

Home School Books – 27 October 2017.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Pumpkins, pumpkins everywhere! They get in your eyes and they get on your hair! What a wondrous week we have had pondering all things pumpkin. Thank you to everyone who has brought in a pumpkin for our table in the library. Each day we have taken the nursery children to take a look at the new pumpkins added to the table that morning.



The children have improved their English vocabulary this week, as we have described the colours and shapes of each pumpkin, plus the patterns and facial expressions of the decorated pumpkins. We even tried the tongue twister, 'Peter Piper eats Pickled Pumpkins, how many Pickled Pumpkins did Peter Piper eat?' The children had great fun trying to say the words faster and faster!

We also memorised the words to our pumpkin song which you can see on the page opposite; ask your little one if they can remember the actions. If you look underneath the song you will find the ten little pumpkins or are there more? Try the counting activity and find out.

The children tasted pumpkin soup and pumpkin bread on Thursday and some children loved it and some made quite an unusual face when they tried it! Thank you to Mrs Prescott for providing us with such delicious goodies!

We also made pumpkin muffins, which were sifted, stirred and whisked, by everyone in nursery; we hope you enjoyed a little taster if your child decided to share it with you! The children really enjoyed the experience of cooking. This is something you can do with your child at home to enhance language and mathematical skills, as you identify each ingredient and then measure it out. It is also just good fun sieving flour and mixing ingredients, working together to produce something yummy!

The week ended with a dressing up day, full of autumn colours and other costumes, the children were very excited to show each other and the teachers their end of pumpkin week clothes, please look out for photographs on the nursery website page.

Next week is our half term break, so just to keep everyone thinking and chatting, our talk topic question for discussion after the break is 'What is your favourite food and is it a healthy choice?' This will then kick start our new topic which will be, 'Food and Healthy Habits'.

Thank you to Mrs Julaton and Mrs Bandaru for helping us this week while Mrs Van Wassenhove was away.

See you all in a weeks' time, have a fun and relaxing break.

Thank you

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

What a great, fun filled pumpkin week we've had in Reception this year. We have looked at the different parts of a pumpkin, felt the ooey-goey insides and collected a huge number of pumpkin seeds from just one medium pumpkin, ready to plant in the spring. The children learnt the life cycle of a pumpkin, we talked about what a life cycle is then went on to look at the different stages a pumpkin seed goes through before it becomes a nice big, orange pumpkin.



On Thursday we enjoyed tasting delicious pumpkin soup and pumpkin seed bread. We tried to encourage all the children to at least try a little taste of the soup, for many it turned out to be a big hit! We enjoyed this treat at 11h45 and as this is very close to lunch time you may have found that some children struggled to finish their lunch on this day.

In phonics we have been looking once again at initial sounds of words, autumnal themed. We have learnt the sounds /f/ as in flower, /e/ as in egg and /l/ as in leg. The children have continued to do lots of practise with their letter formation, beginning to write simple cvc words with an extra emphasis put on each individual sound from an adult.

In maths we have been working on our one to one correspondence, making sure that we are counting accurately. The children have also been using their letter formation knowledge to help recognise when certain written numbers are in reverse. For example, if the nine looks like a /p/ then it is the wrong way round.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked about autumn and Halloween and learnt all the vocabulary related to this celebration. We learnt to say “j’ai peur” (I’m scared) and “même pas peur” (not scared at all) with the help of activities with Boowa et Kwala. We sang and read scary stories. We also drew beautiful pumpkins.

Talk topic for Monday 6th November will be answering the question ‘What do you want to be when you grow up and why?’

We wish you a lovely half term break,

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

Pumpkins, pumpkins, everywhere! What a fun week we've had learning all about pumpkins. We've used them as our inspiration across the curriculum. In science we used our senses to describe both the inside and outside of a pumpkin using as many interesting words as we could. We decided that the outside was cold, lumpy and hard and the inside was gooey, slippery and full of seeds. Later in the week we also got a chance to try pumpkin soup and explore what it tasted like.



This week in Literacy we learned to tell a story called 'Pumpkin Soup' by Helen Cooper. The children learned to retell the first part of the story orally from a picture story map they made, then they wrote the first part of the story from memory. I was super impressed by their storytelling skills! Also in literacy we talked about doing our first spelling test after the half term and practised the look-cover-write-check method of learning to spell words which is explained in their spelling books which they have taken home. Please help your child to practise learning to spell the words but write them on a separate piece of paper as the spelling book is for the list of words and the test results only.

In maths we did a pumpkin puzzle that required our knowledge of pairs that make 10 and adding two small numbers together. We also did some work on measuring and comparing pumpkins. We used cubes to find out which was the tallest and shortest pumpkin and we also found out which was the widest and which was the thinnest pumpkin. We compared the weight of the pumpkins using balance scales and found the heaviest and lightest pumpkin. We also looked at symmetry and made our own symmetrical pumpkin faces. In our topic work we talked about the stages of a pumpkin lifecycle and how they grow.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked about autumn and Halloween and learnt all the vocabulary related to this celebration. We learnt to say "j'ai peur" (I'm scared) and "même pas peur" (not scared at all) with the help of activities with Boowa et Kwala. We sang and read scary stories and made beautiful pictures.

It was wonderful to discuss your child's progress with you at the parent teacher meetings. It's been a short time since the start of the year but we've already done so much! Don't forget if you have any further queries that you can contact me at the email address at the bottom of this letter. The new maths homework game is 'Mushroom Mayhem.'

Have a lovely half term break.

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,

Pumpkin week is always a treat. We have had a lot of fun during this very busy week. We also welcomed a new classmate and we hope Mahum will be very happy in our class.

It was very good to see you all at Parents Evening this week and discuss your child's progress. Thank you for making the effort to come.

In Literacy we brainstormed adjectives to do with pumpkins. Then we drew a pumpkin and wrote adjectives in the ribs. We also did some pumpkin cloze text exercises as well as arranging words in alphabetical order. We then read some statements about pumpkins and decided together whether they were fact or fiction. A rather challenging word search completed our pumpkin literacy work.



Numeracy proved to be just as exciting and interesting. We did a colour by number (the class had to first do a page of additions and then colour the answers on to a grid producing a picture.) later in the week we took a good look at our pumpkins. We estimated how heavy they were and weighed them to see how close our estimations were. We then estimated the circumference of our pumpkins before measuring them with tape measures. Lastly we counted the ribs of the pumpkins.

We did more cookery and this time made vegan pumpkin pancakes. Again the children enjoyed measuring out the ingredients and helping in the preparation of the mixture. Of course, the best part for them is the sampling of the finished goods. In Art we had a lot of fun mixing paints to create different colours whilst painting pumpkins.

On Thursday we had the opportunity to taste some pumpkin bread and pumpkin soup. I am happy to say that most children tried each food and then decided if it was tasty or not so much. Friday was dressing up day and how wonderful it was to see all the interesting costumes.

Swimming has come to an end for group A and will commence after the break for group B. Group A will then stay at school. We will arrange a visit to the park and are planning to take our class teddy to the park. A new sign-up sheet will go on the door

of the office for parents to accompany the swimming group. This help is invaluable as it frees up another teacher to go into the pool and assist the swimmers.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on 'Mon corps' (my body) and the game of Jacques a dit : touche tes épaules! (touch your shoulders). We also designed a project on 'l'automne' (autumn) using all the vocabulary, events, colours, food and fruits related to 'l'automne'.

There is no homework for the half term break but children can practise their bonds on <http://www.primarygames.com/math/mathlines/> and also practice English skills on <https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>

The talk topic this week is: What was your favourite part of pumpkin week?

Have a very relaxing half term and if you are travelling, stay safe.

Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

The term has certainly ended on a high with our pumpkin celebrations. We enjoyed cooking pumpkin muffins and discovered that bicarbonate of soda doesn't always make things explode. The muffins in Mrs King's magic machine rose far better than the ones in the oven, but they all tasted (and smelt) delicious. We will be doing more cooking, as it is an excellent way to practise our measuring skills and to organise ourselves in teams.



We have also done some new group work in literacy this week, discussing our first group reading books and preparing our recommendations. This generated a lot of enthusiasm and will help with the work that follows the holiday reading challenge. I hope you enjoy sharing the books that the children have chosen.

In maths we successfully completed the end of term tests in arithmetic and problem-solving and it was positive to see that the problem solving is working well! Mrs King introduced new ways of analysing 3D shapes and took another look at the calendar and time problems.

The great spelling challenge was a big success but it is a close-run result and will have to be determined by some extra difficult bonus questions after the holiday. It was particularly good to see some of the words also featuring in the first unaided writing assessment, which demonstrated some interesting language structures and plenty of full stops and capital letters – mostly in the right places!

In Topic, work continued on the Vikings and their everyday lives. The weaving has been hugely popular, and the looms are filling up well. We discovered that the longships had sails made from woven wool – we are wondering why they weren't too heavy when they got wet. We have also enjoyed more adventures from the Saga of Erik the Viking.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we were very active for Halloween: we made a beautiful alphabetical booklet of all the vocabulary pertaining to autumn and Halloween. We also made delicious pumpkin soup and sang a song about autumn.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we focused on 'L'automne' (autumn), its changing colours and the pumpkin family. We role-played different scenes where they were asking each other Quel temps fait-il en automne? (what's the weather like..?) Est-ce que tu manges la soupe au potiron? Est-ce que tu as Un chat/ une chauve-souris? We also designed a project on 'l'automne' where we could describe and use all the vocabulary, events, colours, food and fruits related to 'l'automne'.

We had our last swimming session with everyone completing the assessment tasks with determination and enthusiasm. We look forward to trying out tennis next term.

Our talk topic for the holiday week is:
How does it feel as the seasons change, and which season do I like best?



I hope you all have a lovely half term and that the weather is good enough to be out and about. Thank you for coming to the parent evenings this week, I hope that they were helpful.

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,

I really enjoyed this week and I'm pretty certain the children did too. We had a terrific time in Pumpkin Week. We enjoyed reading the magical picture book, Pumpkin Soup, and we loved baking Ginger Pumpkins. We played with the rich vocabulary from the book and baked (and decorated) the finest biscuits 'you ever tasted'. So, all was well in the Year 4 'old, white cabin'.

Cooking involved working as a team and cooperating and solving minor differences of opinion - just like the cat, the duck and the squirrel - to arrive at a shared success. We all stirred the mix, we all added an ingredient and we



all very much enjoyed eating our creation together.

<http://www.bisb.org/project/pumpkin-week-ginger-pumpkin-bake-off/>

We also did a great little project called 'Pumpkins Against Poverty' through which the children learnt a lot about Bangladesh, growing after the monsoon and flood, nutrition, coordinates and what people can do, A - with the money they earn and B - to get out of poverty.

A hit with the children was watching the population of Bangladesh increase live although we had a big debate over why it didn't seem to decrease at any point...

We also had time to do a little Pumpkin PE to cheer us up a bit after saying goodbye to tennis and we finished the week with a little pumpkin soup ourselves. Madame Scarfe worked hard with the children to produce some cucurbitaceous broth in French and school cooked up some more to taste as it usually does. Thursday, therefore, ended with a Junior School Pumpkin Picnic which the children loved.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we focused on 'L'automne' (autumn), its changing colors and the pumpkin family. We role-played different scenes where they were asking each other Quel temps fait-il en automne? (what's the weather like..?) Est-ce que tu manges la soupe au potiron? Est-ce que tu as Un chat/ une chauve-souris? We also designed a project on 'l'automne' where we could describe and use all the vocabulary, events, colours, food and fruits related to 'l'automne'.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we wrote beautiful Halloween poems after we made a mind map of all the vocabulary pertaining to autumn and Halloween. We also made delicious pumpkin soup which gave us the opportunity to look at the way recipes are written in French using le mode impératif or the infinitive.

Can I just say a thank you and a sorry to the children who brought in a pumpkin as requested for the construction (Pumpkin City) project which failed to take off due to a lack of pumpkins. I think the majority of the class rather elected to enter the school pumpkin competition and that's where their pumpkins ended up.

That was our week.

Have a happy holiday and see you after the break.

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 am not sure that we had all fully recovered by Monday, after a magical and eventful night in the Atomium; some pupils appeared a little weary... You will have seen the photographs on Edmodo, which tell only part of the story! As expected the Year 5 gambling syndicate (of HMS Cavalier fame) was well prepared and the tables were in

operation as soon as we arrived – after a late night; the game recommenced at around 03.35! Needless to say, there was much pod-hopping going on throughout the night. Without a doubt, sleeping (or not) in the Atomium is a unique and memorable experience. The fun continued on Friday, when we enjoyed a buffet lunch in the classroom and ice-cream before leaving school at the end of an exhausting day!



On Monday, we enjoyed a maths' workout with the Mystery of the Putrid Pumpkin Poisoner, which involved a range of mathematical skills and general knowledge.

This week, the children have completed their mid-term maths tests and analysed their mistakes so that they can revise these topics areas during the holiday. The universal problem, as always, is not reading the question carefully. We studied coordinates in four quadrants and then proceeded to complete a selection of pumpkin themed pictures using our new skills.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we focused on 'L'automne' (autumn), its changing colors and the pumpkin family. We role-played different scenes where they were asking each other Quel temps fait-il en automne? (what's the weather like..?) Est-ce que tu manges la soupe au potiron? Est-ce que tu as Un chat/ une chauve-souris? We also designed a project on 'l'automne' where we could describe and use all the vocabulary, events, colours, food and fruits related to 'l'automne'.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we wrote beautiful Halloween poems after we made a mind map of all the vocabulary pertaining to autumn and Halloween. We also made delicious pumpkin soup which gave us the opportunity to look at the way recipes are written in French using le mode impératif or the infinitive.

In preparation for our visit to the Antwerp Diamond Centre, in Science, the students using iPads for research, created individual diamond quality charts. Each student then prepared a microscope slide with one diamond, to view under a standard and digital microscope. They are now experts on: carats, colour, clarity and the cut of diamonds.

As always, it is a pleasure to meet with you to discuss the progress of your child. I do hope that you have a relaxing and enjoyable half-term holiday.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

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

English as an Additional Language

Dear Parents,

I am very pleased with the progress the children have made this first half term.

Our small group sessions allow us to work on specific grammar and vocabulary. They also allow us to practise a range of skills. Some children, for example, are confident in using short simple phrases with the particular grammar points we are working on, but need more practice with free conversation. Some children are confident in talking about their ideas during free conversation, but need more practice ordering their words and using correct grammar. Some children need particular practice with listening to longer texts. Some need to practise their pronunciation of English sounds. In our sessions, we practise all these and other language skills, and I aim to keep track of the skills each child needs to develop.



We have enjoyed pumpkin week, which gave us an opportunity in the Reception and the Year One and Two EAL groups to talk about what our pumpkins might get up to in school after we all go home at night. In addition, the Reception children had great fun in one session making a bus from the chairs, and driving to the mountains, the city, the forest and the snowy places. This idea came largely from the children themselves. Similarly, the Year One and Two children spent an enjoyable session making posters with the beautiful autumn leaves that they had collected in the playground. This led to very interesting discussion about autumn.

In the Junior department, we looked for prepositions, adverbs, adjectives, nouns and verbs, as well as rhyming words, in a story. We also changed statements into questions, by re-ordering the words (he is as tall as a tree/is he as tall as a tree? etc.) We noticed that sometimes we need to add the word does/do/did to form the question.

I wish you a very happy holiday week, and I look forward to seeing the children in November.

Kate Read
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