

Home School Books – 9 March 2018.

### Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Spring is in the air at last and we have made some changes to our seasons' tree, which you can see on the display board in the role play area. The children enjoyed painting the wonderful colourful birds you can see all snuggled up in their nests, trying to shelter from the spring showers! Don't forget to take a peek next time you are in nursery.



We continued with our topic on 'clothes' and this week we looked at and talked about 'traditional dress' and the costumes people wear to celebrate and connect to their culture, in different places around the world. This was a fantastic language activity, as well as a great visual on the white board to help with our 'understanding of the world' area of development.

If you look opposite, you will find a colouring book with a variety of different traditional clothes on each page. Ask your little one if they can remember which country is represented by each individual costume, then write the name of that country for them underneath the drawing. Then encourage your little one to colour them in carefully. We will take a look next week to see who got the country right!

Nursery even has its own washing line, with a variety of clothes pegged out to dry. Can you spot it? Ask your child to count each item of clothing and then name what's on it.

During the whole two days we had this week of dry weather and sunshine! We managed to get outside for some play using gross motor skills. Four of our new pieces of outdoor equipment are wooden steering wheels. This has really sparked off the imagination of some of the children and we have had journeys to faraway lands by train, car, bus, boat and space ship! It's also a great exercise in sharing and turn taking, an area which we work together on all the way through nursery, as it is a tricky one for most children, as they never want to give up an object they like to anyone else!

For all of you who will celebrate Mother's Day this weekend, have a good one but unfortunately you will have to wait for your gift in May when Mother's Day happens in Belgium!

Have a great weekend and if you go out walking discuss the talk topic for next week which is 'what signs in the environment do you notice that tell us Spring is on the way?'

Thank you

Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove

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

## Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

In Reception this week our topic focus was all about keeping warm. We discussed as a class the items we'd need if we were to travel somewhere cold, beginning to look at under layers other than simply needing coats, gloves and hats. On Friday we completed a whole class experiment watching the effect that heat has on different objects, such as paper, erasers and metal.

On Tuesday we were lucky to have a dry trip to the park with sunny spells. We began the treat by playing some fun relay games lead by Mr Tranter. Following the races, we went on a hunt around the lake to find different items on our checklist made during Talk Topic. Finally, the children enjoyed a short time in the playground where they played on the swings, slides and other attractions.



In phonics we have been revising the digraphs. The children have completed lots of written activities this week, working their fine motor skills and putting their phonetic knowledge to the test. We discussed the need for finger spaces and tried to practise using them when copying simple phrases. We briefly covered different types of writing. For example, labelling and making lists. The children looked at the main features of such writing.

In maths we have revisited money. The children showed good recollection of the different values, trying hard to remember the currency unit when responding to money questions. For example, rather than say only 'five', say 'five euro'.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we now know quite a few animals. We have created a little booklet in which we drew many animals we can actually name in French. We played games and sang all our animal songs.

A little reminder that Reception swimming classes will be starting next Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March for Group A, Please remember to send a separate named bag containing a swim suit, swimming hat and towel. We discourage goggles at this age as they tend to be more of a hindrance than a help. Please also place extra underwear and a pair of socks in, in case the ones worn to school get wet.

Talk topic for Monday will be discussing the question 'would you rather live in a cold country or a hot country?'

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,

In phonics this week we did consonant blends at the beginning and end of words e.g. ‘stamp’, ‘frost’, ‘print’. Following on from Gillian Muir’s visit for book week last week we answered the question ‘Where will Louis go next?’ with our own Louis, Louis stories. The children came up with some excellent ideas about where Louis could go next including Hawaii, Bangalore, the South Pole, Tokyo and Mars! The children wrote in sentences and showed me how much progress they have made in writing so far this year.



In mathematics we talked about place value and the concept that 2 digit numbers are made of tens and units. The children practised making amounts up to 99 cents using ten cent and one cent coins and then were challenged to use 2, 5 and 20 cent coins too. They revised finding 1 more or less than any number up to 100 and then 10 more or less than any number to 100.

In science the children investigated how materials change by making salt dough bricks. This was a follow on from the last lesson where we made the Three Little Pigs’ houses out of different materials and discovered why bricks are best. In our topic and art lessons we talked about how special our mum’s are to us because it is Mother’s Day on Sunday in the UK. We also made a little surprise for our mums!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we revised all the parts of the body once again and I believe the children know them by now. They can also express where they have pain by saying “J’ai mal à la tête; J’ai mal au ventre; J’ai mal aux dents....” .

Next week on Thursday the 15th of March is our class trip to visit the Grand Place of Brussels to draw and sketch the buildings there. Thank you for returning the permission slips and money so promptly for this trip. If you haven’t returned it yet it’s due by Monday the 12th March. Please note that we will be returning to school in time for lunch so they will need their usual packed lunch on this day. Also it’s important that the children wear their usual school uniform too.

Another thing of note happening next week is that the group B children will start their swimming lessons at the pool on Tuesdays. They will need to bring a bag with a swimming costume and a towel. The group A swimmers will then be staying with me in class and following a programme of literacy and indoor gymnastics/dance.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

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

## Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

This week seems to have just flown by. The weather has warmed up although the rain has led to some indoor playtimes.

In Literacy, after having read Katie Morag and the Riddles, we discovered that we had a talent for making up riddles. We have been looking at different riddles and have found out that we needed to give 3 clues in order to make these interesting to the audience. After having looked at a few examples, we first practiced creating some on whiteboards before moving into our literacy books. We also focussed on grammar this week and particularly on using connectives. We practised using ‘because’ and ‘that’ and ‘if’ and ‘when’. After this we moved on to statements and exclamations and finally on to commands.

In Numeracy we told the time to quarter hours in both analogue and digital formats. We looked at months of a year and spoke about days, weeks, months, years, decades and centuries. We know that a minute is 60 seconds, but that this is a long time in reality. Knowing this we moved on to timed activities. As a class, we timed ourselves writing our names, taking a sock off and putting it back on and jumping on the spot. Then we moved on to working in pairs and, whilst using an iPad, we timed our partners doing various different activities. After this we spoke about pictograms and had a fun time classifying books to build up a bar chart pictogram.

In Science we learnt a disappearing coin trick. We used a glass, a coin and water. I am positive the children have shown you this trick at home already. When water is poured into the glass, the coin literally disappears due to light refraction.

In Art we made more flowers for our stairs display. These are also 3D and involved making petals from paper loops. They really do look impressive.

In PE we played tic tac toe using hoops and beanbags.

We split into 2 teams and the boys got off to a super start. However the girls rallied and finally won. On Tuesday we took advantage of the warm weather and went outside to do some gymnastics. We did squats, lunges, press-ups and bicycle kicks to name but a few.

In Computing we did some coding at

<https://studio.code.org/s/artist/stage/1/puzzle/1> and then moved onto some activelearn primary maths activities.



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we finished presenting “ Mon épicerie” (my food shop) and we started planning our next skiing trip ‘ Je pars au ski’. For that, we have to plan and decide “ Qu’est-ce que j’emporte dans ma valise? ” what clothes I need to pack in my suitcase?

You will have received a letter about our proposed trip to the park on Tuesday next week. This is a weather permitting outing of course. I will need a parent volunteer or two for this outing so please let us know if you are able to come along.

The talk topic this week is: What do you think could be the first signs of spring?

Enjoy the weekend.

Valeria Vetter

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

### Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

We have been hard at work this week with different maths challenges. We revised different ways of tackling basic operations, and then practiced with quick fire group challenges using different mathematical terms and instructions. Some of us are still in such a rush to finish first that we frequently forget to follow the exact instructions – which can lead to the strangest answers! However, on the whole, we are getting used to the ‘Stop, Check, Detective search’ approach and it is making a big difference to the way we tackle questions. We also played around with adding and subtracting money; following shopping lists, calculating prices and giving change. Some of the group work was exceptionally good, with children really working together to solve the challenges.



In Science we added some new road routes to our friction experiment and started drawing conclusions about how friction affects movement. We decided that last Friday’s icy pavements outside school were a perfect, practical example of friction at work ... or not! We also looked at how a hovercraft works and had great fun making a working model. Once again, those groups that collaborated and organised

themselves well produced excellent data to create their reports.

In Literacy we worked on the structure of writing, looking at different texts and analysing how and why paragraphs are used. We wrote a class report on Book Week and decided how we could break it up into paragraphs, and how we could add sub-headings to make it even more clear. We also looked at different ways of starting a paragraph to make the writing interesting. We are well into our new class book, which has a complicated plot and sophisticated vocabulary, but I am impressed with the excellent listening skills being demonstrated!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed ‘mon corps’ (my body), we introduced

‘avoir mal’ (to have pain) and we came up with an interactive activity to go ‘chez le docteur’ to talk about our health and what hurts ‘ j’ai mal à la gorge, j’ai mal à l’oreille, j’ai mal au ventre, j’ai mal aux pieds ‘ ( I have a sore throat, I have an earache ..etc..) .

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked a little more about France and summarised some facts and figures in ours books. We then resumed our food topic by working in our ZigZag exercises books. We also sang two songs: one about vegetables and one about fruit.

Next week we are heading off on our own journey – Destination Tervuren! We will take the 44 tram all the way to the terminus and head off first to a ceramics workshop, and then on a detective hunt in Tervuren Forest, looking for signs of spring.



Enjoy your weekend. If you have time, take a look at the latest class photos on the website.

<http://www.bisb.org/project/science-friction/> <http://www.bisb.org/project/money-investigations/>

Our talk topic is: What signs of spring can we already see around us in the city?

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

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

### Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

Year 4 have gone to a football stadium. There was a racing track all around it and we got to run the 100m around it and then a whole lap which was 400m.

We learnt history about the stadium such as the Heysel Disaster of May, 1985, the Van Damme Memorial Athletics meet and how the stadium has changed 3 times over the years. At first the boys thought the fighting which happened at the European Cup Final at the old Heysel was funny but when we heard how many people died, and how important it was for the future of sporting events and stadiums, they realised how serious it was.

Amongst other things, we also learnt about Les Diables Rouges (the Red Devils) and saw their changing room although they weren’t in it so we didn’t get any autographs! Before that, we went to Osseghem (a big park). The park is near the Atomium. In that park, we did some orienteering. The children had to find the dibbers – bright orange and white control points spread across a small part of the park. They used a map and compass to get to them, only they had to do it in the right order.

In the park, there was a big hill; the children somehow got up the hill. On top of the hill, there was a little castle (Leopold I monument). Mr Tranter was just by it manning

a dibber but he also leant us a hand to help us up. It was a bit chilly but the class had a wonderful time.

(See photos at <http://www.bisb.org/classes/year-4/> ) Next week's Walk through the Forest trip will also be just the kind of thing they like.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still discovering France with a reading comprehension about the Eiffel Tower among other things. We also had a dictée de mots invariables and finally resumed working in our ZigZag books. A new topic : the human body. We ended the week with an outing to the théâtre de la Montagne Magique.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we introduced more than twenty five action verbs. We discovered how to ask and answer questions. We also reviewed 'mon corps' (my body), we introduced 'avoir mal' (to have pain) and we came up with an interactive activity to go 'chez le docteur' to talk about our health and what hurts ' j'ai mal à la gorge, j'ai mal à l'oreille, j'ai mal au ventre, j'ai mal aux pieds ' ( I have a sore throat, I have an earache ..etc..).

In the swimming pool, it was assessment and final week for both groups. Mr Stedman's intermediate group finally did the Rippledawn Challenge and it was really exciting. One by one the children made for the other side of the deep end. 5 of the 8 passed the test but even the ones who made a second attempt were inspirational in their determination and courage to really go for it. A triumph for all of them whatever the outcome.

And that was our week. This newsletter was co-written with Swarnima.

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,

The students have worked hard this week. The results of the weekly spelling test and the 'reverse' dictation exercise were pleasing. However, there are still some pupils who still think that they do not need to prepare for these; consequently, their results are considerably poorer than they should be. It was Big Writing Day on Wednesday, when the children had to write in the style of Anthony Horowitz. I am convinced that he would be impressed with their efforts, I know that I am.

The Pira reading test took place on Tuesday; the results were encouraging, however, despite my pleas to the pupils to read the question, there were quite a few questions missed out, and when asked to circle two words, only one was circled! What a waste of valuable marks.

In Maths, the children are now revising for the Abacus test, which will be in the last week of term. This week we learnt about imperial and metric systems, data handling and fractions. Thank you to all those students who have submitted their Excel revision planning document on Edmodo.

We revisited the world of HTML – Hypertext Markup Language - and focused on ‘tags’. Some of the students are producing some fantastic webpage designs on Khan Academy. We also touched on CSS and Java, which we shall investigate further – this is a real learning curve for all of us and such fun!

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‘chez le docteur’ to talk about our health and what hurts ‘ j’ai mal à la gorge, j’ai mal à l’oreille, j’ai mal au ventre, j’ai mal aux pieds ‘ ( I have a sore throat, I have an earache ..etc..)

The spy gadget blue-prints and explanation texts are now being assembled for display; we have some amazing designs, and to be honest, I am afraid of touching anything in the classroom. One pupil spent quite a lot of time perfecting his ‘stun-dart’ pen, by firing it across the classroom.

Today, we are off to the theatre ‘La Montagne Magique’ and then next week, we shall be going to the House of European History for a variety of workshops and interviews as part of the Migration project.



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,

We are all pleased to see that Spring seems to be arriving. In the coming weeks, we will be looking out for signs of Spring in the school grounds.

This week, the Reception EAL group practised the vocabulary relating to their class study of materials, sorting objects into hard materials and soft. This raised interesting questions including “Is plastic always hard?” and “What are windows made of?” We have also been going over the basic letters and sounds, recognising them and blending them together to read words. We are also playing games involving lots of consonant – vowel – consonant (cvc) words, represented in pictures, since the children will be encountering these in their reading.

The Year 1 and 2 EAL group enjoyed revising the more complex 2 and 3 letter phonics, in a lotto game, and listening out for rhyming words in another game, as well as writing about the costumes they wore last Friday for Book Week.

In the Junior Department, the EAL group continued to revise some essential phonics and grammar (notably the verbs to be and to have in the present and past simple, including questions and negatives). We also learned some vocabulary relating to the world of architecture and design, in connection with the Year 4 study of structures. The children are developing their writing skills through creative writing: they are enjoying sharing their wonderful ideas for stories, and this is motivating them to make good use of their English.

If you would like to talk about your child’s progress in English, I do encourage you to make contact with me through your child’s class teacher, or via the email below.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read  
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