

Home School Books – 20 October 2017.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

This week the children have finished the last piece of work about 'myself and my family'. We concentrated on the home and what exactly we had inside of our homes in the various different rooms. We looked at a drawing on a big house divided into four different rooms, the living room, bathroom, bedroom and kitchen. Some children had different names for each room but we decided on the four common names.

Then each child was asked to choose which illustration went where; you will also see that pinned to the top of the page is a sheet of squares with a picture and a question in each square. This is for you to cut out and play with your child at home. It's a great English vocabulary activity, depending on your child's level of understanding of the language or you can ask the questions in your mother tongue.

On Thursday we also celebrated Diwali & Deepawali with lots of wonderful dancing in nursery and the children did an amazing performance putting in so much effort and energy! Unfortunately we didn't take any photographs because we were so busy having fun just doing it! We also looked at a PowerPoint on the smart board which told us in pictures all about Lakshmi, how everyone spring cleans the house and the wonderful gifts and food everyone prepares. Then of course we saw the beautiful candles and lamps to celebrate the Festival of Lights. The children also coloured in some Rangoli patterns and lamps to hang up in nursery; take a look around when you come in and see if you can find them.



Next week is Pumpkin week for the whole school, including nursery, more information on this will follow but in the meantime if you would like to bring in a decorated pumpkin or just an unusually shaped pumpkin for our pumpkin display, please do so on Monday.

Our talk topic for next week is, How do pumpkins grow? What do they need to help them?

Just a quick reminder, please remember to bring your child's folder back after each weekend, preferably on a Monday but by Tuesday at the latest. We start work on our home school books early in the week, as it takes time to complete work with each child individually.

Last, but not least, don't forget to return your parent/teacher Meeting form, to say if you will be attending the appointment next week or not.

Have a great weekend and enjoy the rest of this magnificent weather!

Thank you

Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove
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Please click [here](#) for our Nursery webpage

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

We have now completed our first topic of the Year, 'Our World'. Throughout the last few weeks we have covered a range of different habitats and landscapes. This week we have focussed on ice caps. We looked at the different animals that call these cold places home and how they are adapted to live in such cold climates. We completed two topic related experiments, a blubber experiment and an ice exploration experiment. The children learnt what blubber is and how important it is for animals such as walruses and whales to keep warm in the water. We used icy water and oily gloves to help us understand how it works. The children also had the opportunity to explore ice balloons, observing the effect of adding different substances (e.g. salt, baking soda).

We have learnt the sounds /u/ as in umbrella, /b/ as in boot and /f/ as in flower in phonics this week. We've been working on recognising the difference between a /b/ and a /d/ and remembering that although they look similar their letter formation, where you start and finish, is very different.

In maths we have started looking at addition. We have discussed the addition, subtraction and equals symbols and what they all mean. The children have been completing a range of hands on addition activities to help their understanding. We have looked at one more and how when a number sentence has a '+1' we do not need to count dots, toys or fingers as we know that one more than a given number is the following number on the number line.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked about the fruit and vegetables of this season and we tasted apples, pears, chestnuts and walnuts. We describe the weather and all the colour of this beautiful season. We also learnt a song about a witch eating a pumpkin.

We would like to remind you to please remove all papers from your child's folder as some of the folders are filling up and beginning to get heavy. Any papers sent home are for you to keep.

Finally, many thanks to everyone who has returned the parents teacher slips for parents evening this coming Tuesday and Wednesday (24th/25th). If you have still not returned your form, please do so by Monday.

Talk topic for Monday will be discussing all the things we can do/make with a pumpkin.

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Irakoze and Patrick Tranter

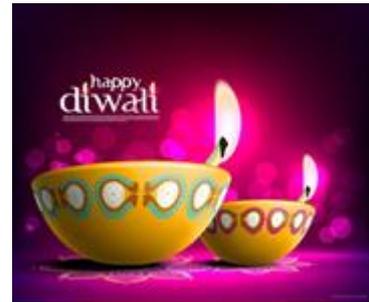
receptionteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy week as usual in class! In our computing lesson we started to learn how to give instructions to a beebot, a small floor robot that can move up, down, left and right. We learned that we had to be precise in our instructions and remember to clear the previous instructions to get it to go where we wanted. On Thursday it was Divali so we took some time to have a little celebration in class. Everyone made Divali cards to take home and we coloured some Rangoli patterns.



Don't forget that our annual pumpkin week is coming up next week. We will be doing many different pumpkin related activities in class which will be lots of fun!

This week in Literacy we read a story called 'The Egg Hunt'. After reading the story we discussed what happened at the beginning, middle and end of the story and the children then retold the story in their own words in their literacy books. In phonics we have talked about doubles at the end, words that end in ll, ss, ff, and zz and we also looked at words containing the ck sound. In grammar we continued to work on using capital letters for names.

In maths we have revised the number bonds to 6, 7 and 10. We then used what we knew about these number bonds to work out related subtraction problems. So if we know that $6 + 4 = 10$, we can also know that $10 - 6 = 4$ and $10 - 4 = 6$. In science we talked about our eyes and how we see. We discussed things we like to look at and the main parts of the eye.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked about autumn and the fruit and vegetables it offers. We tasted apples, chestnuts and walnuts. We sang a song about a witch eating a pumpkin.

Don't forget that parent's evening is coming up next week on the 24th and 25th of October. I look forward to meeting with you all to discuss your child's progress so far this year. The new homework game 'Clam collector' is available now.

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 blessed with lovely unusually warm weather this week. This made PE and playtimes truly a pleasant experience. Long may it last.

In Literacy we have turned our attention to the use of adjectives in our writing. We spoke about how they make things more interesting as well as telling us more about a subject. We then brainstormed adjectives to describe ourselves. After drawing some really super self-portraits, we added adjectives and these superb posters are on display in our classroom. Next week, being Pumpkin Week, we will continue to explore the world of adjectives and also learn to use a thesaurus. Our phonics this week has been on the /ie/ sounds. On Friday we wrote a story about an evergreen tree in a forest. You can see this story in your child's home school books.

In Numeracy we have been looking at money. We discussed coins and also learnt how many coins make a pound. For example we know that 100 pennies make a pound, but so do 5 twenty p coins. On Thursday we discussed the money of different countries. We got to see notes from Australia, South Africa and Poland and were amazed to find out that Australian notes are made of plastic. They are different colours and even have a small window in them. We had coins from places such as Djibouti, Rwanda, South Africa and the Czech Republic. It was really interesting to find out about these coins and notes.



For Topic we had to sort out pictures into different groups, London today and London in 1666. This was fun and we could see how London has changed over the years.

In Science we spoke about food chains and played a game called Who's for dinner? on <http://splash.abc.net.au/home#!/media/1496547/who-s-for-dinner-> This proved to be quite difficult and mostly we got eaten. It does, however, teach the children about who preys on whom. In this game, the crocodile is the ultimate predator.

In Art we finished our lovely rainy day picture which is simple yet effective. This activity took us 2 art lessons to finish. First we had to draw the patterns for the umbrella, cut it out and then fold it. This week we stuck it onto a background and drew the rain and puddles.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about 'la météo' (the weather forecast), the four seasons with a particular focus on 'l'automne' (autumn) and all the vocabulary,

events, colours, food and fruits we associate with l'automne. We also sang and danced around 'la valse de l'automne'.

In PE we played class games (I wrote a letter to my love) again and then used the hula hoops. The more the class practices, the better they are getting at hula hooping. In Computing we concentrated on teaching our monsters to read. This game teaches the children to control a monster and it gives valuable phonic practice.

Have a super weekend.

Valeria Vetter

year2teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

After our trip around the Universe last week, we're back down to Earth and working hard in Year 3.

In literacy we proof-read and reviewed our Viking diaries and then looked at ways in which we could make them more interesting. We worked on describing feelings and on adding time details to give structure to the writing. We will be putting the diary entries together with our fantastic artwork, in which we used paints, pastels and crayons, to form a longship frieze. Our guided reading target this week is to complete a Viking Vik book – we will see if his adventures are as exciting as ours! We had a fascinating, lively, and very informed class discussion on Diwali, exchanging information and recounting the traditional stories in great detail. It was lovely to see the enjoyment and enthusiasm generated by such a sharing of cultural festivities.



In maths we continued work on measuring capacity; estimating, and then testing, the volume of water needed to fill various containers. We did some problem solving using calendars and revised telling the time using an analogue clock (it would be really helpful if you could practise this at home too). We also worked on number lines and rounding numbers.

In Science we started to look at fossils, finding out about how they form in sedimentary rocks. We watched a video about Mary Anning, the famous paleontologist, and then did our own research using books, iPads, and dictionaries to



find answers to our group questions.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we finished our 'système solaire' project; we talked about the planets and the differences between them. We also went to the lovely park of Wezembeek Oppem where we got to gather colourful autumn leaves and talk about 'l'automne'.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished our space folders which look really nice. On Tuesday we were very lucky to go the Wezembeek park where we played but also performed specific tasks in French like look for a red leaf, a flower, a mushroom etc. We also worked in our ZigZag exercises books.

We continued our work on Vikings by studying their settlements and discussing how they lived their everyday lives. We also looked at their clothes and had a go at weaving wool on a small cardboard loom. We decided we might manage to make a bookmark, but that it might take rather a long time to finish a cloak!

Our talk topic for this week is: What would be my perfect weekend, and why?
Enjoy the suggestions – I hope they are not too unrealistic!

Jane Still, Fiona King and Ena Tolentino
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 3 webpage

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

It was the autumn mid-term test week this week. The Abacus maths test results were good and we were all justifiably very pleased with ourselves. The PIRA comprehension test was more of a wakeup call and nudge to the work that must be done before June. We need to read, read and then read some more.

Our writing performances are not finalised at the time of writing but we shall discuss the outcome when we meet next Wednesday for Parents Evening. I hope you have all received and made note of the appointment time and I look forward to our meeting.



Maths saw us out and about around school measuring objects. The children were good at this; it was just a question of converting cm into m and mm accurately. The day before, we calculated time gaps and this gives the perfect opportunity for those children who travel by public transport to do some practice on the timetables at stops. Please try if you have to wait for the next bus.

In literacy, we discovered and honed our skill at using similes. One of the best we created was: The White Witch's Castle was as frozen as avalanched icebergs.

In Topic, we discovered what objects people kept in their Tudor houses 500 years ago and how this was recorded in an inventory. The children had to try and guess the

person's profession from their possessions; real Sherlock Holmes detective work, then. We also considered how we need and use different power sources in our homes. The difficulty came in trying to work out how much and often we use this energy.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about 'les quatre saisons' (the four seasons) and what we associate with each season. These specifics allowed us to have an exciting discussion about different topics, events, festivities, activities, food and fruits that we associate with every season. We also got to do some fun exercises and review the use of feminine and masculine definite and indefinite articles (un, une, le and la) with the common noun.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we learnt to look for easy and clear information on internet sites especially developed for children to find simple facts about an animal for example in order to finish our animal presentations. We also learnt to transform words like "poids" into a sentence "il/elle pèse" etc.

The class enjoyed playing a cricket match against Years 5/6 in the lovely, unseasonal sunshine but also of note was Circle Time when the Year 4 were asked to describe 3 of their best qualities. This was thought-provoking but the task of identifying 3 of their less finer points was really quite tricky. The children were very honest and brave doing this, though.

Next week is the mythical Pumpkin Week! Please could I ask that each child bring a hollowed out pumpkin and any used long toilet rolls or unwanted plastic tubes to school next week; we shall be building a pumpkin city.

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,

By the time you read this newsletter, your very tired child will have returned home, after what I am sure will have been, an amazing night under the stars in the Atomium. The children are extremely excited, and despite my best efforts to keep them on task, I hear the conversation quickly drifting towards discussions about secret supplies, which film to vote for, gadgets and 'pod-hopping'!



We have enjoyed a thrilling week with our Mission to the Red Planet, NASA project. With a budget of \$275 million, the engineers had to design a mission to Mars. They had to choose from an array of different systems for their spacecraft: launch, power, computer, communications, mobility, entry, descent and landing, as well as science instruments for experiments. The teams worked hard and managed to complete the task within budget. However, success was short lived! Cries of despair were heard when I dealt out the 'rogue' cards: system failure, budget cuts and rocket failure...

Geometry is proving to be a popular topic. The students have been practising their skills and have constructed circles inscribed with a hexagon, rectangles with semi-circles on all sides, proved three theorems, and learnt how to bisect an angle.

On Tuesday, the children sat the PIRA test and the results were very encouraging. Our book club appears to be a popular event, however, next time, students will have to complete an individual book review. Spellings; mixed results this week. Spelling lists are available online and provided in paper form – there is no excuse for not learning spellings and meanings. We are working on homophones at the moment, and it is vital that children can use the correct word – 'I herd a horse threw their buy the dear'!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about 'les quatre saisons' (the four seasons) and what we associate with each season. These specifics allowed us to have an exciting discussion about different topics, events, festivities, activities, food and fruits that we associate with every season. We also got to do some fun exercises and review the use of feminine and masculine definite and indefinite articles (un, une, le and la) with the common noun.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we learnt to look for easy and clear information on internet sites especially developed for children to find simple facts about an animal for example in order to finish our animal presentations. We also learnt to transform words like "poids" into a sentence "il/elle pèse" etc.

Well, my suitcase is downstairs ready to be loaded onto the minibus ...

Have a relaxing weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

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

English as an Additional Language

If you would like to meet me to discuss your child's progress in English, I am free on Tuesday or Friday mornings, from 8:30,

We have had another enjoyable week in our EAL classes. At this stage in the term, I am listening and looking out for children making use of the new vocabulary and

structures that they have heard and practised in previous weeks. There is no formal test of children's progress in EAL: the progress we are looking for is the children's increasing confidence and accuracy in using English socially and in all their learning, and this is measured best by observing the children in their daily interactions, in the EAL class, in the main classroom and in the playground.

In the Reception EAL group this week, we looked again at comparing sizes, at simple prepositions and at the vocabulary of rooms, things activities in a home. We read the stories *Peace at Last*, and the *Three Bears*, and compared the two stories (both are about a family of three bears and their home). We briefly also talked about the Reception class's topic this week, which was the icy regions of the world.

The Year One and Two group this week had great fun reading stories and playing games to practise using prepositions. We talked about our feelings, and we also began carefully using the word *was* in a game, as an introduction to the concept of verb tenses.

In the Junior department, the children developed their conversational vocabulary by talking about their weekend activities, and I am very pleased to hear them increasingly using past tenses, and giving context, using words and phrases like *In the morning*; *On Saturday*; *then*. We worked on prepositions (*in, on, under, in front of, behind, near, next to/ beside, over, through, to*). We also took one session to read through a short chapter book, and to answer questions about it, noticing that some questions can be answered by reading the text, and some need more thinking or imagining.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read