

Home School Books – 2 February 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

It has been a quiet week in nursery, especially in the mornings as numbers plummeted due to the dreaded 'griep' and a horrible sickness bug to boot! Thank you to everyone who kept their children at home until they were fully recovered, as coming back to school too soon can cause a quick relapse.



However even with fewer children present in nursery, we have still managed to do some exciting and fun activities. To keep in line with our topic work on the weather, we took a look at hot and cold climates and what sort of animals might live there. If you look opposite, you will see your little ones hot and cold weather book. Each child was asked to name the animal and then decide where each one belonged. A fantastic activity for not only learning some interesting facts about the animals but also some great conversational language took place. Ask your child to talk you about all of the different animals in the book and then think of a new animal to draw on the paper underneath. We will take a look at everyone's individual drawing in circle time on Monday.

We also listened to a sound game in circle time this week, the children had several visual clues in front of them and after hearing a specific sound, they had to match the sound and the visual together. Some sounds like a person tap dancing or the ocean waves crashing onto the shore, were quite tricky but the children made a good effort with their guesses. One of the guesses for the crashing waves was a shower, so some of you have very powerful showers indeed!

During our personal and social development, we have continued to talk about the golden rules we have throughout the school. We have also discussed what sharing and taking turns actually means and making good choices, which does not mean hitting others or snatching toys from others if you want your turn! Sharing is still a work in progress, as they say!

Next week will see another cold spell with falling temperatures but please remember not to put too many layers of indoor clothes on your child. This can cause difficulties especially if there are several pairs of tights under trousers, not easy for toilet time! Plus it may be chilly outside but school is very warm inside. A warm coat, hat and mittens plus a short scarf or snood is all that is needed to keep the chill out while outdoors.

Our talk topic for the week is “Does ice melt faster in the fridge or on the radiator?”

That's all for this week folks, have a germ free 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,

Firstly we'd like to say well done to Reception for their super performance on Monday. They are still young but managed to not only learn their dance but also learn the words to multiple songs. We hope you enjoyed watching them as much as we did on the big night.

In phonics we have learnt two new digraphs, /ng/ as in thing and /nk/ as in think. Reception are showing good understanding of what a digraph is, giving examples of the six we have looked at so far. The children were also introduced to rhyming words, learning that they are words that have the same sound endings. The children are showing increasing recognition of rhyming words and will continue to work on recognising them by ear alone.

In maths we have continued looking at doubling. The children made some brilliant doubling ladybirds which you can enjoy looking at on one of the classroom displays. The children were also introduced to halving, i.e. numbers shared between two.



We looked at accurate sharing and how important it is in order to have the correct answer when halving collections of items. The children are becoming good at completing the phrase 'half \_\_\_ is \_\_\_'.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we go on singing animal songs to learn as many animal names as we possibly can. We are now singing a funny song about a green mouse. There is another little book that will come home soon.

Because of the show on Monday we did not have a chance to have our weekly Talk Topic session. Therefore we will be keeping the same Talk Topic question, 'what is the job of the farmer on the farm?'

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 started with great excitement with our Winter show! I'm sure you'll agree that the children sang and performed brilliantly. I was proud of their confidence and enthusiasm. The children had worked very hard to learn all the words to the songs and their dance moves; it was a very enjoyable performance. In their home school books the children each drew a picture of themselves in their costumes to help remember the experience.



In phonics this week we did the /ow/ and /oi/ sounds. We also continued to practise writing sentences using dictation and the children are becoming very good at writing the correct number of words, using spaces, full stops, capital letters and spelling tricky words correctly.

In mathematics we have learned all about odd and even numbers. We learned a song called 'number crunchers' to help us remember which numbers are odd and which numbers were even. We counted in odd and even numbers and practised identifying them on a 100 square or number line. The children also started to learn about fractions of 2D shapes, particularly halves and quarters.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still singing songs to learn the parts of the body and we are doing quite well. We also exercised saying "J'ai mal à la tête; j'ai mal au ventre; j'ai mal aux dents" etc ... we played several games around the same theme.

In art this week the children looked at the work of Kandinsky. They then practised doing their own paintings inspired by the colours that Kandinsky used in his work.

In our topic work we talked about how bathrooms and bath time has changed in the last 100 years. We watched a short video about bath time 100 years ago and talked about how there was no electricity or hot running water.

The sun shone earlier this week so we took the opportunity to go outside and do some team games in PE. The children practised following rules and working with their teammates.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Ivana Julaton

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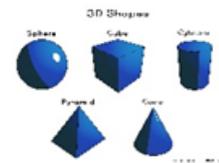
Please click [here](#) for our Year 1 webpage

## Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

This has been a very busy week in Year 2 and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the class. The week started with the Winter Show in which all the children performed extremely well, delivering their lines as well as singing and dancing. It is a wonderful experience for the children and my favourite moment was seeing their faces when the curtain opens and they see all their parents sitting in what was a completely empty theatre when the curtain shut ..... magic! The bus ride to the theatre, the garden and the waffle for snack all add up to a very exciting day! We also need to thank all the parents for being such a great audience.

The rest of the week has been full of different activities and learning experiences; we have been role play shopping in a garden centre and had to work out what we could buy with our 10 pounds. We also revisited 2D shapes and looked at 3D shapes and took some time to look for shapes around the classroom and school. Maybe you can look out for cubes, cylinders and spheres around the house too.



We read a story about Katie Morag and her life on an island and then completed a comprehension about the story which we then corrected together as a class. I was impressed with how well the children settled down to this task and we discussed the need to read through the text a couple of times before answering the questions, and also to check your work. These are good habits to get into.

We did some work on habitats and discussed what a habitat is and how there are different habitats e.g., Savannah grasslands, Polar regions, Rainforests etc. We went for a walk out in the school playground to look for any small creatures that live there but alas it was a bit cold and they have all disappeared for the winter. We watched a film about hedgehogs hibernating and talked about how animals adapt to their habitat.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we did “comptons ensemble” (let’s count together up to 100), we reviewed and sang “ mon corps” (my body parts). We presented “l’épicerie” (the food shop) where they could tell their peers what they had in their food shop using the different forms of ‘Avoir’ (to have) and all the food, fruit, vegetables etc.. that they had learned.

PE was fun too as we enjoyed a game of Dodgeball which involves working together as a team to get the other team out. I have been very pleased to see how the children in Year 2 work together and support each other.

We hope Mrs Vetter has fully recovered and we look forward to seeing her back next week. Enjoy the weekend.

Kind regards,

Helen Prescott

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

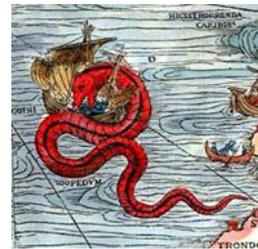
## Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

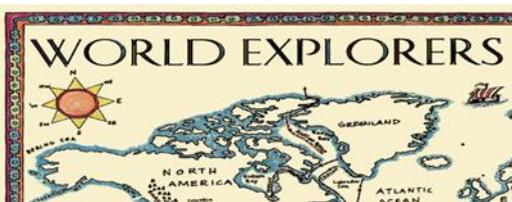
The classroom was quiet at the beginning of the week with several children away ill, so it's good to see them gradually returning now they are fully recovered. We had an exciting morning on Tuesday, combining French and fractions to make pizzas. The oven didn't cope too well with so many in one go, but the diners in Year 3's restaurant didn't seem to mind the soggy bottoms and we had a great lunchtime, cutting and counting slices and comparing toppings. In Literacy we wrote a set of pizza-making instructions – introducing different time conjunctions for each step in the process.

Work continued on ordering fractions with the same denominator and identifying fractions of an amount. We did some more work on coordinates by plotting points on a grid and measuring the perimeters of the shapes formed. It is good to see that most children have made a concerted effort with their times tables - we did several challenges and games, plus exercises on doubling and halving numbers using multiplication and division. Those children who know their tables have a considerable advantage!

In Literacy our journey has taken us to different fictional dragon lands and we discovered that dragons play an important part in the culture of many countries. We are writing dragon descriptions using similes and dramatic adjectives, and there is a very large egg about to hatch in the classroom... who knows which baby dragon will emerge!!



We used iPads to carry out research into different explorers, identifying important information and recording the details. We watched a fascinating whirlwind history of exploration and took a look at the geography of South America through a reading comprehension exercise using maps. This proved to be difficult, so we will be taking a closer look at maps and specific journeys taken by explorers.



We have several bulbs out in the school garden boxes and the children were fascinated by their talk from Pierre the 'Tree man' this week, so why not make the most of the (slightly) lighter days and enjoy a walk in the park this weekend?

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked about potatoes and the way we like to eat them. We also sang a song about potatoes and we learnt many facts and figures about this special vegetable. In other, we are getting ready to go to see the exhibition about potatoes at the Mill in Evere.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had different exercises using "Avoir" (to have) with the different subject pronouns and all sorts of nouns. The objective was to make practical use of 'la nourriture' (food) vocabulary with 'Avoir'. We played the game:

Qu'est-ce que tu as dans ton épicerie? (what do you have in your food shop?). We also talked about the origin of 'la pomme de terre' (the potato) and we had the wonderful opportunity to talk about pizza and make it with the entire year 3 class, Mrs Still and Mrs Scharf.

Our talk topic is: If I were an explorer, what would I take with me on my journey?

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 were back to full strength this week and the grey January weather wasn't able to dampen our spirits.

The junior school were visited on Monday by Pierre the tree man, sent by Urban Ecology (see <https://urban-ecology.be>) as part of Pepiniere Complet - an initiative to bring trees to schoolchildren and schoolchildren to trees. He very skilfully held the children's interest and attention. They drew the perfect tree, made bark and leaf rubbings and learnt something about the vital role trees play.

In literacy, we finally got to present our famous people orally to the class on order to gain access to the prestigious Top3 Hot Air Balloon. The children loved doing this and got very competitive and protective of their celebrity; everyone wanted to get on that balloon.

Research done on Selina Gomez was very informative and she has been in the headlines but the final winners were Mahatma Gandhi in first place, then Nelson Mandela and in third place, Leonardo da Vinci. It was a great exercise as each child had to persuade, engage and look directly at an audience with an important goal.



We also compared biographies and autobiographies followed by work labelling examples. The aim is that by the end of term the children will have produced a thorough Prezi presentation about a well-known sports personality, living or dead, that and also the not-entirely small project of organising a whole sports day event at Rippledawn.

Science also fired up the Year 4's as we compared animal bones to human and the children were asked to identify the animal from unnamed skeletons.

Maths pushed a lot of the children to the limit as we extended fractions of amounts to 3-digit numbers; e.g.  $\frac{2}{3}$  of 240? This proved very tricky for some.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked more in details about the origins of ‘la pomme de terre’ (potato) and we had a fun class quiz about this topic to test their understanding. We also had different exercices using “Avoir” (to have) and then we played a fun game ‘Qu’est-ce que tu as dans ton frigo?(what do you have in your fridge?). The objective was to make practical use of ‘la nourriture’ (food) vocabulary with ‘Avoir’ .

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked about potatoes (history, facts and figures...) to prepare our visit to the potato exhibition at the Mill in Evere. We made a mind map with all the facts we know and we talked about the different ways we eat potatoes. Based on all these facts, we wrote a little dialogue between two potatoes.

At swimming, my intermediate group continue to get stronger and more confident. And I’m confident that nearly all of them will pass the Rippledown Test: can they get from one side of the deep end to the other without help? Would they be able to swim to the bank if the situation arose?

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

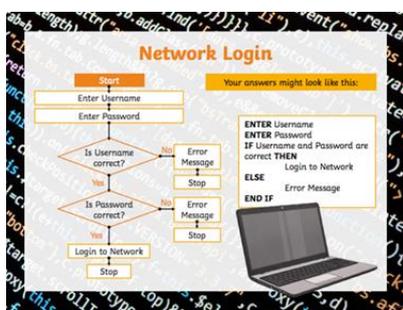
Dear Parents,

This week has seen the absence of a number of pupils, which has understandably created quite a lot of disruption. Those children ill at home have been able to follow our learning via Edmodo, and we shall revisit any new topics covered next week.

On Monday, we enjoyed a visit by Pierre, the ‘tree man’ from Urban Ecology (see <https://urban-ecology.be> ), who has ordered a selection of trees and shrubs for our playground.

In grammar, we studied the different uses of the hyphen: for compound adjectives, used in some numbers, compound nouns, after prefixes, to show that a word continues on the next line and to avoid ambiguity.

As quite a few of the LAMDA students have chosen to recite prose from our class reading book Stormbreaker, I decided to show the film version as they have their LAMDA examinations on Monday. Those children who missed the film this week, will have the opportunity to see it later.



We continued our work with flow charts and pseudocode. We took a first look at how computers

make decisions, selections in flowcharts and understanding how pseudocode is used to describe algorithms. The children have been asked to create a personality test algorithm using a 'decision' box.

We revised fractions, the properties of shape and space and units of measurement: length, mass and capacity. On Wednesday children sat the Abacus Spring term test 1, again, children who are were absent can take this test at a later date.

Keeping with our potato theme, we decided to try potato printing – not quite as easy as it sounds! Having 'chopped' our way through a very large bag of potatoes, we produced some attractive posters, which are on display in our classroom.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked more in details about the origins of 'la pomme de terre' (potato) and we had a fun class quiz about this topic to test their understanding. We also had different exercises using "Avoir" (to have) and then we played a fun game 'Qu'est-ce que tu as dans ton frigo?(what do you have in your fridge?). The objective was to make practical use of 'la nourriture' (food) vocabulary with 'Avoir' .

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I do hope that everyone has fully recovered by Monday, as we have another exciting week ahead with LAMDA examinations on Monday, a cooking workshop and museum visit on Wednesday.

Keep well or get well soon!

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,

Several EAL sessions had to be cancelled this week, because of staff illnesses, but I wanted to send a short message to encourage the children to continue to use English at home over the weekend (as well as making good use of their first languages, of course, as this always reinforces and supports their learning).

The Junior EAL group might like to practise listening to stories and non-fiction texts, by visiting this link: <http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/short-stories> where they will find many (about 80) interesting stories, each lasting a few minutes. The

stories of Shakespeare's plays, and of the life of Shakespeare, might be of interest (especially to the Year 5 children).

I will also encourage the Junior children to borrow a game from the EAL room, to play over the weekend, and to return on Monday.

Next week, in connection with the visit to the Mill, the Junior EAL group will be looking at potato recipes from our own countries, and learning to use the correct form of the verb when writing our own recipes.

We will also, by special request, begin to prepare presentations about other schools that we have attended.

The Reception and Year 1 and 2 children might like to listen to stories, at this website: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book> If you create a (free) log-in, your child can have access to free e-books, including many from the Oxford Reading Tree, which the children love.

Next week, the Year 1 and 2 EAL group will be using historical language, to talk about the subject of 'A Street Through Time'. The Reception EAL group will continue our work on animals, plants, people and machinery on farms.

I wish you all a happy weekend.

Kate Read  
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