

Home School Books – 13 April 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

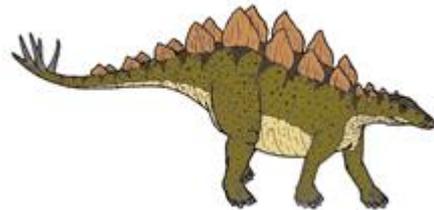
Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the Easter break; we hope it was a restful one for you all. The children have returned full of energy and enthusiasm for nursery, so although it has been a short week for some, it has certainly been a busy and fruitful one!

During circle time each child told the rest of the group what they had done during the break. There were a variety of places visited and activities undertaken. Ranging from holidays in France and Germany to horse riding, playing tennis and visits to numerous parks and tram museums. Everyone tried really hard to think about what they wanted to say and explained what they had been up to, using only their English words,. As a follow up to the verbal discussions, we then put pen to paper and each child made a free hand drawing to show what they had done or where they had visited.

If you look opposite, you will see what your little one told us, we have now asked them to explain in English to you, mum and dad, what they have drawn. So please take a good look at the drawing together and what the teacher has written down and have a chat about it. Try using open questions that start with; what, where, why or how, to help encourage full sentence answers.

Thank you to everyone who has sent back their dinosaur drawing that they helped their child do over the holiday. We would like everyone to send one in to nursery if possible, and then we will make a big dinosaur book and think up a story to go with the drawings. Children love handmade books full of their work because it is familiar and personal to them. So get drawing this weekend, if you have a spare moment!



Our topic all about Dinosaurs will start fully next week, so watch this space! Soon we will know how to say all of the long dinosaur names and know some interesting facts about them!

The appointment dates and times for the nursery parent teacher meetings will be given to you on Monday. If you have another child in school, we will try our best to coordinate the meetings to run one after the other. Please remember there are a lot of children in nursery and it will not be possible to accommodate everyone's personal preferences for meeting times. Therefore we ask you to keep to the time and date allocated to you, unless it is completely impossible, then we can look again. Speak to Mrs Davies if there is an issue, as she holds the appointment list.

Your child is not allowed to be present in the meeting with you, so if you do not wish to use the garderie, please make an arrangement with a babysitter to take care of them at home. Appointments will last no longer than 10 to 15 minutes. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

Our talk topic for you to discuss this weekend is; What did Dinosaurs eat, did they all eat the same things?

Until next week, enjoy the weekend and watch out for dinosaur foot prints in your neighbourhood!

Thank you

Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

It was great to be back at school, especially with the better weather - for the first time in several months, the children were able to play outside without the need for winter coats! This week we began our new topic of 'Spring', discussing and observing what happens to many plants and animals at this time of the year.

In phonics, we quickly revised all the digraphs learnt before the holidays and moved onto a new one - /or/ as in 'fork'. The children practised writing the sound within different words, and are becoming more and more comfortable with two letters making a single sound. We also learnt two new 'tricky words' - 'to' and 'do', and the children practised using these in everyday sentences.

In maths, we practised counting to 100, concentrating on the 10s numbers (which cause some children to hesitate a little when counting out loud). To help us, we went on a 'counting walk' outside, and then made individual counting snakes, where the children were very keen to make their snake the longest! We also re-visited teen numbers, performing practical and written activities to reinforce the concept of, for example, $10+3=13$.



We combined our Art and Topic sessions this week - we unpacked the pumpkin seeds we had collected from our own pumpkin last October, planted them in individual pots, and made decorative covers and lolly-stick labels for our plant pots - here's hoping all the seeds grow!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we resumed our animal topic and learnt a new song about a giraffe with a long neck. We also discussed the weather and the seasons.

Please remember that next week, Thursday 19 April, will be the last Thursday swimming for Group A - they will then switch to Tuesdays, starting on 22 May, and continuing to the end of term.

Talk topic for Tuesday 17th April will be answering the question 'what types of creature might you find living underground?'

Wishing you a pleasant 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 lovely to welcome the children back to class after the Easter break. They've told me about what they've done in the holidays and they've enjoyed seeing their friends again. I have sent the appointment times out this week for the upcoming parent's evenings on Tuesday the 24th and Wednesday the 25th of April. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss your child's progress with you and how they can move forward with their learning. If you have yet to receive your appointment time or have a problem with it please see me to discuss it.

This week we've enjoyed starting our new topic 'down at the bottom of the garden.' We will be learning about all different types of plants including their lifecycles and how they grow as well as learning about minibeasts (insects) that live in gardens. In our art lesson we watched a story about the painter Van Gogh called 'Camille and the sunflowers' and we drew giant sunflowers and made them into a display to decorate our classroom. In science we brainstormed the garden topic and then we went out for a walk in the playground to look for different types of plants. We sketched what we found and tried to find their names.



In maths we have learned about how we can use our knowledge of number facts to solve other sums. For example if we know that $3+2=5$ we can easily know that $13+2=15$ and $23+2=25$. We looked at how if we know the pairs of numbers that make 10, we can find the pairs of numbers that make 11 as it's just one more e.g. $9+1=10$ therefore $9+2=11$.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we resumed our story "Une maison de musiciens" and we are now discovering all of the vocabulary related to the house.

In literacy we discussed a story called 'In the Garden' and drew/wrote about what we would have in our gardens. In our phonics lessons we've started phase 5 of letters and sounds. We've started to learn about the split digraphs or 'magic e' sounds in words e.g. game, code, time.

And that was our 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,

Welcome back after our break. I am sure we are going to have a wonderful summer term.

In Literacy, we have begun work on information texts. We have discussed the features of these texts and looked for examples as a class. As a group we created lotus diagrams on these features. The children were asked to take a non-fiction book out of the library this week and the literacy homework will be on these books. We also wrote our holiday news and I am pleased to say that most children are including more detail in their writing now. There are still those who are unsure as to where to use full stops and capital letters but this is steadily improving. In phonics we have still been doing alternative pronnciations: this time we concentrated on –y, -a, -ou and –ch. We also took a look at tricky words like when, what and why.

In Numeracy we revised the greater and smaller than signs. We had fun rolling the dice on the whiteboard and filling them in to make the signs true. After that we plotted numbers on a 200 numberline. We then moved on to plotting numbers on blank numberlines which is more difficult. However, the class managed this rather well and I was pleased. We moved on to adding and then subtracting by counting on and back in tens and ones. We used a 100 chart to do this.

In Art we drew dinosaurs for our class display. We also took time to learn about volcanos and then created masterpieces using pastels and chalk.

In Topic we discussed our new area of study which is dinosaurs. We thought a lot about what we want to learn and recorded our wishes on post it notes which we then stuck on to a stegosaurus. At the end of term we will revisit these questions and see if we have answered them. This week we learned that dinosaurs were big and small, were meat or plant eaters and roamed the earth a long long time ago. We are also perplexed as to why they died out.



In Science we spoke about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. We discussed which dinosaurs would have fitted into each category.

The appointment times for your meetings with me have gone out today. If the time is not convenient, please contact the school office or myself.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we played the 'command game' in order to introduce the imperative tense and fifteen new action verbs as for example: Nage comme un poisson! (swim like a fish! Etc.. We used these new action verbs to interview each other using familiar vocabulary words focusing on food and drinks: Qu'est-ce que tu manges? What do you eat? Qu'est-ce que tu bois? (what do you drink?)

Next week our class will be based in the Junior department so please drop your children off and collect them from there. The class is very excited about this week and the opportunity to play with old friends as well as familiarise themselves with their future building.

The talk topic this week is: What do you think happened to the dinosaurs?
Have a very relaxing weekend.

Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to welcome everyone back and to hear all the news. With the sun shining and the flowers and trees bursting into life in the playground, it really does feel like spring – the ideal time to begin our new Science topic on plants. We started by brainstorming what we know already about plants (which was a lot!), and then decided what we want to research further. We set up our first experiment to observe how plants take in water, placing white tulips in water coloured with food colouring. We estimated how long we thought it would take the colouring to travel up the stems, and, to our surprise, found that the petals had already begun to change by the following morning. We also studied sunflower seeds and planted our first pots. If you have any interesting seeds from food eaten at home, please send them in – we are going to observe which seeds germinate easily and hopefully succeed in growing a range of plants.



In maths we tackled mass – working out how to read different scales and estimating the weight of classroom objects before weighing them. We converted weights from grams into kilos and grams, and then put the theory into practice by making carrot cake. Each group of 3 had to scale down the recipe quantities, measure each ingredient, and then follow the instructions to make the cake. The long list of ingredients meant that this turned into the longest cake-making session ever, but we did manage to get the cakes out of the oven by the end of the day and everyone clearly got the measurements right, as every one of the cakes worked and was delicious!



In Literacy we finished another class book and will be starting an exciting new one in two week's time – it ties in very well with science, but I'm not giving the title away yet! In grammar we studied the different uses of apostrophes and did some dictionary work checking definitions of some of this week's maths and science vocabulary.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we resumed our food topic and quickly revised “les articles partitifs”. We also described the various meals of the day and what they include.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we played ‘ma fête d’anniversaire’ in order to talk about ‘de choses et d’autres’ (chitchat or small talks). The objective is to introduce each other, meet new friends, find out their names, age and what's the weather like in their ‘imaginary’ cities. we played the ‘command game’ in order to introduce the imperative tense and fifteen new action verbs as for example: Nage comme un poisson! (swim like a fish! Etc.. We used these new action verbs to interview each other using familiar vocabulary.

I will be away next week in Rippledawn, so the children will have a lovely week with Mrs Prescott. I look forward to seeing you the week after at the parent evenings. In the meantime, enjoy a lovely weekend – hopefully out and about spotting the wildlife!

Our talk topic is: How many different types of bird can I spot (and hear) around my home?

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

It wasn't so much getting back into the swing of things that proved tricky this week rather the nervous excitement that permeated throughout the Upper Juniors School. The kids are EXCITED! One boy in the class has literally got to such levels of delirium that he's made himself sick with a cold. But anticipation was everywhere.

We had Eurostar drills, dorm complement announcements and the all-important Year 4 Celebrity Sports Day detail to finalise.

The final programme and programmes were set and sent off to the press and 'Healthy Eating' pamphlets for the Rippledown dining hall were printed.

The 6 events that the children will open and hold, needed to be spot on and the class probably didn't thank me for being so exacting: how many children will play at once; what if you drop the balloon; are you sure the other children can do that for that long; how will they find the next clue; how will you award points; are you sure that's going to work?



I worked the children hard but they came up with really good, novel ideas and the sense of achievement they will get when they entertain everyone next Wednesday will be worth all the efforts.

The Half-Time Entertainment dance was also practised thanks to Marina's creation and choreography and courtesy of Jojo Siwa's 'Boomerang'. I thought it was great but you needn't take my word for it; Edmodo comments that 'Today's dance was really cool' was evidence of that.

Note, the children can dress up as their Prezi biography personality and they are expected to Show and Tell that person's life story in the opening ceremony.

Trying to keep the boiling pot's lid on, elsewhere we did negative numbers and decimals $\times/10$, 100, 1000; finished our lung capacity experiment; and did football skills in PE. Please see

<http://www.bisb.org/project/y4-science-lung-capacity-experiment/>

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we played 'ma fête d'anniversaire' in order to talk about 'de choses et d'autres' (chitchat or small talks). The objective is to introduce each other, meet new friends, find out their names, age and how they're doing today. We looked at new action verbs and we played the 'command game' in order to introduce the imperative tense and fifteen new action verbs as for example: Nage comme un poisson! (swim like a fish! Vole comme un papillon! (fly like a butterfly!) etc.. We used these new action verbs to interview each other using familiar vocabulary words.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we studied how to form and use the "futur proche" tense and put it into practice by doing exercises which included examples of what the children will be doing next week in Rippledown. We also prepared the diaries they have to write while in Rippledown.

And that was our week building up to next week's monumental week. For a taster of what's to come, do a google image search and see the pictures (usually BISB's)

Good luck with keeping the boiling pot's lid on at home this weekend!

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 excitement about our forthcoming residential trip to Rippledawn has been challenging to contain this week. Despite my best efforts to encourage the children to concentrate, it was obvious that minds kept wandering to more important topics such as midnight feasts, pranks to play on teachers and the wonderful garden. Thank you for all your assistance in providing the correct documents and pocket money at the right time – this has been an enormous help.

Our new topic this term is Explorers. Inspired by the adventures of Jack Fortune, we are now going to read *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell; a fictional adventure with roots in real life about Colonel Percy Fawcett, who spent much of his life in search of the City of Z. Also, we shall be studying *Tintin in Tibet* and discovering the children's classic, *Lord of the Flies*. During the holidays, I drafted a topic web with my ideas about this project, on Tuesday, the children also had an opportunity to contribute to the planning. Their ideas included the construction of a scaled-down version of a J3 Piper Cub aircraft to suspend in the classroom! I have already received one set of plans!

This week, the children drafted and finished their job application letters to MI5; I am hoping to post these next week whilst we are in the UK. The foci for this writing activity have been paragraphs, subject-specific vocabulary and composing an official letter.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we played 'ma fête d'anniversaire' in order to talk about 'de choses et d'autres' (chitchat or small talks). The objective is to introduce each other, meet new friends, find out their names, age and how they're doing today. We looked at new action verbs and we played the 'command game' in order to introduce the imperative tense and fifteen new action verbs as for example: *Nage comme un poisson!* (swim like a fish! *Vole comme un papillon!* (fly like a butterfly!) etc.. We used these new action verbs to interview each other using familiar vocabulary words.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we studied how to form and use the "futur proche" tense and put it into practice by doing exercises which included examples of what the children will be doing next week in Rippledawn. We also prepared the diaries they have to write while in Rippledawn.

In maths, we revised: decimals, fractions, percentages, long division and multiplication. Included in this, was a 'spot the mistake' exercise in which the children had to analyse errors in calculation and method. They then had to decide

whether or not marks could be awarded for workings. I hope that this work reinforced the necessity to include all workings when answering questions.



Finally, we took a look at Dover Castle and the Wartime tunnels; the headquarters for Operation Dynamo, before we visit next Thursday.

I am looking forward to seeing you all on Monday at Gare du Midi.

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,

I am pleased to have heard all about the interesting things that the children did during the holiday. We are looking forward to this summer term. I am very pleased to see the children making such good progress in using English.

In common with all my colleagues, I was very much inspired by our training session on creativity in the curriculum. In EAL, I have always seen that where the children make their own creative contributions to the lesson, their language learning is enhanced. They feel motivated to talk, because they are talking about things that interest them. They are keen to learn the language (vocabulary and structures) needed to share their ideas. They gain confidence, as they see that their own ideas are valid and important. Through talking and writing about their own ideas, the children get to practise the points of grammar, vocabulary and spelling that we have covered in formal exercises and games.

This week, the Junior EAL group have been finding out about the United Kingdom, performing their own research, and sharing their findings with the group. We also worked on the difference between to, two and too, and between too big, very big and bigger than.

The Year One and Two EAL group have been introducing the subject of spring by talking about the things we can see and do in a garden. We especially talked about how things change, using first, then, next, finally/in the end/last, in the present tense.

The Reception EAL group talked about how they travelled to different places during the holiday, revising the vocabulary for transport and for places in our environment (and further away), and practising using the past simple tense. We also revised the basic letter sounds, and practised blending them to read consonant-vowel-consonant words (big, hat, sock etc).



I wish you a very happy weekend.

All the best,

Kate Read
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