

Home School Books – 19 January 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

The children are settling back into nursery life well this week and have been full of energy and very busy! There is a happy buzz in nursery at the moment and the older nursery group are starting to engage in role play in a more purposeful way and are helping the little ones to explore this area. Role play is a great area for enhancing language skills without too much adult intervention. When shy children role play a particular character, they become less self-conscious when speaking in front of others and their language expression becomes more relaxed and fluid. It's also a fabulous way to develop imagination and a love of oral story telling.

This week the role play area became a doctor's surgery or a hospital, although some of the vaccinations the children were pretending to give the teacher were a bit too realistic! Our favourite quote from one of the children during role play this week was 'in my face I'm a doctor but in my heart I'm a princess'!

Of course we have also started our new topic 'weather and seasons' and during our circle time discussions we talked about the four seasons; ask your little one if they can remember what they are. Then during our language sessions we discussed the different types of weather you would find in each season. If you look opposite you will see their choice of weather symbol. Although in Belgium we can sometimes get every type of weather all in one day!



The children are now split into small groups for their literacy and maths activities. We have groups of apples, pears, bananas, oranges, strawberries and kiwis! If you wish to know which group your child is in, try asking them or take a look at the small symbol on their coat peg photograph. Each week we will have a specific activity in these two areas, which may or may not correspond to the topic work. Some will be purely for assessment purposes, so we can see the curve your little one is following in conjunction with their stage of development.

So all in all a busy week indeed!

Just a quick reminder, we are still encouraging healthy snack boxes in nursery, so please cut back on the sugary snacks and continue with more fruit or healthy alternatives. The whole school will have a health and hygiene week throughout all classes next week and we want to keep up the good progress some children are making with healthy eating and improve on it, if we can.

The talk topic is: Think of as many weather words as you can, which weather do you prefer?

Until next week, have a lovely weekend.

Thank you

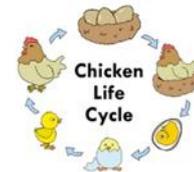
Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove
nurseryteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This week has been a very busy, fast paced week full of winter show practises, reading, numbers and more! We have continued looking at farms by talking about baby animals and their special names e.g., a horse and a foal, a goat and a kid. On Friday we completed an amazing egg in a bottle experiment while looking at the life cycle of a chicken.



In phonics we have been discussing digraphs and how they are two letters that make one sound. The children have learnt the new digraphs /ch/ as in chip, /sh/ as in shop and /th/ as in thin. These are all very similar looking sounds and so we have been completing activities throughout the week to try and help the children distinguish between these sounds.

In maths we have been looking at odd and even numbers. The children are beginning to understand what an even number is – a number that can be shared between two, and what an odd number is – a number that cannot be shared between two. We looked at numbers from one to twenty, observing a repeating pattern that happens. The numbers make a pattern odd, even, odd, even and this gave the children multiple opportunities to make estimations as to which numbers will be odd and which will be even. We then practically shared out toys to work out whether our estimations were right or not. Finally, we used numicons, once again, to begin looking at the patterns of numbers. The odd shaped numicons are odd numbers, the nice tidy shaped numicons are even numbers.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are talking about winter and the cold weather and we have learnt a new song “C’est l’hiver”. We also started our new and fun topic: animals. We began by learning a very famous song: “Dans sa maison un grand cerf” which the children can sing already.

We now have just over a week until our winter production on Monday 29th January at 17.00. Many thanks to all those who have helped their child learn the words to the Hindi song; we have seen encouraging improvement this week. We will be providing the children with outfits for the show but we would appreciate each child bringing in a white top and white or light grey bottoms for underneath. Please find more information in the letter in your child’s folder.

Talk topic for Monday will be answering the question ‘What is your favourite food? Where does it come from?’

We wish you a lovely weekend,

Naomi Irakoze and Patrick Tranter

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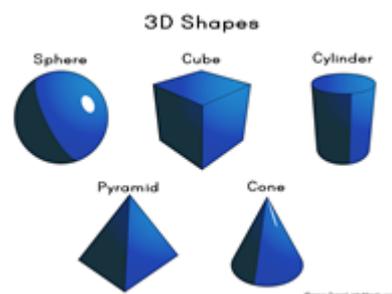
Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

This week we've been continuing to rehearse and prepare for our winter show. The dances are taking shape now and the singing is sounding lovely. Thank you to those who have already brought their costumes in for the show. If you haven't yet brought it in please bring the costume in by Monday the 22nd of January. In our art lessons this week we have continued to make our props including hats, fans and the remaining parts of our costumes.

In literacy this week we wrote our own stories based on the Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf. First they listened to me tell my story, the Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Dragon. We had some great ideas for the villain of the story including the Big Bad T-Rex, the Big Bad Giraffe and the Big Bad Pig. They built their houses out of books, playing cards, flowers, ice blocks, sand, mud and even popcorn in our stories! The children practised writing longer sentences and trying to use full stops and capital letters. In phonics we did the sounds /er/ and /ur/. We seemed to have gotten a week behind with the spelling tests due to Christmas fun and show rehearsals so this week the children were tested on the spellings for the 14/12 and the 18/1 so we are up to date now. The next list of spellings will be for next week.

In maths we have learned about 3D shapes this week, in particular, cubes, cuboids, cylinders, spheres, cones and pyramids. We learned to describe them using mathematical language, for example how many faces they have, what shape their faces are, whether the faces are flat or curved and whether they can roll or slide. We also talked about the days of the week - how many they are, what we do on different days and their order. The new maths homework game is called 'Balloon Pop.'



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have started our new story and we are learning lots of new vocabulary about musical instruments but also the body parts with the help of various songs, games and other activities. We also learnt to say "J'ai mal à la tête; j'ai mal au ventre; j'ai mal aux dents" etc. ...

The Group A swimmers had a fantastic first swimming session at the pool. If you have any availability to volunteer to help us out with getting them changed for

swimming on Tuesday mornings then please let us know. When we have help to change the children they have longer to spend in the pool with the instructor and therefore they get more out of the session and progress more quickly.

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,

Another wonderfully busy week has flown by. It has been windy and wet this week but we have kept up our spirits and have learnt many a new thing.

In Literacy we have been working on improving our use of certain words. Some of us were confused as to when to use 'their' or 'there'. We revised the fact that 'there' refers to place and statement whilst 'their' refers to possession. We have some work on this for homework this week. We have also revised the sounds we have learnt this week and will move on next week. Of course handwriting is very important so we enjoyed practising our joins. We read the story of Katie Morag and the two grandmothers again and brainstormed adjectives to describe the grannies.

In Numeracy we have been using bonds of 10 and 20 to add and to subtract. We revised adding and subtracting 9 and 11. We played our favourite game Fire whereby we revise bonds of 10.

In Topic we discussed the problems of how to get to islands. We finally agreed that we could get to islands using transport such as planes, helicopters and boats. We produced some pictures to add to our island display and this will grow as we learn more about our island.

In Art we have been working on making hats for our show. We painted our hat yellow and then added brown splodges on it to create a giraffe effect. We then decorated them with pictures to show the 2 countries we are concentrating on.

In PE we again concentrated on our dance for the play. We are now trying to get the timing right and move in unison.

In Computing we learnt all about QR codes. We found out what they are and then learnt how to read them using an app called inigma. We also experimented in making these codes.

The class has found this very fascinating indeed.



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we learned how to use 'Avoir' (to have) and we used it in context by playing and acting Qu'est-ce que tu as.. ? (what do you have..?) We

also reviewed ma garde-robe and everything that had do with les vêtements (clothing). We played the mystery game: L'as-tu vu(e)? (Did you see him/her?) et qu'est-ce qu'il porte? (what is he wearing?)

We are still practising for our winter play and the final show will be really lovely. Please practice your child's lines with them and especially important is to know when to deliver these lines.

Next week is dedicated to healthy living and we are planning to make a vegetable soup on Tuesday. Please could you send in a serving of a vegetable to add to our soup (these could include potatoes, carrots, onion, turnips, broccoli, etc.)?

The talk topic this week is: How can we change our diet to make it healthier?
Have a super weekend,

Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 3

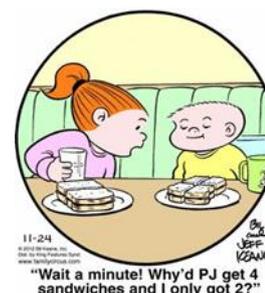
Dear Parents,

We have welcomed new children to Year 3 this term, and it is great to see how kind and friendly everyone has been. Lavanya and Kashvi have settled in really well and we definitely have a happy 'buzzing' classroom!

This week has seen us embark on our first 'Journey' in Literacy. We read the book 'On my way home' together and analysed the structure, the vocabulary, and specific punctuation. We made predictions about the adventure, and discussed what makes it such a good story. We also looked at old and new editions of the book and talked about how we choose books. We compared the way in which this simple story is told with our class book 'Fortunately, the milk', which takes the same idea, but is far more complicated. With plenty of ideas in our heads, we then set to work on our own stories – which are brilliant!



In maths we made cardboard pizzas and divided them up into different sized slices. The fun begins as we decide which slices we would prefer, and which ones we can swap without losing out! Equivalent fractions are not always obvious so, more than ever, it is well worth doing the practical work behind the calculations. There is great demand for making real pizzas, so we will be weighing and measuring in the near future. We also worked on some more mystery problem clues based on various types of number problem, and did some quick fire multiplication.



In Science we did various experiments with different types of magnets, comparing size, shape and strength, and working out what magnets can do. We had a challenge to see which magnet could attract the most paper clips, and discovered that it was possible to create long strings of clips by attaching them to both poles. The classroom now has several modern art wire 'sculptures' hanging from the ceiling!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we role-played the game *qu'est-ce que tu prends dans ta valise?* (what will you pack in your suitcase?) with the objective of using 'les vêtements' (clothing). We also had our mid-term project in French where they were engaged and invited to comment and find the correct or incorrect sentences.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we already finished our animal topic and started a new and very exciting one: food. We began by talking about our favourite dish and pizza was a winner! We listened to a song about pizza and also started talking about potatoes as an introduction to our future outing to the Mill in Evere.

We were delighted (and very relieved) to find that everyone has remembered their lines and the songs for the play and we are looking forward to seeing you all on Monday for the performance. Let's hope the snow stays away and the traffic jams are organised....

In the meantime, have a lovely weekend in the warm.

Our talk topic is: What real-life adventures have we had on a journey that we've taken?

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

We had a few sicknesses in class this week but we were quickly 14 again. Arjun joined us from his previous school in Oslo, Norway, last week and he has slotted in very nicely and easily to Y4 life.

We continued our Amazing People (and events) Unit with some factual report writing, tense changing exercises and headline composing. The subject matter drew up a word problem which eventually involved all the teachers in trying to find the word sought.

Language is great and trying to use it effectively is even better. Which adverb best describes how the anti-social boys pushed the girl and the pram into the water?



In Maths, we learnt the 7x tables and other tricky multiplying facts, long form subtraction and expanded (ladder) multiplication. This revisited work we've done last term but the aim is again, mastery.

In Topic, the children were set the task of locating, mapping and finding out the weather at 5 of the last editions of world sporting events: e.g. Olympics, tennis grand slams, ICC Cricket World Cup. Atlas skills, capitals and countries and working out the weather at a certain time of the year (not just the current time) all came into play.

Elsewhere, we started a new Science Unit on physiology, respiration and circulation. This week we medically named and built each part of the human skeleton, developing further the work from last year.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed everything we learned up to now through different exercises, in order to be ready for the mid-term French exam. We also played the game *qu'est-ce que tu prends dans ta valise?* (What will you pack in your suitcase?) with the objective of using 'les vêtements' (clothing).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we put our books and notebooks in order and some children took a maths test in French for the FBJM Belgian math competition. The rest of the group had French with Mrs. Halvorsen. We also corrected some grammar homework and we had our second dictée of mots invariables.

Really pleasingly, we were much more organised getting changed and ready for swimming. The swimming itself was first rate, too. Some children come to school with swimming costume already put on. I understand and appreciate the forward thinking. However, if a costume covers the body all morning they will not be able to go to the toilet easily until 12:20 at the earliest: it would take a very strong self-discipline or bladder not to give in to the urge to urinate in the pool. Please bear this in mind.

We were only 2 swimming-hatless children today so thank you to those of you who went out shopping specially to buy one.

And that was our week.

See you on Monday night for the Show!!!
best wishes

Tim Stedman and Ena Tolentino
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 4 webpage

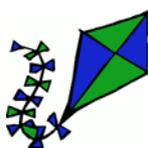
Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

I thought that I had gone back in time this week; rehearsing for the Christmas production! As you can imagine, much of our time has been devoted to practising for

English as an Additional Language

This week, the Junior EAL group put the finishing touches to the posters about their chosen countries. They also wrote questions based on the non-fiction texts on the posters. Most importantly, the children took turns to present their posters to the rest of the group, and to ask us their questions, which ensured that we all tried to listen carefully. They all did extremely well in talking about their posters clearly and coherently, and we learned a lot. The questions included, for example:



When was the White House in the USA built? When did Poland become a state? Who is Rabindranath Tagore? What is the Taj Mahal made of? Why do many people in Pakistan go onto their roofs during the festival of Basant?



The children also have some great ideas for stories, so we will find some time in class for story writing, and will take that opportunity to develop vocabulary and practise our grammar.

The Year 1 and 2 EAL group this week continued asking each other questions beginning with Did you ..? In connection with the Year 2 topic, Island Life, we began to talk about islands and what we might see on them, and took the chance to find some islands in an atlas. We also spent some time writing to report our weekend activities.

The Reception EAL group looked at a very interesting book about farms, and from it we learned where on a farm we might find different animals, and the names of baby animals – including lamb, calf, kid, puppy and chick. We are preparing to make a simple non-fiction book about farm animals, making use of the present simple tense (e.g. The cow lives in a cowshed.)

Please contact me if you would like to discuss your child's progress in English.

I wish you a very a happy weekend.

Kate Read
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