

Home School Books – 23 February 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

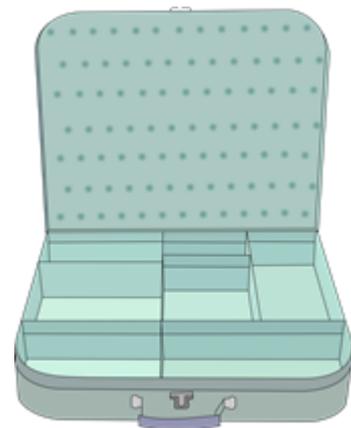
Dear Parents,

Brr! What a cold start to the rest of our spring term! It's a good job our new topic is all about clothes, which has included a lot of discussion about what we wear to keep us warm in cold weather.

Thank you to all the parents who have chosen to send their child in mittens rather than gloves with fingers! It saves a lot of time when getting children dressed to go outside for Playtime. OUTSIDE! I hear you say, as the weather is cold, but yes, we do try and get out in late morning and afternoon to explore the frosty outdoors.

So please make sure you leave a warm coat and a hat and short scarf every day; children need to be out, even for a short time, to help keep those lungs fit and healthy. The cold does not cause coughs and colds, bacteria spreads through the air or touch causes children to get sick, so the general rule of thumb at school is, if your child is well enough to be in school they are well enough to go outside.

In circle time we all looked at a real suitcase and its contents, to decide whether or not the owner was going on a summer holiday and or a winter holiday. Ask your little one to see if they can remember what was actually packed inside the case. If you look opposite you will see what your child wanted to pack in their pretend suitcase and which sort of holiday they decided to go on! Get them to name each item and then colour in the goodies inside of the case, to show to the teacher on Monday.



Our story this week was 'The Emperor's New Clothes' it is a traditional fairy-tale about a vain king that thinks he is having an invisible set of fine clothes made for him, that only very clever people can see! Only to find that he has been tricked by the tailors! Ask your child to retell the story and ask them to tell you what he was, actually wearing!

Next week is world book week in school. Please look out for details about this in the whole school newsletter.

Just to outline what the nursery children will need:

On Wednesday or Thursday, please send in an envelope in their school bag, containing 10-15 Euros, marked clearly with your child's name. This will be used for them to purchase a new book from our book sale in school on Thursday 1st March.

We are also having a visit from an author named 'Gillian Muir' who will tell us some stories from her series of 'Louis Louis' books and then do a quick workshop with nursery and reception together.

On Friday 2nd March we will have a dressing up day. We ask that you send your child dressed as their favourite book or nursery rhyme character but try and keep clear of super hero costumes please! and do bear in mind the weather! This is not compulsory of course, it is entirely up to you.

So next week will be a busy week indeed! Until then enjoy some frosty walks this weekend! While you are outside discuss our talk topic, which is: 'what is your favourite book and why do you like it so much?'

Thank you

Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove

nurseryteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

We have started our new topic of 'materials' in Reception this week. We started the week by discussing the different types of clothes worn in different seasons and why different materials are used for different weather conditions. We then finished the week looking at the properties of different materials, comparing them. You can see some of the children's work on the topic display in our classroom.

In phonics we have looked back over the sounds from the past terms, and the children have really begun to use their knowledge confidently when trying to write words. The children have had daily sessions of independent writing to challenge them to use what they already know and in preparation for the next curricular steps in Reception. We also learnt the new tricky word 'like' and briefly looked at how the magic 'e' makes the /i/ say /eye/.

In maths we have revisited different ways to measure. We started the week looking at measuring length using cubes, emphasising the importance of a baseline for accurate measuring. The children compared different lengths and weights continuing to use their consistency when using vocabulary such as 'bigger', 'smallest', 'heavier' and 'lightest'. We finished the week looking at measuring weight using balancing scales. We talked about how balancing scales are used and what they tell us.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we go on singing animal songs to learn as many animal names as we possibly can. We finished working on our green mouse books, sang all the animal songs we know and learned a new song about a duck "un petit canard".

We would like to congratulate the children for filling the class marble jar through following the golden rules. As a result, the children can look forward to a trip to the park on Tuesday 6th March, weather permitting. You should have all received a letter

regarding this small outing. Many thanks to the parents that have already signed up to help. We currently have one space left so if you would like to come along please let one of us know and we will put your name down. Please remember this is on a first come first served basis.

Talk topic for Monday will be, in preparation for book week, answering the question:- Can you tell us about your favourite book and what makes it your favourite?

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 been a busy week as always, back in school after the half term break. We were fortunate to have a string quartet visit us on Thursday. We loved listening to the instruments and learning about them.

We've also been continuing with our topic 'A street through time' and we focused on a building in Brussels many of us know, the Atomium. The children learned lots of facts about the Atomium including how many balls it has, how tall it is and that its shape is based on a cube and then they wrote their own fact files about the building. In art we then tried to make our own 3D models of the Atomium using balls and sticks. We also made Atomium collages and made spheres out of playdough.



In phonics this week we started phase 4 of letters and sounds, which is centred on consonant blends. This week we concentrated on words with the consonant blend at the beginning, also called initial consonant blends. For example stop, flag, slug. 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 telling the time. We revised telling the time on the hour or 'o'clock times' and then we moved on to telling the time to the half hour or 'half past' times. We practised moving the hour and minute hands to the correct position on small clocks and recognising both 'o'clock' and 'half past' times in both analogue and digital form. In science the children learned about objects that are magnetic and non-magnetic. They made predictions about which objects were magnetic or not and then tested their magnetism using magnets. They also did some games where you had to move objects using magnets.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we pretended to go the doctor's and told him where it hurt. We watched a few short cartoons about going to the doctor's and revised all the body parts.

Next week is book week in school and so we will be doing lots of fun activities related to books and reading. On Friday of next week the children can come into school dressed as their favourite book character. It promises to be a fun filled week!

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 week has really been a very cold one but we have managed to survive. It was good to get back into the swing of things after the half term break.

In Literacy we have been looking at alternative pronunciations for the –ow, -ie, -er and –or. This helps us with our spelling and gives us more strategies to use. A sentence caused us to talk about alliteration and then our interest turned to onomatopoeia. This is when a word mimics the sound of the object being written about. We are really enjoying this. We have also spoken about questions and statements in grammar. We revised the question words and found out that we can use words like do, can and may to create questions.

Numeracy has been amazing this week. We have been doubling and halving numbers to 30 and even to 50. We then spoke about fractions of shapes. We looked at $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ of different shapes. We spoke about denominators and numerators and I will keep mentioning these terms so the class get used to them. We then moved on to halving odd numbers and found out that we needed to use the $\frac{1}{2}$ more often. We have really enjoyed learning about this. Some of the class have been experimenting with larger numbers as a challenge. The results have been mind blowing in some cases. The class never cease to amaze me with their curiosity and courage.

In Topic we have been looking at island habitats and have found out that the earth was once a huge land mass from which parts have broken off. We spoke about animals native to islands such as Australia, New Zealand and Madagascar. We even discovered that there is an animal called a tree kangaroo. What a funny creature it is! We also took a small look at Scottish islands much like the one Katie Morag will



have lived on.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on “Qu’est-ce qu’il y a” - What is there? (describing things with Il y a & il n’y a pas - there is and there isn’t) through pictures that deal with topics we have covered (animals, fruits and vegetables).

In PE we played class games again. It was cold but sunny so we profited from being able to go outside. We played our hoop hopping game and also dodge ball. In Art we again had fun creating our ‘bookamaniacs’. This is in preparation for next week’s book week. Our window now has little men reading books with their legs waving in the breeze.

In Music we were treated to a musical quartet who came to teach us all about instruments and music. This was much appreciated and the class loved it.

In keeping with our current work on QR codes, I have set some homework for the class. They are to write a book review about a book they have read, copy it into a QR code creator (we use <http://goqr.me/>) They are then to download it and email this to me at year2teacher@telenet.be I would ask you to please help your child to do this. The talk topic is: Why do you think there are such strange animals in Australia? Why don’t they live in other areas of the world?

Have a lovely albeit chilly weekend,

Valeria Vetter

year2teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

This was an action-packed week. It was good to share everyone’s holiday news and to see that most people were well-prepared for the spelling challenge, this was a great help for the first of a new set of dictations. It is important that children can use spelling words in context, rather than just remember them in the week’s list. In literacy we started a new book – another journey story, set in Indonesia this time, with lots of scope for exploring maps and habitats. We located the setting on the world map, and looked at the rainforest habitat, with an interesting discussion about why the rainforests are disappearing.

In maths we studied angles and used a protractor to measure right angles. We calculated how to divide a circle to create a compass with eight compass points, and a clock face showing each hour, and then drew the diagrams. We don’t have many erasers left, but the accuracy of our drawing is improving! We also did some work on coordinates using compass directions, and played games in PE to practice moving through different angles.



Pierre, the ‘Tree man’, returned on his bike with a selection of fruit

bushes and two apple trees for us to plant. The sun shone and everyone participated, filling huge planters with soil and making sure the trees were well supported. This is BISB history in the making – we imagined just how big the trees might grow, and how they will transform the playground environment in the future. What a great event!

Then we had an afternoon of music with Mrs Mayeur and her Chamber Group, who performed parts of a quartet for clarinet and strings. The children were fascinated at seeing ‘real’ musicians playing right in front of them, and enjoyed the opportunity to ask lots of questions.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on Qu’est-ce qu’il a? Qu’est-ce qu’elle n’a pas? (What does he have? What does’t she have?) in order to use the third person discourse to talk about others. We also started talking about la France, which will be the next topic for our Assembly.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we prepared our next French assembly about France. We talked about France and said all the things we know about this country. We looked at the map of France and its neighbouring countries. We found that we knew a few cities and the capital.

Finally, in preparation for our author visit during Book Week next week, we set about transforming the entrance hall into a Himalayan jungle, the setting for ‘Jack Fortune’, complete with snakes, parrots, a yeti and ... a beanstalk that has miraculously become a tangle of vines, home to all sorts of creatures!



Our talk topic is: What makes books and stories so brilliant?

Have a lovely weekend, wrapped up against the cold,

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

year3teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

This week has been slightly busier than last week (because it was a holiday) and we saw everyone refreshed and ready to go again on Monday.

We did spellings and everybody had more or less the maximum points. We did a new speed test about perimeter and area in Numeracy but the main event was that we studied right, obtuse, and acute angles. At the beginning of the lesson a lot of people did understand but at the end of the lesson everyone understood.

In Computing, we learned a few more types of code. And on Tuesday, we learned about parallel and perpendicular lines in 2D shapes.

In Literacy, we designed a poster about features in biographies and working in teams, 2 groups got Super Points. In the second literacy lesson, we read about Queen Elizabeth the first and then considered bias in writing. This was a difficult concept for some to grasp but we used various Princess Diana biographies to find examples. At the end of the day we made Greek Olympic Games vases using clay and the children were absolutely thrilled to get creative and a bit white and sticky!

Then on Wednesday, Pierre ‘the tree man’ came to visit us again and we planted some trees with him. Among the things we potted were pommiers (apple trees) but also raspberry, strawberry, blackcurrant and even blueberry shrubs. Most of our Year 4 heroes will be long gone before there’ll be apples to pick but we can’t wait for our first fruits of the forest to appear!

On Thursday, we did swimming and several of Mr Stedman’s group got Super Points because some of the stroke technique on display was a marvel to behold. He was really pleased and proud of them.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we prepared the next French assembly by talking about France: geography, history and other cultural aspects were covered.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on Qu’est-ce qu’il a? Qu’est-ce qu’elle n’a pas? (What does he have? What does’t she have?) in order to use the third person discourse to talk about others. We also talked extensively about the next topic for our Assembly which will be on ‘la France’. We discussed many things related to French ancient and modern history, geography (bordering countries, major rivers, mountain chains, cities).

We continued the Greek vases and Mrs. Mayeur played some classical pieces with 3 of her friends. Watch a chamber hall quartet in London during the BBC Proms and you’ll have to pay 25-30 euros. We got four professional musicians playing beautiful music right in front of us, with perfect acoustics and a masterclass in the workings of learning and playing an instrument in a group: amazing, priceless – a once-in-a-lifetime experience!!



And that was our week. This newsletter was co-written by Maanas with a smidgeon of Arjun.

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 were all pleased to be back at school on Monday; full of energy and enthusiasm for a new half-term.

This week, we have revised fractions and extended our skills to calculating fractions of quantities. The children worked extremely hard. We even managed to tackle some percentage increase and decrease word problems. Also, we began to study calculating the perimeter of composite shapes; students calculated perimeters of rectangles and composite shapes including triangles.

The children have been tasked with preparing an essay in the style of Anthony Horowitz. This week, they have revised how to improve and vary sentence construction with the help of Alan Peat. We have also revisited fronted adverbials, and the ISPACE technique. Using adventurous vocabulary is a key objective of this assignment. In grammar, we have studied subject-verb agreement, which generated quite a lot discussion, particularly when dealing with amounts of time.

We enjoyed a lesson by Shaariq about HTML; I think that we all have a greater understanding of this topic now, thank you. There is an informative PowerPoint on Edmodo and the students have some questions to think about for next week. I am pleased with the activity on computer programming at our Khan Academy online classroom.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we prepared the next French assembly by talking about France: geography, history and other cultural aspects were covered.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on Qu'est-ce qu'il a? Qu'est-ce qu'elle n'a pas? (What does he have? What does't she have?) in order to use the third person discourse to talk about others. We also talked extensively about the next topic for our Assembly which will be on 'la France'. We discussed many things related to French ancient and modern history, geography (bordering countries, major rivers, mountain chains, cities).

We spent a delightful afternoon with Pierre, 'the tree man', in the Junior Department garden, planting apple trees, fruit bushes and strawberries. All the children participated wholeheartedly in this Schaerbeek commune initiative.

In Science, we revised magnetic forces and next week, we shall begin our topic – electromagnetism...

On Thursdays, we enjoyed a musical recital and workshop with Madame Mayeur and the quartet that she plays with. This was such a treat! The children were thrilled to have the opportunity to talk to 'real' musicians.

Enjoy your weekend.

Kind regards,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

year6teacher@telenet.be

Please click [here](#) for our Year 6 webpage

English as an Additional Language

We have made a good start to the new half term.

In the Junior Department, in our EAL sessions, we have been going over some of the letter combinations in English (e.g. ai, ou, ea), practising pronouncing the sounds they represent, and using them in writing. I plan to continue to look closely at English phonics for the next few weeks, to help with reading and writing fluency, and pronunciation. We have also been revising how to use the verbs 'be' and 'have'. We will be working with other common verbs in the coming weeks. This week, we also spent some time talking about trees and about France, both in connection with school activities.

In the Year 1 and 2 EAL sessions this week, we returned to our discussion of life on a Scottish island, in connection with Year 2's topic. An aim in this discussion was to give the children opportunities to speak with extended sentences, using the connective words 'and', 'because' and 'but'. We also worked practised writing (about our holiday activities), and worked on writing words which include consecutive consonants (e.g. clap, tent).

The Reception EAL group this week remembered their study of farms and farm animals, and sorted pictures of animals into two groups: They live on a farm and They don't live on a farm. We then went on to re-read and dramatize the story of the Three Little Pigs, in preparation for the Reception class's new topic of Materials.



If you would like to meet, to discuss your child's progress in English, please contact me at the email address below, or through your child's class teacher.

I wish you a happy weekend.

Kate Read

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