

Home School Books – 17 November 2016.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

It's been a short week this week with the water pipe interruption! All that aside, we have managed to pack in quite a lot of creativity in the three and a half days the children did have in nursery.

The new theme on 'healthy eating and healthy habits' has really taken off this week and we have had some great circle time discussion about food that is healthy for us. We even managed to combine some simple letter sounds, in our 'make a fruit salad' game.



This is a great game to play at home, first take a bowl, some paper and a pencil and then ask your child what sort of fruit they would like to put into their fruit salad. Then ask them to draw the fruit on a square of paper or draw it for them. Turn the square over and on the back of the square write the initial letter of the name of the fruit.

Keep doing this until you have several squares, then pop them into the bowl, give them a mix and then ask your child to pick one out and name the fruit and then identify and 'sound out' phonetically the letter on the back of the square. Fantastic fun and a creative way to teach simple phonics but remember it's not the name of the letter just its sound!

If you look opposite you will see your little ones choice of healthy food that they would like to eat, everyone was asked to circle six different types of food they wanted to fill their tummies with. Ask them about the activity and see if they can remember what other food was on the list to choose from and why they picked those six pieces in particular.

We also made a huge rainbow fruit salad bowl, which you can see this on the wall in the nursery corridor coming from the side entrance into school. Please stop and take a look as you are passing and see how many types of fruit your child can name that are printed on the fruit posters.

To keep in line with our theme on 'fruit and vegetables are good for you', please send in more of these healthy options for snack time and let's try and get rid of biscuits and cakes altogether!

Last but not least don't forget to take a look at our 'fruit and veg' market which is in the role play area. Your children are having a super time shopping for fruit and veg and then paying for it at the 'kassa'. We have even printed our own money to pay for it!

Until next week, have a lovely weekend and think about our talk topic ' where do you buy your fruit and vegetables?' Why do you buy them there?'

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 in Reception we have focussed on shops. How people go to specific shops to buy different items. We looked at shops that have particular names, For example, a shop that sells bread and baked goods is a bakery. We even made some shaped chocolates as found in a Belgian chocolaterie. The children painted the classroom shop made by our very own Mr Tranter.

In phonics we have learnt the sounds /v/ as in van and /w/ as in water. We have been carefully working on distinguishing these sounds that can sound very similar by looking at different objects that begin with these sounds. We have continued to look at the difference between /d/ and /b/, /j/ and /i/ and /n/ and /h/. The children have also enjoyed playing a game of CVC word bingo, encouraging them to blend the sounds to read if they have the matching words.

In maths we have introduced the children to money, looking at one and two euro coins. We have been adding different coins together to work out totals. The children are showing beginning recognition and understanding of the different value of a one and two euro coin. The children have been playing shops, using money to buy items of their choice. They have been carefully working out their total amount of money and whether they have enough money for different objects, or even enough to buy more than one.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have learned the song about the wolf putting on his clothes and we now know the names of quite a few pieces of clothing. We also go on talking about the weather and the children are all very good weather men and ladies. The Talk topic for Monday 20th November will be answering the question 'would you rather live in a city, a village or in the countryside?'

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've focused on the story 'The Rainbow Fish.' We've discussed the behaviour of the rainbow fish and how he learned to share with the other fish and be a better friend. We then had a discussion about what makes a good friend including sharing, saying kind words, being helpful and letting people join in with playing. We also continued to work on colour mixing and mixing primary colours to get secondary colours such as green, purple and orange and we made our own rainbow fish for display in the classroom. In our literacy lesson we discussed the setting, characters, problem and solution in the rainbow fish story.



In phonics we have continued to learn consonant digraphs, this week we focused on /th/ and /ng/. The children practised reading and writing words with these sounds.

In maths we have worked on addition and subtraction this week, counting forward and counting back. We also practised adding 3 numbers together and did a problem solving investigation to find as many ways as possible of adding 3 numbers together using the numbers 1,2,3,4 and 5. Also the new maths game 'Toucan team' is now available.

We started learning the basics of computer coding this week in our computing lesson. The children learned how to input instructions into the coding program to make an object move up, down, left or right. We will be building on these concepts over the coming weeks.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished our Tourloub Blanc story. He has gone back to his country with all the colours. The children played with finger puppets and created little dialogues asking questions and answering them using all the vocabulary they have learnt so far.

In our science lesson we learned all about fish and what makes them different from other types of creatures. We found out that they have scales, fins and gills and that a dolphin is not a fish but a seahorse is! We learned to label the main parts of a fish as well. Next week we will be learning about reptiles and mammals.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Ivana Julaton

[Year1teacher@telenet.be](mailto:Year1teacher@telenet.be)

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

## Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

The weather is still damp and we are adapting to it well. It has been an enforced short week but a very enjoyable one nonetheless.

In Literacy we have been looking at adding ‘and’ and ‘but’ to join sentences. We have done some exercises to consolidate these connectives. Our phonic focus has been on the /ir/, /ur/, and /er/ sounds. We also incidentally found out that /ear/ (as in earth) and /or/ (as in word) can also make this sound. The class found this very interesting.

We carried on our cooking theme this week. We designed and then made our open sandwiches using ingredients kindly sent in by you, the parents. Finally we ate our masterpieces but not before we had photographed them. You can view these photos here

<http://www.bisb.org/project/making-sandwiches/> .

We also recorded how we made these sandwiches in our literacy books. This exercise incorporated science, design technology and literacy. We also had the chance to taste mustard (Mrs Grinling made mustard sandwiches to chase the birds off) and only a few children enjoyed it.



In Numeracy we have been looking at positional language. We have revised our left and right, above, below, next to, in front of, behind, as well as learning about turns, half turns and quarter turns. We have incidentally learned these fractions too. We are now learning about measurement and, in particular, units of length.

Because it was wet outside, we did our PE indoors on Monday this week. We took a dance unit from the BBC about the Gruffalo. We loved moving about like the various animals and the Gruffalo as well. We had a second session called Gruffalo crumble on Thursday.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on “ Qu’est-ce que tu fais dans la vie?” (what’s your job?). We talked about and imitated different ‘métiers’ (professions). We learned how to guess what’s your job through le ‘jeu de l’inspecteur Sherlock Holmes’. They were able to ask and answer questions using affirmative and negative answers. In Art we have now finished our work for the music room display. We have made the musical notes to add on to the musical road display.

We didn’t get to go swimming this week, nor did we get to go to the park. However, next Tuesday we shall be doing both those things. I am hoping for a really crisp sunny day for our trip to the park. I still need a parent to help out with the park trip and swimming. Remember, the sign-up sheet is on the door of the office.

Our Friday big write is all about libraries and favourite books and the talk topic this week is: What is your favourite book and what do you especially like about it?

Enjoy your weekend,

Valeria Vetter

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

### Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

We have been working hard this week to finish off our Science topic on rocks and fossils, which we have thoroughly enjoyed, although I am sure you will be relieved not to have pocketfuls of stones filling your washing machines!

We successfully broke open our limestone casts to reveal the sedimentary layers of shells, and wrote up the reports using scientific language. We made beautiful watercolour paintings of ammonites by studying photos very carefully and making accurate drawings, before using extremely fine brushes and wash paint effects to add gentle colour. The results are amazing!



We rounded off the topic with an experiment into the properties of the different types of rock, classifying our samples according to durability, permeability and density. We each completed our museum box by choosing a polished gemstone from Mrs King – we are trying to identify the different stones by using the iPads, but this is very difficult as each stone is unique.

In maths we continued our work on time, concentrating on the analogue clock to make sure that we really understand it. We played various time-telling games, made clocks and worked on elapsed time challenges in maths investigations. We also did further practice on subtraction and looked at different ways that the idea of ‘take away’ can be expressed in word problems.

We wrote up our book recommendations for our individual holiday reading, deciding what we liked (or did not like) about the book, and why, and writing a short description that would persuade someone to read it. We then used the same ideas to finish our group reading project on the ‘Vik the Viking’ books. This involved discussing the books as a group and deciding on how to present our collective ideas in a poster - there were some great teamwork skills in evidence!

In topic we watched a film clip about life in a Viking settlement and used books and documents to research further information. We discovered that the Vikings enjoyed drinking wine that they brought back from France, and that they drank out of cow horns. We also discovered that, had we been Vikings, all the boys in our class, as first-born sons, would have inherited any family land and farm buildings.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we spent the week getting ready for our French assembly next Monday. We talked about Belgium and what is special about it for each of us and what we know about this country we live in. We also made beautiful illustrations of what Belgium means to us.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started our week preparing for our first French Assembly which will cover la Belgique . We started first by exploring: La Belgique, c'est quoi? (What is Belgium?) touching on the fascinating aspects of culture, art, food, architecture, food specialties, inventions and designs unique to la Belgique. It was interesting, fun and engaging because they got to express, draw and design what Belgium is to them.

Our talk topic is: Which 3D shapes can I identify in everyday objects around me?

We hope you have a lovely weekend,

Jane Still, Fiona King and Ena Tolentino

[year3teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year3teacher@telenet.be)

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

#### Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

We had a nice jolly week in Year 4 this week. We managed to enjoy fractions; we were full of positive language; we got out in the fresh (cold) air; we found the school on Google Earth and got creative on the iPads.

Fractions aren't everyone's cup of tea but our class had a veritable tea party this week finding equivalent fractions, simplifying and comparing fractions. Halving HTU numbers at the start of the week was actually even trickier.

In Literacy, we started a new unit on persuasive language and we explored slogans. The children ended our work by trying to sell homes currently for sale in the UK. Which words would attract people the best?

In Topic, we mapped land use across the city of Brussels. Using the iPads and Google, the children were very motivated to scan across the capital to estimate which areas are housing, which are industry and which are green spaces. What got the children really buzzing was being able to get a drone image of the Infant building. When they next realised that the green shape just north of the office was their playground and they could spot the furniture, they went into delirium.



The iPads were out again in Science as we plotted our results from last week's temperatures experiment in a table and graph. The Numbers spreadsheet app proved

very easy and enjoyable to use and the children were most pleased to be able to produce a line graph with just a click of a button.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started our week preparing for our first French Assembly which will cover la Belgique . We started first by exploring: La Belgique, c'est quoi? (What is Belgium?) touching on the fascinating aspects of culture, art, food, architecture, food specialties, inventions and designs unique to la Belgique. It was interesting, fun and engaging because they got to express, draw and design what Belgium is to them.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we spent the week getting ready for our French assembly next Monday. We talked about Belgium and what is special about it for each of us and what we know about this country we live in. We also made beautiful illustrations of what Belgium means to us and listened to Jacques Brel.

In PE, we got out in the refreshing autumn drizzle, and enjoyed football and learning close ball control. Right foot, left foot, chipping, lifting, passing accurately and finishing ruthlessly, the class had a good workout. But it didn't end there as the children were timed doing a 20 second sprint. We'll do this again over the year to see if we get quicker.

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 5 / 6

Dear Parents,

Well, what a fantastic outing we had to the Antwerp Diamond Centre. Thank you so much for ensuring that the pupils arrived at Gare Centrale for 07.40.

Our tour began with a meeting in the 'Board of Directors' conference room on the ninth floor. After a welcome from our charming facilitators Martin and Stan, the children were set to work. Their task, was to examine a real diamond for cut, clarity, carat, colour and complete an Antwerp Diamond Expertise Report. This involved the use of a D- microscope, colour coded diamond set and scales which convert grams to carats.



Staying with our diamond theme, the children designed and created a diamond design, using tie-dye, on a piece of cotton. First, the 15 pieces of cotton were cut and then folded and secured with rubber bands. These were then immersed in tubs of dye. The

results are spectacular and are now displayed on our new 'washing-lines' in the classroom. Domesticity is not my strong point, so the children should feel honoured, that I brought my iron in (after I had found it!) to press their fabric designs.

We have finished reading the Falcon's Maltseer and will embark on Stormbreaker next week. I am disappointed with some of the children's attitude towards learning their spellings and preparation for our weekly dictation activity. I do hope that extra care will be taken in the future. I am pleased that so many children have signed up to my Newsela classroom; I update the text selection during the weekend. Children can challenge themselves by improving their comprehension skills and general knowledge by reading a variety of articles which have been adapted for their age range.

In maths, we have been trying to master long-division and have continued with our study of algebra. Our practical activity (which proved to be highly entertaining) was to measure the length and breadth of the sheet (for tie-dying), calculate the perimeter and area and then divide the area by 15.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started our week preparing for our first French Assembly which will cover la Belgique . We started first by exploring: La Belgique, c'est quoi? (What is Belgium?) touching on the fascinating aspects of culture, art, food, architecture, food specialties, inventions and designs unique to la Belgique. It was interesting, fun and engaging because they got to express, draw and design what Belgium is to them.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we spent the week getting ready for our French assembly next Monday. We talked about Belgium and what is special about it for each of us and what we know about this country we live in. We also made beautiful illustrations of what Belgium means to us and listened to Jacques Brel.

Wishing you all a happy weekend.

Kind regards,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

[year6teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year6teacher@telenet.be)

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

### English as an Additional Language

Dear Parents,

This week, in each of the EAL groups, we followed on from last week's activities and language focus.

In the Reception EAL group, we talked again about different kinds of shops. We made shops in the EAL room, with the children taking turns to be shopkeepers and customers, and selling or buying vegetables and fruit, paper and pencils and toys and

books. This gave the children the opportunity to have free conversations using the vocabulary of shopping.

In our Year1 and 2 EAL group, we continued to work with adjectives. We read the story *The Rainbow Fish*, which Year 1 also read in class, and wrote some sentences using adjectives to describe the rainbow fish (The rainbow fish is a sad fish etc.) We also returned to the story *Dear Zoo*, and wrote our own sentences using adjectives including angry, scary, fierce, jumpy to describe unsuitable pets. This activity followed a discussion on the question: what is a pet? which led to agreement that a pet is an animal that lives with people in their home.



The Junior Department EAL group studied pronouns, and tried to make good use of correct pronouns in a written text, as well as working on the phonics : ear, air, ie. We also talked again about traditional stories, in relation to Jack and the Beanstalk.

I am free to meet with parents if you would like to discuss your child's progress in English, on Mondays (between 12:15 and 1:00), Tuesdays (between 8:30 and 8:55), and Wednesdays (between 8:30 and 8:55). Please send a note to me via your child's class teacher or the school office, or an email to me at the address below.

Many thanks, and I wish you a happy weekend.

Kate Read  
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