

Home School Books – 23 March 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Incredibly it has now reached the end of the spring term and still no spring! Thank goodness we have had plenty of heart-warming activities going on inside, as getting outside on most days has been almost impossible.

There is no folder this week because of the break, as sadly a lot of them end up getting mislaid or lost during holiday time, so we keep everyone's here safely until the beginning of the Summer term.

However, we do hope you liked all of your little ones Easter art work they made so wonderfully this week and I hope they shared all of the yummy chocolate eggs we found from the Easter bunny! If indeed they were not eaten before the baskets made it home! Easter is a tricky festival as it means different things to different cultures but almost everyone seemed to identify with the Easter rabbit and everyone agreed they liked chocolate eggs better than hard boiled ones!



Our topic on clothes is now finished and our new topic after the break will be all about 'Dinosaurs' something else all children love and are fascinated by. Some children are Dinosaur experts already! Not mentioning any names but you know who you are! So it is going to be an exciting and larger than life project, so watch this space.

We hope for good weather and a germ free start to the summer term but until then have a fabulous break and enjoy some down time with your children after the busyness of last term.

We will see you back in nursery on Tuesday 10th April; don't forget to discuss our talk topic for the holiday "Have you or your mummy or daddy ever seen a Dinosaur?!" Ask them to help you draw a picture of your favourite dinosaur and bring it in to show us, after the break.

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 we focussed on the topic of spring and Easter, how after the dark, cold winter spring brings signs of new life and colour. On Friday the children enjoyed an Easter egg hunt, with the eggs being shared out between the class. You can find their eggs in their carefully decorated Easter baskets. The children also painted some hard boiled eggs which they have placed into their baskets.



In phonics we have learnt the new digraph /ar/ as in star. Each week the children revise the previous digraphs and are showing increasing recognition and differentiation between them. This week the children practised using these digraphs in their writing. They were given a list of words containing at least one of the digraphs so far covered in Reception and we were very encouraged to see how well they did.

In maths we continued looking at time. The children continued to practise distinguishing between seconds, minutes and hours. We began looking at recognising the minute and hour hands on a clock. We finished the week revising the number bonds to ten.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we dedicated the week to Easter activities : stories, songs, pictures, games etc. It was fun to draw and colour many animals we now know in French. The song (Une poule sur un mur) is a big hit with the children. Please ask them to sing it for you. We also learnt to say Joyeuses Pâques (Happy Easter).

Please remember that all children, those with short hair included, do need to have a swimming hat when swimming. We have noticed that there are a few children who do not have swimming hats in their bags. Some boys are also wearing swimming tops, which are not necessary in the swimming pool. Therefore, please could you avoid putting these in their swimming bags, please?

Talk topic for Tuesday 10th April will be answering the question ‘during the holidays, what signs of spring did you notice?’

We wish you a lovely spring break,

Naomi Irakoze and Patrick Tranter

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

### Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

Despite the awful weather we’ve had a lot of fun celebrating Easter this week in class. In our art lesson we did paper weaving to make an Easter basket in preparation for our

Easter egg hunt at the end of the week. We've enjoyed some Easter crafts including a paper craft to make an Easter bunny and designing and colouring some Easter egg designs. We used our knowledge of mathematics to answer questions and solve problems on an Easter maths trail.

In phonics this week we finished our work on letters and sounds, phase 4. We will be moving on to phase 5 next week, which will involve learning the different spelling of the long vowel digraphs and talk about 'same sound, different letters.' In literacy we talked about the nouns used in a recipe to describe the ingredients and equipment we would need to make Chocolate Easter Nests. We wrote the recipe and we learned about the method we would use. We then made two Chocolate Easter nests each to take home and share with our families. We also talked about how people celebrate Easter and the children wrote some sentences about this in their literacy books.



In mathematics we consolidated our work on 1 more, 1 less and 10 more, 10 less. We also had some fun with Easter maths. We learned how to make a block graph by counting Easter objects and talked about more, less and difference when reading the graph to compare results.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we dedicated the week to Easter activities. We also sang the song "Une poule sur un mur" and drew pictures. We learnt to say "Joyeuses Pâques" (Happy Easter).

The group B swimmers are doing really well at the pool in their lessons. They are practising their technique and gaining confidence. Thank you to everyone who has come to help us with these sessions so far.

Have a lovely holiday and we'll see you after the break.

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 fantastically busy week and we have really enjoyed ourselves. Of course the weather didn't behave itself all week but we managed to work around it. In Literacy, we worked once again on expanded noun phrases. This not only gives us tools for better writing, but it also expands our vocabulary. We read the story of The Selfish Giant which the class thoroughly enjoyed. On Thursday we had a baking day. Seeing as it is Easter time we decided to make hot cross buns. We adapted the recipe to have a vegan and non vegan option. This combined literacy, numeracy and science

as well as being enjoyable. We began in the morning, reading the recipe and measuring out ingredients. We measured using cups, spoons and a kitchen scale. We kneaded the dough and added the fruit. We smelled the yeast and spoke about its function. We then covered our bowls and put them in a warm place so the dough could rise. It was amazing to see that the dough had in fact more than doubled in size. We kneaded the dough down and then made our buns, put them on a baking tray and



left them to rise again. We also put the traditional cross on our buns. Finally they were put into the oven and proceeded to fill the school with the most delicious smells. When baked we waited for them to cool and took our buns home to show and share with you all.

In Numeracy we did our termly tests. Before that we spent more time counting and adding money. We played Buzz which is a counting game and a firm favourite in our class. We also finished our second abacus workbook. It seems like we did not do much maths but in actual fact the maths this week was very hands-on, with measuring and counting of things in the park. We spoke about grams and kilograms and measured margarine and butter using a digital scale. We mentioned that a teaspoon is 5ml.

In Art we finished our spring creations. We added the butterflies and they really look bright and cheerful. We also made Easter baskets for our hunt on Friday. We made cards for our parents. The class is very creative and love these little craft projects. In PE we played our tic tac toe and hoop games outside as, even though very cold, the sun was shining. Our walk in the park was good exercise as well.

Our trip to the park was wonderful. After not being sure of the weather we decided to go. Luckily Mrs Julaton was able to come with us and we had a lovely time. Our objective was to search for signs of spring and we found many. The trees are changing colour and are sprouting. The Egyptian geese, who are really ducks, had 4 ducklings. They were sunning themselves on the bank of the lake. We saw a white swan sitting next to the lake and drinking from time to time. We think she might have been sitting on eggs. We saw a moorhen sitting on a nest on the water. The nest was made of sticks.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we presented our project 'Je pars au ski'! & j'emporte dans ma valise : une écharpe, une veste, un bonnet..' (Let's go skiing ! I pack my suitcase and I bring: a scarf etc.). We started talking about Pâques, we sang songs and we started a bricolage (arts and crafts) with les 'Oeufs de Pâques' (Easter eggs) in order to make a nice Easter card.

The talk topic this week is: If you could choose, where would you like to go on holiday?

Have a wonderful holiday and stay safe if you are travelling,

Valeria Vetter

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

### Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

Great excitement this week with the arrival of our beautiful dragon, dinosaur and turtle models – freshly fired and shining brightly. Each one is unique and I'm sure will be treasured for a long time.



We used the Tervuren trip as inspiration for our writing; studying structures and how to use paragraphs effectively. We first drew up a framework of the day's events and decided on headings for each paragraph, then looked at various accounts and stories to see if we could identify interesting opening lines. We discovered that new paragraphs often start with a reference to time or place, or to a new character or person in the story. We also used thesauruses to create vocabulary webs of interesting words and expressions. As we read increasingly complicated class books, we are getting very good at spotting unusual phrases and different ways of holding the reader's attention. Some people now listen so well that they spot vital and complicated clues, and are really good at analysing the story. The excellent reading test results certainly reflect these growing comprehension skills – well done to everyone! Keep up the fantastic reading and make the most of the holidays to discover some more great stories to share with everyone when we come back.

In maths we did some more work on analogue and digital clocks. As ever, digital time is relatively straightforward, but some of us are still struggling with the baffling minefield of the analogue clock face – so any extra practice over the holidays would be very useful. We completed the end of term maths tests, again with excellent results – there were not too many silly mistakes, a sure sign that checking skills are improving and proof that it really helps to show workings out for each question. Pierre the tree man made another visit with two more trees to plant – pears this time. The flower boxes are finally bursting into flower and we will be adding to the colour by planting lots more seeds in our new science topic after the holiday.



In music we all performed confidently on our ocarinas during our mini-concert. It's great to see everyone joining in and having fun making music together. I hope the neighbours have enjoyed the impromptu playground rehearsals this week...

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, We talked about Pâques (Easter) and everything we associate with these festivities such as season, colours, animals and food. We sang songs and we started a bricolage (arts and crafts) with les 'Oeufs de Pâques' (Easter eggs) in order to make a nice Easter card.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we dedicated the week to Easter activities : we learnt all vocabulary related to this theme with the help of a mind map. We also listened to a song and made beautiful Easter cards with “Joyeuses Pâques”.

We wish you a very happy Easter break, hopefully with some sunshine and trips out and about!

Our talk topic is: How can I make the most of the Easter holidays?

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

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

### Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

On Monday, we completed 3 trips in as many days and there has been something for everyone! All learning styles and learners were covered and kept happy. In the forest: spatial, mathematical, naturalistic and kinaesthetic; at the EU House of History: linguistic and interpersonal; and at the theatre; musical, linguistic and intrapersonal.

The Princess and the Pea at the Montagne Magique was absolutely superb. We laughed and squirmed; clapped and felt warm and were left well impressed by the fantastic acting on show. See the few photos from the trip on the website but you may find that the entry has moved down the pecking order as there have been so many things going on in the Juniors recently, such as the return of Pierre the Tree Man. Go to <http://www.bisb.org/classes/year-4/> and scroll down.

Back in the classroom, we divided and multiplied decimals by 10 and 100 to lead us into Wednesday’s end of term maths test. The majority of the results were good with a few outstanding performances but one or two highlighted the need for some consolidation next term.

The children have been very excited about their Biographies that they are writing and also the build-up to Rippledown and the planning of Year 4’s Day 3. activities. The programme is taking shape and the other Junior School children will be entertained, no doubt, come 18th April.

Regarding Rippledown, the class have been bringing in their Sterling, know where they will be sleeping and have made their dining choices. Three weeks to go!

Elsewhere, we played hockey in PE learning to use the reverse stick on a nicely watered Astroturf and we learnt about the respiratory system beginning a great experiment on lung capacity. As usual, the children had many a scientific idea to offer to investigate.

Finally, we ended the term with an outdoor assembly in



Cinquantenaire Park (orienteering round a course based on some classic books read there by the teachers), a writing assessment and a sad goodbye to our friend Himanshu. We will miss him, wish him the very best but we will remain in touch.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we went to the local library where we listened to five different stories and then had to vote for our favourite. This is part of the Prix Versele, a special yearly event in Belgian libraries that children love. The children also created their own mind map of Easter with all traditions related to this period.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, We talked about Pâques (Easter) and everything we associate with these festivities such as season, colours, animals and food. We sang songs and we started a bricolage (arts and crafts) with les 'Oeufs de Pâques' (Easter eggs) in order to make a nice Easter card.

And that was our week. Have a very happy Easter. See you in 2 weeks.

Tim Stedman and Ena Tolentino

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Please click [here](#) for our Year 4 webpage

### Home School Book – Year 6



**SECRET  
INTELLIGENCE  
SERVICE MI6**

Dear Parents,

You must go and visit the House of European History – what an amazing museum – we shall definitely be returning! The pupils visited a selection of permanent exhibitions, some participated in the Europeana Migration collection project and we all joined in a music workshop.

On Monday, it was the half-termly Abacus maths test. Reading the question continues to challenge some! Yes, we really do need  $17 \frac{1}{2}$  adults to accompany the children on this trip – which half of the adult would you like?! Six people share equally a restaurant bill of under a 100 euro. How much will they pay each – 600 euro – expensive meal out! Quite a few children work out the answer correctly and then put the wrong answer in the answer box.... The good news is that the number of these types of error is decreasing, so hopefully, for the summer exams, they will be non-existent.

Our classroom is now an extension of MI6! The trainee spies have completed their coding module and are busy preparing a Mission Brief for a dead drop. They have

been busy researching a range of locations from Tokyo to Reykjavik, focusing on terrain, climate, culture and currency. Each trainee has to deliver their brief to the rest of the class. In addition to this, all students have to prepare a presentation about a famous spy. I have the MI6 job application forms prepared – applicants will need a second referee and must demonstrate ‘clearly how your qualities, skills, previous experience in Year 5 & 6 make you suitable for the role advertised’. The students were unanimous in their ability to lie!! Examples given included: claiming to have washed and brushed teeth, the real truth about disputes with siblings, items ‘supposedly’ left at school, homework and the discreet disposal of disliked food!

Pierre - the tree-man – returned with our pear trees which we planted on Wednesday. A team of BISB gardeners was also invited to Sandra’s house to help Pierre plant a selection of shrubs and trees; thank you to Sandra’s mum..

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we went to the local library where we listened to five different stories and then had to vote for our favourite. This is part of the Prix Versele, a special yearly event in Belgian libraries that children love. The children also created their own mind map of Easter with all traditions related to this period.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, We talked about Pâques (Easter) and everything we associate with these festivities such as season, colours, animals and food. We sang songs and we started a bricolage (arts and crafts) with les ‘Oeufs de Pâques’ (Easter eggs) in order to make a nice Easter card.

A very busy day ahead: the Rippledawn coffee morning and the second of our extremely popular Adventure Assemblies.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

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

### English as an Additional Language

The children have been working hard and with enjoyment again this last week of term.

In the Junior Department, the EAL group examined different ways to form the past simple tense, and went over some grammar points that arose from the children’s speaking and writing. The main focus this week was independent work on writing projects chosen by the children individually, including a guidebook to Pokemon, an original story deriving from the Three Little Pigs and a poster about animals. I am very pleased that the children are all confidently using English to give explanations, tell stories and express opinions.

The Year One and Two EAL group this week thought about the difference between voiced and unvoiced sounds. We sorted certain letter sounds into those which need the voice (g, v, b, z, d, j), and those which do not (c, f, h, p, s, t, ch, sh), listened out for the difference between words such as pit and bit, came and game). Hearing these differences will assist the children's use of phonics in their reading and writing. This week we also looked at compound words (e.g. firefighter, rainbow, cowboy) and at adjectives.

The Reception EAL group continued to work with consonant-vowel-consonant words, and to revise the single letter sounds. We also talked about the properties of different materials, and the suitability of the different materials for different purposes.

All the EAL groups talked about the signs of spring that we are beginning to see around the school.

I wish you all a very happy holiday, and look forward to seeing the children again in April.

All the best,  
Kate Read  
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