

Home School Books – 12 January 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Welcome back one and all and a HAPPY NEW YEAR! It is the start of the spring term and we have a number of new children who have joined us in nursery this week. So please give a warm welcome to, Mila-Dora, Saanchi, Aadya and Ishaan and their families of course.

This term also sees a change in our topic work and the new theme for the next few weeks is 'Weather and Seasons'.

However because it is our first week back after the break, we have used this time to re-settle the children back into nursery life, as sometimes it takes a while for the children to get back into the swing of things. The new children also need time to get used to new routines and integrate into the existing nursery groups.



During our personal, social and emotional development sessions, we have talked about being gentle and kind to one another and making sure everyone is included during free play activities. Of course we continue to work on turn taking and sharing, as these are always tricky actions, for some children to put into practice in this age group!

In circle time the children were asked 'what was your favourite thing you did in the holiday?' There were a variety of answers but the favourite thing for most children was playing with a new toy or going to a friend's house. If you look opposite you will see a pictorial representation of what your child played with or did during the holiday.

Free hand drawing is a great way for children to express themselves and put their fine motor control into action. Don't worry if you don't instantly recognise what the drawing is meant to be, some children need more practise than others before art work starts to take shape.

Next week we will start our new theme, so keep a weather eye open it could get stormy out there! Our talk topic is: How many seasons are there in one year? Which season is it now?

Have a great weekend

Thank you

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

Welcome back. We hope you all had a nice winter break. We have started this new term with our new 'farms' topic. We have looked at the type of animals that are found on a farm and how they are different from those that are found in the wild or in a zoo. The children made some edible haystacks using white chocolate and pretzels.



In phonics we have had a revision week, revising all the phonemes learnt last term. We have also spent the week focussing on segmenting cvc words in order to write them down as well and continuing to practise blending. We have looked at reading stories and how to blend a word at a time rather than saying all the sounds in a sentence. The children, in the coming term, will begin to bring a reading book home. This is a short story that the children must not only try to read, but also show understanding through answering questions asked by the listener.

In maths we have looked back over teen numbers. We have been using Numicons to help us look at number sentences relating to teen numbers e.g. $10+5=15$. The children have also learnt the word 'estimate' and how making an estimation is the same as having a guess. For example, how many beads in a jar. We had activities where the children had to get into the habit of making sensible estimations by looking at the quantity and not just saying a random number. We discussed how estimating is not about getting the correct answer but more about making a sensible guess, one that is close to the real quantity.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, after we wished one another "Bonne année" (Happy New Year), we resumed our weather topic and described what we wear in winter when it is very cold. We also sang our "wolf" song again and we dressed the picture of a little boy with very warm clothing.

Some of you may have noticed a Hindi song in your child's folder. If this is the case we would appreciate if you could practise the words with your child over the weekend. If you do not have the song, please do not worry this simply means that your child is not expected to sing this particular song at the show.

Talk topic for Monday will be answering the question 'What would you have on your farm (animals or plants) if you had one?'

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Irakoze and Patrick Tranter

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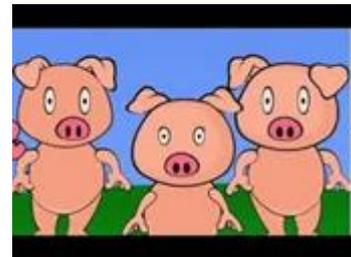
Please click [here](#) for our Reception webpage

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

It's lovely to see everyone back after the winter holidays; we hope you had an enjoyable time. We've all been very busy in Year 1 preparing for the winter show which will take place in only a few weeks (Monday 29th January at 17.00). We have been practising the words to our songs, our dance moves and making props and costumes. The theme will be 'winter around the world' and the two countries Year 1 are doing for the show are Russia and Japan. However as the children will also be visiting India on their round the world trip there is a Hindi song which all the children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 are invited to sing along to. I've sent a copy of the words home with the children so they can have a go at joining in with the words in the show if they wish to.

In literacy this week we've practised retelling the famous story of The Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf. We made story maps and learned the sequence of the events. Next week we will be writing our own stories based on The Three Little Pigs by changing key details of the story and adding our own ideas. In phonics we looked at words containing the /or/ and /ar/ phonemes and practised reading and writing words with these sounds. We restart our spelling tests next week on Thursday.



In maths we have briefly revised the number bonds to 10. We have practised counting on along a number line and 100 square. We practised using a 100 square to locate 2 digit numbers and count on from them. We practised counting on 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 from any 2 digit number.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, after we wished one another "Bonne année"; we started our new story "Une maison de musiciens" in which we will learn a lot of new vocabulary including musical instruments, parts of the body, rooms and furniture of the house as well as family members.

Next week on Tuesdays we will start our weekly swimming lessons. Group A will go to the pool and group B will stay in class and do activities with me. Later in the year the children will swap and group B will go to the pool. I have sent a letter home explaining what the children need to bring, which group they are in and how the sessions work. If you have any other questions then please contact us.

We hope you 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,

The cold and moist weather has certainly not dampened our spirits and it is good to be back. We have a new classmate and we all hope Suhail and his family enjoy their stay with us.

In Literacy we have begun a look at a new series of books about a girl called Katie Morag who lives on the island of Struay. We have also been writing poems about winter for our wall display. These have been acrostic poems and rhyming ones too. I have given out spelling so our normal weekly test will commence next week again.

In Numeracy we have counted in 2's, 5's and 10's across the 100 barrier and back. We had fun playing games whilst counting. We have also revised place value both on the white boards and in our workbooks.

In Topic we were introduced to our new theme which is An Island Home. We watched a very interesting presentation on islands and we able to find out lots of things. We discovered that islands can be big or small. We also found out that islands can be different; rocky and tropical being 2 examples. We spoke about the huge islands such as Australia, The British Isles and Madagascar.



In Art we had a busy time painting trees with owls in them as well as painting rainbow skies with bare trees. The children have loved these activities and the results of their labours are bright and colourful. Some of the art is for the wall display in the classroom whilst the rest will replace art in the hall. Our handwork project was a skater on a pond worked cleverly onto a paper plate. These skaters will also go on the winter wall display.

In Science we had a good look at our salt crystals and have marvelled at the size of them. Sadly we had our last swimming session this week and the children have all made good progress. This week and until our play, the PE will be dance exercises as we need to hone our dance skills.

In Computing we did some coding which involved moving objects around in order to touch each other. After that, the class worked on teaching their monsters to read.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about 'les vêtements' (clothing) according to la météo (the weather forecast) and 'les quatre saisons' (the four seasons). We also used the imperative or the command form to tell each other what clothes to put on: Mets ta veste! (put on your jacket!) Mets ton écharpe! (put on your scarf...)

We have been practising for our winter play and things are progressing nicely. I am pleased to say the class has been learning their words well and the next step is for them to know when to say their lines.

The talk topic this week is: What would you like to do that is different this year? Have you made any resolutions?

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,

Happy New Year to you all! It was lovely to be back and surrounded by enthusiastic children, keen to share their holiday news on Monday. The week has flown past and we are already well into our new work. Our theme for this term is ‘The Journey’, which will take us off in many directions, including studying maps and explorers, but in particular giving us the great opportunity to look at all sorts of journeys taken in children’s fiction. Our first book is a crazy, time-travel adventure in which Dad sets out to find milk for breakfast... will he ever get home, or is he doomed to travel the time vortex with the milk safely in his pocket?! We will use the idea of a journey to analyse the structure of stories, and improve our own writing.

In maths we worked on place value and number lines, using 3-digit numbers and rounding to the nearest tens and hundreds. We also worked in pairs to decode the instructions in number problems. We discovered that the calculations are generally quite straightforward, once we have worked out what the instructions mean. We used the same analytical processes to work on a language comprehension exercise, identifying question words and instructions, and then looking for clues in the text. Our knowledge of number lines also came in useful during our library lesson, as we were able to re-shelve lots of returned books by classifying them according to their number in a sequence.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we revised the months of the year, the seasons and the days of the week. We also resumed working in our ZigZag books and started a new topic about animals and realised we know a vast number of them.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, We reviewed ‘greetings and personal introductions’: Bonjour! Comment tu t’appelles? ... We role played these introductions in an ongoing chain in order to involve everyone. We talked about ‘les vêtements’ (clothing), la météo & ‘les quatre saisons’ (the forecast and the four seasons). We role-played Qu’est-ce que tu portes .. en hiver, en été...? Etc... (What do you wear.. in winter, in summer...)

Our Science topic is Magnets and Forces, and this week we looked at how things move and stop. Several children enjoyed swinging on their chairs and working out how they did it. Only one person fell off, but this was a good way to find out the difference between fast and slow movements! We put our observations into practice

by playing hockey in PE; pushing the ball around the playground with the hockey stick and increasing the movement by increasing the force behind the swing.

In music we had great fun practising the choreography for the concert at Bozar. I found it extremely challenging, but the children seemed to have no problem at all!

Our talk topic is: If I set out on a journey, where would I choose to go?

Enjoy your 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,

Welcome back and Happy New Year.

A three-week break is a real luxury and not one we may get again and although we were all greatly refreshed from our holidays it was a bit of a shock to the system to return to hard work. And we were straight back in it.

Sport was a strong theme of the week and is, of course, our Spring Topic. We launched ‘Celebrity Sports’ by doing some mini biographies, researching the history of the Olympic Games, looking at the science of keeping warm post-exercise and, of course, starting our weekly swimming sessions.



Literacy began with non-fiction report writing but also studying conjunctions. Using such words to join parts of longer sentences served to decorate our walls but also to up level our English; useful when it comes to exam time in June!

The children had to guess how the ancient Olympic Games might have looked, just by making interpretations of Greek vases. This was followed by a BBC video to confirm our deductions.

Science actually split across topic last term and the new one. Using what we know about keeping food warm and ourselves after sport, the class had to conduct an experiment on our Tudor Houses to see which material insulates best. This enabled another great investigation for using measuring equipment, recording accurate results, using perception, logic and what we already know.

Meanwhile maths was not sportive or aerobic as we gently returned to calculation and problem solving with stress-free Place Value.

Swimming caused great excitement but a few had got a bit rusty. Getting changed afterwards, especially the girls, took an eternity and the children know this needs work. What I also found out is that swimming caps are now obligatory at the pool. Please could you find your child a swimming 'bonnet' for next week if they do not already have one?

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, We reviewed 'greetings and personal introductions': Bonjour! Comment ça va? Comment tu t'appelles? ... We played these introductions in an ongoing chain in order to involve everyone. We talked about 'les vêtements' (clothing), la météo & 'les quatre saisons' (the forecast and the four seasons). We role-played Qu'est-ce que tu portes. en hiver, en été...? Etc... (What do you wear.. in winter, in summer...)

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we took the opportunity of starting a new year to revise the months of the year. We also revised être and avoir as well as -ER verbs in the present tense. We also included two irregular verbs like manger and lancer and we had our first dictation of "mots invariables".

I know that a number of children attend Thursday night swimming club at Triton pool in Evere. I don't know much about the details but I'm sure anyone who wishes to join, could. Failing that, the school also takes part in an annual sponsored swim. This is in March and all volunteers are able to swim: see details soon in Mr Prescott's newsletter.

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,

What an action-packed start to 2018! Such excitement in the classroom with two new (and one returning) pupils. We have rearranged our seating plan in our main classroom to accommodate the newcomers and are in the process of transforming the Year 6 classroom into a laboratory/workshop for all our practical activities.

Our first science experiment of the year (in our new lab) was to microwave a potato to destruction. One of our projects this term is potatoes; we shall be visiting the Mill at Evere to look at an exhibition about this humble vegetable and participating in a cookery



workshop. The focus of this experiment was understanding how to set up, observe and record in a scientific manner. After having studied the scientific journals of two volcanologists, the students set to work. Microwaving nine potatoes (using two microwaves) for one minute at a time, was a challenge in itself! However, after about ten minutes in the microwave, the first potatoes began to ‘smoke’ – and then the others ‘combusted’ in quick succession. Some students tried to delay the destruction of their treasured potato, by wrapping it in an oven glove so that the steam could not escape – I even found one hidden in an oven glove the next morning!

We watched a BBC version of a Midsummer Night’s Dream, to refresh our memories, and then, having studied how paragraphs are used to indicate shifts in time, place or character in fiction, the children rearranged ‘muddled’ scenes and acts into order. In grammar, we learnt about the use of the colon, semi-colon and dash.

In maths, we revised place value, focusing on decimals, factors, prime numbers, prime factors, square and cubed numbers and index notation.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, We reviewed ‘greetings and personal introductions’: Bonjour! Comment ça va? Comment tu t’appelles? ... We played these introductions in an ongoing chain in order to involve everyone. We talked about ‘les vêtements’ (clothing), la météo & ‘les quatre saisons’ (the forecast and the four seasons). We role-played Qu’est-ce que tu portes .. en hiver, en été...? Etc... (What do you wear.. in winter, in summer...)

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we took the opportunity of starting a new year to revise the months of the year. We also revised être and avoir as well as -ER verbs in the present tense. We also included two irregular verbs like manger and lancer and we had our first dictation of “mots invariables”.

Finally, we took our new Stormbreaker books off the shelf and entered the world of Alex Rider – a younger version of James Bond – action, adrenaline and adventure – that’s Years 5 & 6!

Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

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 to hear that all the children had an enjoyable holiday, giving them lots to talk about. This week, we have spent much of the time using the simple past tense to recount our holiday activities, and to ask each other questions about the holidays.

In the Junior department, the EAL group also practised using relative clauses in sentences, with the words who and which. This often helps to make a piece of writing or spoken language more fluent and more informative. We also looked carefully at the order of words in questions such as Where did you go? What did you see? Why did the people feel sad? We will continue to work with non-fiction texts, and with asking questions in the present and simple past tenses, next week.

In the Year 1 and 2 EAL group this term, we will be focusing a little more on reading and writing. I will encourage the children to use the letter sounds that they know to sound out words for reading and to work out spellings for writing. The aim is that the children become confident in their ability to write down their own ideas.



In the Reception EAL group this term, we will be talking a lot about farms and farming, including animals, plants and machinery, aiming to develop a range of vocabulary to help the children participate fully in the class topic activities.

I wish you a very happy new year, and a happy weekend.

Kate Read
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