar system in order to talk about the characteristics of each planet.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we dedicated our week talking about space and putting together a little leaflet containing facts and figures about the solar system. We also learnt a song containing most vocabulary related to space.

The music workshop on 'The Firebird' was very inspiring and we made the most of a beautiful day to walk through some lovely parts of Brussels. The fitness levels are improving!

Our talk topic for this week is: What have you most enjoyed about Space week, 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,

Space Week is now a fixed week of the year; the excitement it draws is palpable.

In their 3 groups, mixed across the junior school, the children embarked on three exciting workshops. Mrs Tranter's activity was where rocket boosters fed the energy levels quite literally as pops and bangs and flying projectiles whistled past the Year 4 window. Below in Mrs Still's classroom, astronomical engineering projects were left, right and centre. Children with me, meanwhile, orbited contently in relative peace and quiet zero gravity as we drew constellation maps of the heavens. To start, we learnt the names of six such celestial clusters and then set about our charts using paints, glitter pens and pastels. The juniors loved having to be creative and precise at the same time and quite enjoyed the Space film soundtracks that I played in the background.



Yesterday, we thoroughly enjoyed the performance of Stravinsky's Firebird at Flagey theatre. First, we walked there through the beautiful Abbey de le Cambre which was a nice prelude to the beauty of the music and dance in the show. The children sat entranced by the choreography of the firebird, the baritone of the hero, Ivan, and the powerful, emotive music. Our children sang the French lyrics they had to learn just as well as the local schools and were a great credit to us.

Earlier that day, we completed our Science Unit: Circuits and Conductors by doing a final experiment. How can you make the bulb brightness in a circuit change? We had some clear scientists in the class and we investigated around their understanding. Once again, we were aiming to use our Tudor House models but the children have become slightly fed up of the limits of 16th century houses. After all, Tudor houses

weren't designed for complex wiring and lighting so the class's splendid creations were left to one side. On the other hand, maybe Science is so cool that it takes precedence. Elsewhere we covered the crucial areas of punctuation, fractions and time.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we dedicated our week talking about space and putting together a little leaflet containing facts and figures about the solar system. The children used the books we borrowed from the library to collect simple information about the planets. We also learnt a song containing most vocabulary related to space. In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we dedicated the week to talk in details about les planètes et le système solaire for Space week. We started a project about the solar system, where they were getting ready to describe the characteristics of each planet. We followed up with an interactive and a fun quiz. We also sang 'Bonjour les planètes and we discussed the meaning and the vocabulary of the song.

A pivotal week of learning which we loved too.

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,

What an extraordinary week! Where shall I begin... rockets, Stravinsky's Firebird, NASA Marsbound: Mission to the Red Planet or learning how to construct circles?



We have just returned from Flagey, having spent an hour listening to (and participating with) the Brussel's Philharmonic Orchestra. It is an absolute joy seeing the look on the children's faces and hearing their gasps of delight, as they walk into the concert hall.

In Maths, our focus was mastering how to measure angles accurately and to recognise acute, obtuse and reflex angles. The students also enjoyed learning how to use a pair of compasses and practiced drawing circles and bisecting lines. They also studied parts of a circle: arc, minor and major segments, chord, diameter and radius. We analysed the relationship between the diameter and circumference.

The Year 5 & 6 NASA mission designers are in the process of planning a mission to the red planet that meets a balanced budget for mass, power and cost. The project must have a significant science return and, of course, make it safely to Mars!

The pupils are organised into groups for our space week activities, so whilst in the Year 5 & 6 classroom, they have been investigating rockets. The first task was to create a rocket mouse and launch it using an empty water bottle. The second rocket was a balloon attached to a straw which (with the aid of string) was sent across the classroom. We then had to go outside to fire the bottle rocket – which proved to be the best BISB rocket we have ever launched. Not only did one reach tree level, another crash-landed in next door's garden!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we dedicated our week talking about space and putting together a little leaflet containing facts and figures about the solar system. The children used the books we borrowed from the library to collect simple information about the planets. We also learnt a song containing most vocabulary related to space. In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we dedicated the week to talk in details about les planètes et le système solaire for Space week. We started a project about the solar system, where they were getting ready to describe the characteristics of each planet. We followed up with an interactive and a fun quiz. We also sang 'Bonjour les planètes and we discussed the meaning and the vocabulary of the song.

The excitement continues with our overnight stay in the Atomium next week.

Enjoy your weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

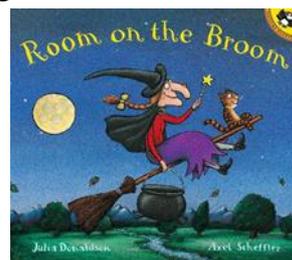
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 6 webpage

EAL

Dear Parents,

In the Year One and Two EAL classes this week, we have been using prepositions to describe positions, beginning with in and on and then working out that these two words are not enough, so we also need under, behind, next to. This vocabulary is best learnt through practical activities, and we have played games, inside and in the playground, to help understand the concepts involved. We read the story 'Room on the Broom', which Year 2 have been working on in class. We will continue to practise using prepositions next week, and it would help very much if you could make sure that your child can use prepositions in her or his home language.



The Reception EAL group this week also heard prepositions being used, in the context of rooms in a home. The children enjoyed looking at a picture of a family busy doing different activities at home, and wondering what they might do next. We also practised describing people, animals and things, using big, small, bigger and smaller. Next week, we will read the story Peace at Last, and will have some more opportunities to talk about objects and rooms in a home.

In the Junior Department, we practised using comparative adjectives (bigger, older etc.), carefully using the correct word order in sentences such as “Jupiter is bigger than Saturn” and noting the special cases better and worse, and more to make comparatives with 3 syllable adjectives. We also listened to some superlative adjectives (biggest, oldest),

As always, our EAL sessions give the children the chance to hear and to practise these specific language points, as well allowing them time to use language more spontaneously, in discussions.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

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