

Home School Books – 24 November 2017.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Our theme on healthy eating and healthy habits has continued this week and instead of a fruit festival we have enjoyed a vegetable festival! Although we do hope your children told you about the delicious fruit salad they all helped to make last week. Everyone washed, peeled and chopped the fruit and then we mixed it all up in a big bowl and had a delicious fresh fruit salad picnic. The children tasted kiwi, grapes, apple, pineapple, banana, pear, pomegranate, persimmon fruit and plum and everyone apart from one little person, really enjoyed it! Take a look at the photographs on the website.

In our home school book this week, you will find a photocopy of your child's writing sample. This is something we do every term as part of a whole school unaided writing policy. Of course in nursery it starts at the very basic level of writing readiness, so don't be alarmed when you look and can't see any formal writing. It's more about emergent writing and recognising that the written word has meaning, it is also used as an informal assessment for the progression of language skills at this stage.

This term our unaided writing sample was about making soup and the children were asked to choose five ingredients they would like to put in their soup. Then each child drew the ingredients or stuck drawings of the ingredients into their big soup pot. Ask them to tell you about the activity and discuss it with them, you can do this in your mother tongue or in English, whichever you prefer.

We also painted some super-size vegetables and coloured in some smaller ones, to make our vegetable conga display with. Take a look in the corridor leading to the nursery from the side door entrance and see it in action! It is right next to our fruit salad display!



In music this week the children have continued to practise their songs for our Christmas show and they are starting to know the words and tunes very well now. We just have to get coordinated with the actions to the songs as well as the singing!

We hope that everyone who attends this evening's Thanksgiving and Autumn craft evening (18.00 – 20.00), will enjoy it and go home with some creative, fun items.

Just a quick reminder, please replace the clothes that may have been used from your child's spare clothes bag, including socks and pants. Remember it is cooler now, so no summer type spare clothes please.

Our talk topic for discussion next week is, why is it important to listen to what others have to say? What do we use to listen with?

Have a lovely weekend

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 been talking about villages, towns and cities. We have been trying to broaden the children's minds by discussing the benefits of living in each of these places. The children finished the week by making their own town out of old cardboard boxes which they painted and decorated and placed around roads made on the classroom carpet. You can enjoy looking at some of the photos on the school website.



In phonics we have learnt the sounds /y/ as in yak, /z/ as in zip and /x/ as in x-ray. The children have been doing very well learning these sounds and are becoming more and more confident at using their growing phonetic knowledge to write short cvc words. The children completed a range of activities encouraging their use of phonemes, both segmenting sounds to read and write words and blending them to read words.

In maths we have continued working with money. We have been looking at the changing values of coins and notes from a one euro coin to a fifty euro note. We looked at how five euros can be made by using either a five euro note, five one euro coins or 2 two euro coins and a one euro coins. They have shown their beginning understanding of this concept by completing work that can be seen on the number display in the classroom.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still singing the wolf song, we described the weather and we started our new and very exciting topic: Saint-Nicolas not to be confused with Father Christmas which is not so obvious for the children. We have looked at pictures of him and started singing songs about him.

Talk topic for Monday will be answering the question 'What is your favourite thing to do at school?'

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 continued with our focus on fish ahead of our visit to the Aquarium of Brussels next week. We went across to the junior department to visit their aquarium to find out more about fish in general and keeping them as pets. Mrs Tranter, who is currently looking after them, answered all of our questions about looking after fish. We learned about how long they live for, what they eat and how often they need to be fed, how to keep their tank clean and many more things.



In phonics we learned how to spell words with the last of the consonant digraphs, /qu/ and the first of the long vowels /ai/. The children practised reading and writing words with these sounds. Although it was a bit early we also explored some snow poems in our literacy lesson this week. We read a poem about footprints in the snow and thought of our own ideas for animals or people who could leave footprints in the snow. In our grammar lesson we focused on the correct use of full stops.

In maths this week we have focused on money. We practised finding totals of coins using 10 cent and 1 cent coins. We also practised finding totals of mixed coins using coins up to the value of 20 cents. We practised recognising both the euro cent coins and the British coins that come up in our curriculum materials. We also learned about ordering numbers and finding a number in between two given numbers.

We continued to learn the basics of computer coding this week in our computing lesson. The children became a lot more confident with how to input instructions into the coding program to make an object move up, down, left or right. In our science lesson we learned about food chains using marine animals and which animals eat which things.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we summarised the story of Turloublanc with the help of six drawings and realised we understood and now know the story really well in French ! We also watched a cartoon of the three little pigs and the three little wolves.

We will be going to the Aquarium of Brussels next Thursday on the 30th of November. Thank you to everyone who has already brought back the permission slip with the money for the trip. The final day for bringing back the permission slip and money for the trip is Monday the 27th November.

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, the week has been cold but dry. Only Monday and Tuesday were wet enough to disrupt our plans but we worked around it. The class has so enjoyed raking up leaves and playing with them. What great Autumn fun!

In Literacy we have revised singular and plural nouns and found out how to apply rules to nouns that we want to make into plurals. It took a lot of effort for the class to find out why toys has an -s but babies has -ies at the end. However, with perseverance and effort they finally discovered why. We have also been identifying nouns, verbs and adjectives through work in our Lighthouse keeper's lunch booklet. In phonics we worked with the -ir, -er and -ur sounds. We brainstormed the words and then had to use some in sentences. I am also impressed with their discovery that worm, work and word have an -ir sound in them.

In Numeracy we have completed our unit on measuring. Homework this week will be measuring. We have also spoken about centimetres, metres and kilometres and when we use which measure. We had to look at certain items and decide how we would measure them. We also took our shoe and sock off, drew around our foot and measured it. This was so much fun for the children. We also did a mass conversion and found out that 1 ounce is the same as roughly 28 grams. We also revised clockwise and anticlockwise turns.

In Science, we began growing salt crystals on autumn leaves and a pipe cleaner. We made a saturated solution of salt and water and will now wait to see the crystals grow. We also made slime. We did this by adding soda bicarb to PVA glue and then adding a saline solution to thicken it. It was just like magic! The slime appeared and we could touch it, squeeze it and play with it without getting it stuck on our hands. And, just for fun, we added glitter and some green food colouring to our slime.



In Art this week we ventured into the delightful world of origami and folded a very simple star.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we introduced 'Qu'est-ce que tu portes?' (What are you wearing?), we talked about clothing and we reviewed the colours that go with 'ma garde-robe' (my wardrobe). We also role-played different 'métiers' (professions) and we asked questions to guess 'quel est ton métier?' (what's your job?) through 'l'inspecteur Sherlock Holmes'. It was fun and highly interactive.

In PE we began practicing the dance for our winter play. We did this because it was really wet outside on Monday and it was the perfect time to begin practising. A reminder: For swimming the children should come in their PE kit and no tights please. They are difficult to get on and off and children lose valuable swimming time in order to finish dressing on time.

The rain and wet weather disrupted our park visit, so I am hoping that next week will be better weather. Third time lucky! Please note, I do need a mum to accompany us on this visit.

In computing we visited <https://code.org/> and had fun with Minecraft and Frozen coding games.

Many thanks to those who have sent in the outing money. If you have not done so yet, please could the money be in by Monday so we can begin the admin involved.

Our talk topic this week is: What fish do you want to see when we visit the aquarium next week? Will it be there, do you think?

Have a lovely weekend

Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

We had fun playing with words this week in Literacy. We have a new ‘word a day’ challenge, where everyone has to create an original sentence using the new word. We discovered that, although we think we know what some words mean, it can be hard to use them correctly in a sentence. We especially struggled with ‘especially’! We also collected words for writing poems about the wind. First we took turns to read poems aloud, then we went outside (fortunately it was very windy) and felt the wind, before making our own word walls with as many vivid wind words as we could. Finally we worked in groups to put our ideas together. We continued looking at adverbs to complement our spelling words, and worked a lot on our comprehension skills by listening to more of the saga of Erik the Viking. It is really exciting and we are getting very good at predicting what might happen and identifying how the characters might be feeling.



In Maths we continued our work on time, going over last week’s homework on converting minutes to hours and vice versa, as this proved to be a complicated task for some. We had a problem sharing session, with everyone suggesting their ‘magic tricks’ for solving difficult questions, and came up with some ingenious ideas. We did some more work on describing and identifying 3D shapes and have now moved on to looking at money.

In Art we painted our plaster ammonites and used collage techniques to construct a fleet of Viking longships. We will use our weaving samples for the sails and create a 3D effect by mounting the ships on blocks on the Viking wall.



We started an exciting new Science topic on forces by looking at magnets and their properties. We also started our preparation for next year's cricket test matches in PE by playing a rounders/cricket game and working out the importance of the different tasks. We have some very promising batters, bowlers and fielders and, with our team determination, will definitely be posing a serious threat to the rest of the department!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had our first French assembly for this school year and it was a big success because the children had already learnt a lot and remembered so much information. They enjoy these sessions as much as we do preparing them. They are now experts on all aspects of Belgian life.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had French Assembly week. The topic for this assembly was la Belgique. We explored and talked about different aspects of La Belgique, touching on the fascinating aspects of history, independence, culture, art, food, architecture, food specialties, inventions and designs unique to la Belgique. They got to ask questions about these topics, to talk about the myth of some of the most emblematic monuments of the country, and to take part in a fun and an interactive Quiz. It was very engaging because they got to express and experience Belgium through their own lens.

Our talk topic is: How many different metal objects can I identify around me?
If the clouds clear this weekend and you have the chance to go to the park, don't forget to take a ball and practice throwing and catching!

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,

This week's maths glided from fractions to decimals and we did some choral counting up and back, divided by 10 and continued reducing and expanding fractions.

In Literacy we were faced with the challenge of converting positive statements into negative which was deceptively difficult. We discussed different types of advertising. The children learnt what a flyer was, for example, then, lo and behold, a flyer for the Autumn Crafts Evening appeared on the children's desks – the school office also helps in the classroom and not just Mrs Tolentino, you see! More significantly, the children wrote descriptions on the iPads of their homes. Persuasive language was essential as we will be publishing our homes for sale very soon.



Topic really grasped the children's interest. On the iPads, they had to use a Paint programme to design a curtain, cushion, sofa and carpet fabric for a hypothetical home. They loved making this with just their finger and even more watching the time

lapse video of the work they had just done! 2nd helping of topic was an in-depth enquiry into home insulation: what, where and how in the house?

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PE was handball – ball, hand and spatial skills with a good-natured match at the end. Another round of 20m sprints to finish saw the majority of the group improve their personal bests. It's great (and possibly unnerving) that an activity that causes such a build-up of lactic acid can be so popular with children!?!)

Next week's trip is set to be a triumph (mystery, imagination, spiral staircases, dungeons, battlements and great views!) although the forecast points to chilly light rain (read drizzle) so raincoats will be a must – there's no double-glazing in a castle.

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,

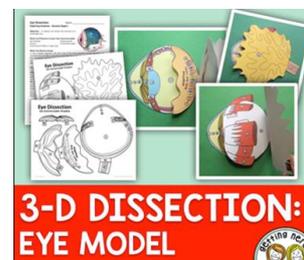
Finally, we appear to be making progress with our attitude towards, spelling, meanings and dictation. Pupils who made a determined effort to learn (and understand) their work, were rewarded with a feeling of pride in their achievement. I do hope that the few remaining students, who have yet to make the connection between hard work and improved outcome, will adopt a growth mindset, so that they too, can enjoy a sense of achievement.

We have studied features of formal letter writing, to enable us to write first-rate thank you letters to our hosts at the Antwerp Diamond Centre. The planning of these letters from the Year 6 pupils was exemplary and they have shared this with the rest of the class. In grammar, the pupils completed work identifying modal verbs and using the

subjunctive. They also studied the difference between a main and subordinate clause, different sentence types: statements, questions, command and question tags.

The 'mastering long-division' results were pleasing; most children are now able to perform this operation including decimals. We have revisited a selection of topics from the shape and space syllabus and will be continuing with this theme next week as well as enjoying a 'fraction attack' module.

Our classroom glitters and twinkles with our diamond displays, so understanding the anatomy of the eye and how we see is our next science adventure. We watched a variety of educational videos from Ted-Ed and the Exploratorium, including a virtual dissection of a cow's eye! The scientists are now creating a 'sciencestructable' of the human eye.



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In Chinese, we studied the character of tree and how this is adapted to show a wood and forest. We revised chapters 1-3 of Primary Chinese; our next topic is the family.

We are very busy with rehearsals, finishing off projects and outings – next Friday we shall be visiting the Planetarium.

Wishing you all a happy 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

Dear Parents,

We have all enjoyed talking about the windy autumn weather this week, and the children in the Infant Department have been collecting leaves and seeds at playtime,

and talking about the changing seasons, the different kinds of leaves and what animals will do in the winter.

In addition, the Reception EAL group talked again about different environments, especially the difference between big cities and small villages. In this context, we practised extending sentences using “because”.

The Year 1 and 2 EAL group learned the vocabulary of underwater life (in connection with Year 1’s study of the Great Barrier Reef). They made use of adjectives to describe different fish.

In the Junior EAL group, we worked this week on non-fiction texts, in connection with the whole department’s study of Belgium, through the French language assembly. We took this opportunity to practise forming questions using what, when, where, which, who, why and how, and we learned a lot about Belgian history. When the children read their reading books at home, would you please remind them that they should write down a few (about 5) words that are new to them: I have asked them to do this in their small grey books, so that we can go over these new words in class.



Many thanks, and I wish you a happy weekend.

Kate Read
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