

Home School Books –20 April 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Dinosaurs, dinosaurs everywhere! Our new topic has taken on prehistoric proportions this week! We started our work with some non-fiction facts about dinosaurs. For instance, did you know that the stegosaurus was the heaviest dinosaur but had the smallest brain, it was only the size of a walnut! We also learned what a herbivore eats and what a carnivore eats; ask your little one to see if they can remember. Plus, how many horns did the triceratops have and how big were the horns when it was born, compared to when it was a grown adult? How many teeth did the pterodactyl have? Do we have that many teeth? The children also decided that the Tyrannosaurus Rex was definitely the scariest of all the dinosaurs and we would not like to be chased by him!

During our creative arts session, we moved around to a selection of musical pieces in the ways we thought different dinosaurs would walk or run. This is a great way to get children to listen to the different beats and rhythms in the music and to match those up to body movements which is a super way to improve flexibility and gross motor skills. Most importantly, it's fun!

If you look opposite you will see a photocopy of two types of scenery, the forest and the water with the mountains, which is where most of our dinosaur friends would have lived. Everyone has coloured in a dinosaur of their choice and this is now part of a game to improve listening and speaking skills and most of all how to follow specific instructions.

First of all ask your child to colour in the scenery and then give them a simple or complex instruction for example: Place your dinosaur on top of the mountain and then dive into the sea and swim. When your dinosaur reaches the land, take it for a walk through the trees. You can make up different types of instructions and then take it further and make up an imaginary story about the dinosaur and its adventures! Have fun!

During our maths session the children did some dinosaur egg counting and number recognition and ordering to ten.

We are also in the midst of our dinosaur egg experiment! Suddenly a magic egg appeared in nursery, where had it come from and what was inside of it? This is what we asked the children during circle time and then the teacher passed the egg around, so each child could feel the egg and give it a little shake to see if it made a noise. Some of the children thought it was a special kinder egg, with a toy car inside!

Others thought it was an egg laid by a chicken and we could eat it! However after much intrigue, we decided it was indeed a magic dinosaur egg and it needed to be put into a big jug of water to keep it cool, so that it would hatch out! Plus of course that's what the instructions on the side of the egg said! Every day we take photographs



of the egg to document its progress for our science experiment and hopefully very soon whatever is inside will make an appearance.

Thank you to everyone who has already sent in their dinosaur drawing from home. if you haven't yet done so please do it next week, we will then make our big nurseryosaurus book!

Please remember to return your signed nursery parent/ teacher meeting, appointment slip. Do not change the time on it yourself, as the teacher cannot accommodate all requests, so please stick to the time allocated unless otherwise discussed.

Don't forget to look for dinosaur footprints, when you are out enjoying the lovely weather at the weekend! The talk topic for next week is, if you were a dinosaur, which sort of dinosaur would you like to be?

Until next week, have a great weekend.

Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

Within our overall topic of 'Spring' for this half-term, we have divided the animal and plant kingdom into broad categories – this week we looked at what goes on and who lives under the ground. We got off to a messy start by filling our wormery with soil and worms. A few other creatures were also placed in suitable containers for the children to observe, such as snails, spiders and a rather large caterpillar. As part of understanding what happens underground, the children drew a picture of what they would see if they could actually see below ground: worms, rabbit holes, tree roots and much more.



In Literacy this week, we took our first formal look at capital letters, and played some games to familiarise ourselves with the similarities and differences between lower- and upper-case letters. We also learnt the /oi/ sound, as in 'coin', and practised using it in speaking, writing and making it with letter cubes.

Our Maths focus this week has been on shapes; we had sessions on 2-D (flat) and 3-D (solid) shapes, and talked about the concepts of solid, flat, sides, corners, straight, curved and round. The children had plenty of opportunity to handle, examine, describe and draw the various flat shapes (square, rectangle, triangle and circle), and they also experimented with whether 3-D shapes can slide, roll or stack.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we dedicated the week to the beautiful weather and the four seasons which the children now know quite well. We also listened to Vivaldi's famous Four Seasons concerto. Spring was the children's favourite.

Parents should have received a letter in their child's folder, explaining the reading book procedure. Reading is a very important aspect of Reception children's development, and we welcome your continued support in helping us to administer it.

Please remember that next week, Thursday 26 April, will be the first swimming session for Group B. This group will then swim every Thursday until the end of term.

Talk topic for Tuesday 24th April will be answering the question "what types of creature might you see in the air?"

We hope you have a pleasant, sunny weekend,

Patrick Tranter and Ivana Julaton

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

Wow, what a lovely sunny week! We've enjoyed making the most of the glorious sunshine by having our lunch outside on Thursday under the shade and we've enjoyed our playtimes outside. Thank you to everyone for confirming the appointment times for parent's evening. I look forward to meeting with you next week on either Tuesday the 24th or Wednesday the 25th of April.

We've enjoyed continuing with our garden's topic this week. In our science lesson we learned about the life cycle of a sunflower. We watched a short time lapse video that showed how a sunflower grew from a seed into a plant in full bloom and then how the seeds fell and the cycle started again. We also planted our own sunflowers and hope to see signs of them starting to grow soon.

In maths we have worked on adding three numbers together. We worked on using our knowledge of number facts to help us. For example $5+5+2=$ becomes a lot easier to solve if you already know that $5+5=10$. We then did a problem solving investigation called 'dicey coins' where the children were given an amount to make e.g. 10 or 20 cents. Then they threw the dice and had to make that amount using the number of coins shown on the dice e.g. 4, 6 or 1.

In literacy we read a traditional story from West Africa called 'how Anansi the spider got 8 skinny legs' and the children retold



the story in writing. We also learned lots of amazing facts about spiders and made our own spider fact files. In our art lesson we decorated spider's webs and made our own spiders, noting how they often have 4 or even 8 eyes! In phonics we have continued to learn about the 'magic e' long vowel sounds. The week we learned to write words with the 'i_e', 'e_e' and 'o_e' graphemes.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we started drawing our own house. The kitchen (la cuisine) and the living room (le salon) are ready. We also learnt the vocabulary related to the furniture in each room.

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,

Being Rippledown week we have been familiarizing ourselves with the Junior department. We have been blessed with stunning summery weather and have taken advantage of this. Next week we will be back at the Infant department as usual. In Literacy, we revised information text features and wrote our introductory page for our own information text books. We also illustrated the page. In Phonics we have been working on different spellings of -w, -f, -c, -ch and -m. It is interesting to find out how graphemes can look different yet sound the same. In grammar we have been working on connectives; when, because, if, that. We learnt when to use these words and had fun creating sentences and reading them out for everyone to enjoy. To complete our week we have been listening to some Project X stories. These books are in our reading schemes and it is wonderful to acquaint ourselves with the characters.

In Numeracy we have revised our bonds of ten. We are still working on plotting numbers on a numberline. Then we reminded ourselves of the frog method of subtraction which is essentially using a small numberline to subtract numbers using addition. We have played FIRE! to practise our bonds to ten and BUZZ to practise our counting.

In Art we drew dinosaurs from online tutorials. We drew a menacing T-Rex and a cute Diplodocus. It is fun to do these kind of drawings and each result is different. In Topic we spoke about different dinosaurs and reviewed our facts for our introductory page.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we practised the new action verbs to interview each other using the following semantic construction Est-ce que tu --- (Do you...?)

Est-ce qu'il ..? Est-ce qu'elle...? (does he/she...?). We also played Je fête mon anniversaire (I celebrate my birthday) in order to introduce oneself and get to talk to each other, by asking and answering questions in a relaxed and fun environment.

In PE we played our class games (tic tac toe and the rock paper scissors race) which were hotly contested. The boys were only just victorious this time. On Tuesday we had our first look at cricket. We all had a chance to bat and bowl correctly. We learned how to hold the bat correctly and to watch the ball while batting and to keep our arms straight whilst bowling.

We have thoroughly enjoyed being in this building and would like to say thank you to Year 4 for the use of their classroom. We had fun having picnic lunches and playing with our old friends.



I look forward to seeing you next week to discuss your child's progress. The talk topic this week is: What was the best thing about your week in the Junior department?

Have a super weekend.

Valeria Vetter and Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

We have had a wonderful week this week. The weather has been very kind to us and we have been able to go for a daily trot around the block to study the various trees in our area and to note the blossom that has been appearing in Avenue Emile Max where the Infant school is. We have noticed the different signs of Spring and also the fact that each side of the block has different trees. We enjoyed looking at the trees in “blossom street” and discussing how different they all were.



There is a carrot shaped tree and a very old knobbly tree which we enjoyed imagining who lives in it and comes out each night when the street is quiet! We found a small meadow on the corner which was full of different spring flowers and the inevitable dandelions! We revised measurements using centimetres and metres and used a tape measure to measure around the trees on our “trot” to find the biggest and smallest. I have been very impressed at how well the children in Year 3 work together and support each other. We also completed work on volume, converting millilitres to litres and back.

In literacy we completed a comprehension about an owl website and we have also written poems about Spring after working in small groups to think of Spring vocabulary. Our sunflower seeds have started to sprout and cause great excitement each morning as the children rush in to see how they have changed overnight. On our walk around the block we found a horse chestnut which had started to sprout so we have planted that too!

In science we looked at our tulips which had turned blue after being put into blue water. We had an interesting time dissecting them and then drawing a diagram and labelling the parts, there are definitely some budding horticulturalists in this class, inspired by Mrs Still!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we described the various meals of the day and what they include. We drew a menu and acted out a scene in a restaurant ordering “une entrée, un plat et un dessert” and then asked for the bill (l’addition). We also listened to a funny song related to the same theme.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on: Le printemps, c’est quoi pour toi? (what do you associate with spring?) a brainstorming activity to come up with everything we’ve covered and learned about the weather, colors, clothing, festivities, nature, animals, fruits and vegetables.

We also played Je fête mon anniversaire (I celebrate my birthday) in order to introduce oneself and get to talk to each other by asking and answering questions in a relaxed and fun environment.

Our art work this week also focussed on the blossom and we did bark rubbings of the trees to create our own trees using different ways of painting to make the blossom and created different pink blossom to decorate our own big class tree.

For PE we played French cricket after spending some time trying to improve our overarm throws. We have looked at the blog from Rippledawn and enjoyed spotting all the brothers and sisters who are away in England and we even sent them a message!

All in all we have had a brilliant week, well I have, and I hope the children have too, and I hope they will have lots to tell Mrs Still when she is back next week.

The talk topic is “What can you remember from our daily trot and which was your favourite tree?”

Hope you all have a lovely weekend and manage to get out to some of the local parks to enjoy the weather and the Spring.

Best wishes,

Helen Prescott and Ena Tolentino

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

Our Year 4, 5 and 6 children have been away at Rippledawn House this week

English as an Additional Language

Dear Parents

While the children from the Junior EAL group were away this week at Rippledawn, the children in the Infant department enjoyed the lovely spring weather, especially many signs of Spring in the playground: blossom, birds, bees and other insects.

The Reception EAL group learned the names of some animals who live underground, and some vocabulary to talk about them. We also worked on the sound and the grapheme: oi ,and revised the letter sounds: f and t. We will spend much time this term practising blending letters to read words.



The Year One EAL group practised reading and writing “magic e” words (eg. plate, time, bone, cube). We also practised counting syllables in words, especially in the names of dinosaurs. In connection with Year One’s study of spiders, we watched a video about spiders, to learn some spider facts. It was very interesting to learn that spiders can regrow a leg if they lose one.

If you would like to meet with me, please mention this to your child’s class teacher at the parent- teacher meeting next week.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

All the best,
Kate Read