

Home School Books – 01 December 2017.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

This was our last week of our healthy eating and healthy habits topic, from next week it's all about CHRISTMAS! More on that later.

To bring our topic to a close, we decided to talk about two very important healthy habits to have. The first one is how we wash our hands properly. This is such an awful time of year for coughs and colds and viruses in general. However as we all know, good hand washing practises can help cut down on the spread of many of these pesky germs. So as part of our maths topic this week, we have used a sequencing game to help promote good hand washing.

Each child looked at and talked about the scene on the cards with the teacher and then they had to attempt to put the cards in the correct order using the different visual clues on the card that are needed to wash our hands. This was not an easy activity as sequencing can be quite tricky, so there was a lot of input from the teacher. You can see opposite the end result of your little ones efforts to understand and complete the exercise.

The second one to keep up the momentum of sequencing, we have also included alongside the hand washing activity, some sequencing cards on how to brush your teeth properly. You can make this into a fun game with your child and see how much they can actually put in order before you step in to help.



We have also tried to learn a new poem this week all about teeth and what happens if we don't brush them. See if your child can remember any of the words, here they are to remind them:

Leonard was a lazy lad, who seldom cleaned his teeth and it's sad to say his teeth decayed on top and underneath.

They ached and ached and gave him terrible pain, which nearly drove him crazy. So then poor Leonard had to have them out and all for being lazy!

We talked about what the word decayed meant and decided we didn't want our teeth to do that, so we would definitely brush them very well!

The children have really enjoyed delving into this topic especially the fruit and vegetable part of the healthy eating bit. As a result we are extremely happy to see some healthier options being provided in lunch and snack boxes, well done and keep it up!

We have started making our Christmas costumes in preparation for our show and next week we will start making all of our other Christmas goodies! Please don't be alarmed if your child comes home sparkling every day, as the glitter season has begun!

Incredibly we only have two weeks left before the Christmas break, so it will be a very busy time indeed! If you are intending to leave earlier than the 15 December, please let us know, so we can plan our activities accordingly.

That's all for now, have a lovely weekend and to get everyone in the Christmas spirit, our talk topic is, 'what are the names of all of the reindeer that pull Santa's sleigh?'

Thank you

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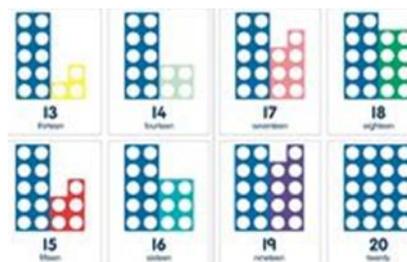
Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This week in Reception we have looked at schools and hospitals. We have talked about what they are why they are important in towns and cities. We have looked at different equipment found in hospitals such as x-ray machines and completed a fun craft to help our understanding. We have looked at the importance of washing our hands completed an experiment demonstrating what happens when we don't wash our hands with soap and water.

In phonics we have spent the week reading and writing. The children have been playing games, completing worksheets, using whiteboards to practise their blending and segmenting. They are showing real improvement in both their own self-confidence when working with sounds and their understanding of what reading is, blending sounds together to understand written words.

In maths we have looked at teen numbers, stating that they are ten plus some more. The children have been showing increasing understanding that ten and 4 makes fourteen, ten and seven makes seventeen and so on. They have begun to answer these kind of questions both in number sentence form (for example, $10+5=15$) and practically using Numicons. We have also begun to look at one more than and one less than, understanding that it is simply the surrounding numbers on a number line. The children have a grasp of one more than and we will be continuing to look at one less than in the coming weeks.



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 sharing things that we are thankful for. For example, I am thankful for my family.

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 finished our work on fish this week with a wonderful visit to the Aquarium of Brussels. We saw all sorts of wonderful fish including clownfish, catfish, freshwater fish and zebra fish. The children asked lots of thoughtful questions and learned about how fish develop from eggs and how they come from many different countries. The children also wrote fish acrostics poems this week in literacy which you can see in their home school books. We thought about how fish move, what they look like and what they can do.



In phonics we learned how to spell words with the last of the consonant digraphs, /ee/ and the first of the long vowels /igh/. The children practised reading and writing words with these sounds. In our grammar lesson we practised writing sentences starting I am, I like, I went and I saw and using full stops.

In maths this week we finished our autumn term maths assessment and the children showed me all the things they have learned in maths recently such as adding coins, addition and subtraction, ordering numbers and measuring and comparing the length of different objects. We also looked at finding one more and one less than tens numbers such as 50 and 80. The new maths homework game is called ‘starfish strike.’

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 have also started doing our Christmas crafts this week as the holidays will come around before we know it. We made started making our clay Christmas star ornaments and our calendars for 2018. The children enjoyed working with the clay and modelling with it. We also made some lovely Christmas stars to decorate our classroom with and make it sparkle for the holiday season.

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,

We have fought inclement weather the whole week. Luckily it cleared enough for us to go to the park and it didn't affect our outing to the aquarium yesterday.

In Literacy we are still working on connectives and this week was the turn of 'or'. We did exercises in using 'or' to join two sentences as well as to finish a sentence using this connective. We didn't manage to go to the library this week but some of us did change our books after assembly. I am very impressed with the spelling results of our class. The children choose challenging words to learn and they are learning how to break these up in order to spell them correctly. Well done, Year 2. As a project we are working on forming compliments which we will give to our friends closer to the holidays. This week, we have been revising adjectives that we will need to form these compliments.

In Numeracy we looked at adding doubles and near doubles. We discovered the rule together and had fun using this rule to do our work. We have also been counting in 2's, 5's and 10's. We have been discussing multiples and how these end for 2, 5 and 10. We revised odd and even numbers as well.

We managed to go to the park finally and it is thanks to Mrs Kelkar that we were able to go. She very kindly agreed to accompany us rather than go swimming. A big thank you, Mrs Kelkar. We saw some lovely ducks, Egyptian geese and a heron around the lake. Even though it was rather muddy, it was really good to enjoy the walk and the fresh air.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we introduced the use of 'jouer' (to play) with sports and musical instruments. They got to ask questions and create and invent their own hobbies as for example: Est-ce que tu joues au tennis? 'je joue au tennis, mais je ne joue pas au foot. We also got to talk about the legend of St Nicolas.

In Art we are moving on to creative projects. We have been making some really eye catching flies which we hope to hang up soon. We have also started on Christmas crafts and have plans for the coming weeks.

Again, the rain put paid to any outdoor PE so we continued to do dance activities inside. We try to practice the dance for our show every day and I am hoping the class will practice during to break as well.

Our outing to the aquarium was superb. We all arrived early so the bus could leave on time. On arrival at the aquarium we enjoyed our snack and a bit of activity time before going on a tour. Gosh, we learnt so much about fish and were amazed by it all. We saw toads, newts and poison arrow frogs too! We saw fish that spit water to catch insects, fish that are masters of disguise and discus fish



that trick predators into thinking they are reflections of the sun. I was incredibly impressed by the behaviour of the children and they were a credit to our school.

The talk topic this week is: What was the most exciting thing you saw at the aquarium? Why?

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,

There has been a lot of team work this week in different subjects. Our cricket practice last week came in useful in our tennis session, when we found ourselves playing a type of cricket... but with a tennis racquet. Each team fielded and batted, and had to work together to get round the court without running each other out. Our ball skills are definitely improving, although most of us still find hitting it a challenge!



We needed our detective skills in maths as we tackled a ‘maths mystery challenge’. We work on these in pairs, analysing each clue and finding strategies to solve them. This tests our real understanding of concepts, as we have to explain our ideas to each other, and then see if they work. We also worked on money, identifying coins and using different combinations to make certain amounts. This led on to working out the change that would be given, depending on the items that were purchased.

In grammar we revised vowels and consonants and looked in more detail at determiners. We also did our second dictation. This is an excellent way of checking other basic grammar points, as capital letters, punctuation marks, speech marks etc. are all included and the children need to use them within the context of the text. The exercise requires considerable concentration and the ability to follow at a certain speed. It is clear that children who read widely have a significant advantage, as they tend to have an automatic recall of common words, and will have encountered a more varied vocabulary in their reading. We also wrote a letter to Mrs King, thanking her for all her hard work, and decided to present it ... in the shape of an ammonite to remind her of Year 3!

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 talked about 'qu'est-ce que tu portes aujourd'hui?' What are you wearing today? They had to describe their wardrobe and combine it with colours. We discussed the meaning of 'porter' which means to wear and to carry. We talked about St Nicolas, we sang a beautiful song for him, we discussed the vocabulary of the song and we made up phrases and examples out of the different words.

In art, Year 3 have shown great creativity and resourcefulness when working on the scenery for our play. They have been by far the most organised, the most inventive, and certainly the most able to work as a team to produce an end product. It is not necessarily easy to be given a cardboard box and asked to turn it into a house or a market stall – but they have done it!

Our talk topic is: How would you create a giant for our play?

Have a lovely weekend,

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

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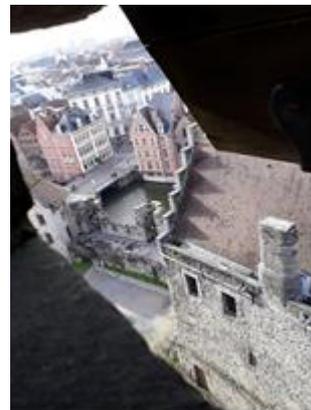
Please click [here](#) for our Year 3 webpage

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

This week was an absolute stinker but when you get two trips within one week and you are rehearsing for the Christmas show, the Winter feels tropical. It was quite a treat and we were really spoilt. The weather forecast actually improved for the trip to the Castle on Tuesday and the children were really excited. It's a wonderful castle which looks spectacular, in a great setting and it's filled with history.

The excursion involved a lot of travelling but the Year 4's took it in their stride, never complaining and took the opportunity to play card games on the train (including my TopTrumps and Junior Uno) with their friends. Some unfortunates even had to do a Guided Reading session: torture perhaps, even before setting foot in the castle!



Visit our page, scroll down and enjoy the virtual tour of the fortress!

<http://www.bisb.org/classes/year-4/>

It was a super day. Many thanks to Mrs Guggila for helping to herd the flock.

The planetarium today will have involved the overhead projection film which greets you on entry but also an interesting workshop which I'm sure you'll all hear about tonight.

At our desks in Numeracy, we focussed on weighing (using balances and scales and converting mass (g to kg)) and adding 4-digit numbers. In the latter lesson, there was something for everyone: some learnt to carry tens/hundreds for the first time, some mastered it and others had to prove and broaden their understanding through some problem-solving and deep thinking.

In French we introduced more than twenty action verbs, we acted and imitated those action verbs. We also used the clothing vocabulary to dress up for different events and celebrations. They got to role play and tell us about their favorite events using the action verbs and the clothing vocabulary. We talked about the legend of St Nicolas and we practiced singing ' Il était une bergère' , the school's show song .

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. On Wednesday, they made a written summary of what they remembered.

Outside, we did a little more hockey in PE but not before we had a handball coaching session. Last week, Marina had a patched-up ankle and in her convalescence, she had the task of finding some handball training drills online. This week, she had to become head coach and offer us these activities. This involved both defending and attacking but more importantly thinking about our game. The added bonus for me was that I was able to focus on the children without being 'on call'.

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,

We are now battling against time to finish all our various projects and end of term tests, as well as rehearsing for our forthcoming production. Please ensure that all costumes are in school by the end of next week, thank you. Also, you will have received a letter about our next outing to see 'A Midsummer's Night Dream', performed by the Brussels Shakespeare Society. I hope to make our booking at the beginning of next week, so I would appreciate your early return of the form. We shall begin work on this text on Monday.

I have sent our beautifully illustrated thank-you letters to the Events Organiser at the Antwerp World Diamond Centre. The students took their time over this task and were pleased with the results. In literacy, we learnt about extended noun phrases and students will be able to use these skills to complete their homework. There are still too many errors in the dictation exercise, which I expect not to be the case next week!

In maths, we have revisited fractions: equivalent, improper, mixed number, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Our next skill to master is finding quantities of amounts; some pupils are already able to find simple fractions of amounts. Our 3D diamonds are now completed and suspended from a fishing net in the classroom – they look magical.

We introduced more than twenty action verbs, we acted and imitated those action verbs. We also used the clothing vocabulary to dress up for different events and celebrations. They got to role play and tell us about their favorite events using the action verbs and the clothing vocabulary. We talked about the legend of St Nicolas and we practiced singing ‘ Il était une bergère’ , the school’s show song . 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. On Wednesday, they made a written summary of what they remembered.

The majority of eye dissections have been assembled; we are now deciding how to display them.

To bring our space adventure to a close, tomorrow we are off on our final trip of the term, to the Planetarium; we have two workshops, which the students are very excited about.

Wishing you all 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](#)

This week, the Junior EAL group have focused largely on developing vocabulary. Following from last week's work on Belgium, we spent some time preparing to write non-fiction reports about a country of each child's choice. We learned key words to use in the report, for example population, currency, government, climate, and related words. After Year 4's trip to Ghent castle, we practised using key vocabulary relating to castles, through reading, games and interesting conversation.

In the Reception EAL group, we had great fun role-playing doctors, nurses and patients, asking each other What's the matter? What's the matter with your baby? explaining She's too hot or he hurt his head etc. We also spent a session looking at maps showing hospitals, schools, parks and other places.

The Year 1 and 2 EAL group spent a session writing about their weekend activities. I am pleased to see them gaining confidence in using their knowledge of letter sounds to work out spellings, and thereby becoming more independent in their writing. We also practised using adjectives in sentences to talk about different kinds of fish, and we spent a session asking each other questions to recall the facts we have been learning about fish.



Many thanks, and I wish you a happy weekend in the cold weather.

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