

Home School Books – 27 April 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

It's finally happened; our new arrival is here! The nursery's baby dinosaur was born on Tuesday! Our dinosaur egg experiment was a success thankfully! The children have been totally absorbed in the whole process, watching the egg each day for changes in the shell and the excitement when the first crack appeared and then bits started to fall off, was just huge! Then when the baby dinosaur started to poke its foot and nose out of the egg, they could hardly contain themselves! Eventually our new arrival popped out from the shell and was dried off put into a comfy box and everyone then had a little stroke of his head! Even some parents were in awe of how cute he was, not that we are mentioning any names! We have decided to call him 'nurseryosaurus' and he eats only leaves and plants and not people! So he is an herbivore and very gentle.



The children are hoping he is going to grow bigger, so the teachers have got some explaining to do or another trip to the shop to buy a bigger model! Photographs of the whole experience will be available on the website soon, so keep an eye out.

In our home school book this week, you will find an envelope with a game of dinosaur lotto inside, for you to play at home with your little one. The teachers have already modelled to the children how the game is played, so let us see if they can show you. Have fun!

We will continue with our dinosaur theme next week, when 'Harry and the bucketful of dinosaurs' story, will be the basis for our creative topic work for the next couple of weeks, so watch this space for more information later.

Thank you to everyone who has attended the parent - teacher meetings so far. It is always lovely, not only to speak with you about how your child is getting on in school, but also to hear from you about what they are like at home. We hope you were all happy with what we discussed and if you have any further questions, please ask. We look forward to meeting the rest of you next week on Wednesday 2nd of May at your allocated time.

Please remember that Monday and Tuesday next week are holidays and school will be closed. So have a lovely long weekend, enjoying whatever you are up to and see you on Wednesday. In the meantime mull over our talk topic, which is; 'what does the word extinct mean and why are some animals now extinct or are in danger of becoming extinct?'

Thank you

Alison Davies, Inés van Wassenhove

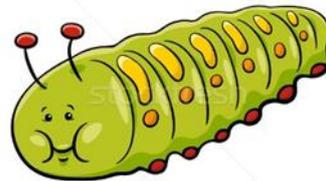
nurseryteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

Continuing our 'Spring' theme, this week we discussed and studied some creatures that can fly. We focussed on butterflies, then looked at their life-cycle from egg to caterpillar to cocoon to adult. We watched two educational video clips about caterpillars and butterflies and the children then made their own butterfly life-cycle picture. The children also painted colourful butterflies,



which are on display in the classroom. Our own captive caterpillar does not appear to be in the best of health, but the children are convinced he's turned into a cocoon... As a distraction tactic, we introduced a few new bugs this week, and we are now sharing our classroom with a rather exotic-sounding 'Green Tiger Beetle', and a dozen very hungry caterpillars from the box hedge in the playground!

In Literacy this week, we read the rhyming story 'Ronald the Rhino', then concentrated on activities concerning rhyming words. Our sound of the week was the /er/sound, which most often occurs at the end of words (as in 'ladder'), but also appears in the middle of 'mermaid'. We tried a new game called 'er-word charades', where the children had to guess the word being described, acted or mimed.

Our Maths theme this week has been doubling and halving. We used various media (including butterflies!) to practise the act of doubling a number, concentrating on doubles 1-6, but also going a bit further with doubles 7-10. For halving, we used balancing scales as a visual means to show how to divide an amount equally between two people.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we listened to lots of songs about the four seasons and discussed the weather. The children now know how to describe the different weather situations and know the four seasons.

We also had a good sporty week: on Monday we did some bean-bag balancing races, followed by some games with the ever-popular parachute. Then on Thursday, the non-swimming group had another PE session with Mrs Prescott, and the Group B swimmers made their debut in the pool. All the children made an encouraging start, and I was particularly pleased with the children's behaviour in and around the Castle Club – well done, Group B!

Talk topic for Wednesday 2nd May will be answering the question "what sort of creatures live in, on or near water?" (we will be focussing on rivers, lakes and ponds, rather than the sea).

Enjoy the extended weekend,

Patrick Tranter and Ivana Julaton
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Please click [here](#) for our Reception webpage

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to meet with you all at parent's evening to discuss your child's progress this year. They have all learned so much! The year seems to be passing by very quickly. In class this week we've continued with our garden theme and we learned in science about parts of a plant and parts of a tree. We talked about what the different parts do and labelled a flowering plant and tree diagram. We also learned all about ladybirds. We read a story called 'The bad tempered ladybird' and we discussed what it means to be bad tempered. We talked about what the ladybirds said to each other and what the bad tempered ladybird learned in the story. The children also drew their favourite part of the story.



In phonics we looked at the /ai/, /ay/ and /a_e_ family of graphemes and the /ee/, /ea/ /e_e/ and /ey/ family. We learned to sort words according to the grapheme they contained and learned that while they make the same sound, they used different letters. We practised reading and writing words with these sounds in them.

In maths we revised adding three numbers, adding and subtracting 10 and doubles up to 10+10. We also learned how to compare objects according to their weight by using balance scales. We compared them using words such as 'heavier', 'lighter' and 'the same'. We also looked at the capacity of containers and compared the amount of liquid they were holding with words such as empty, nearly empty, half empty, half full, nearly full and full.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are continuing drawing our own house. The kitchen (la cuisine), the living room (le salon) and the bathroom (la salle de bains) are now ready. We also learnt the vocabulary related to the furniture in each room. In art we used watercolour paints to make our own paintings. There were some lovely spring flowers painting and some volcanoes with stormy skies! And that was our week.

Don't forget that Monday and Tuesday are a holiday so we will welcome the children back to class on Wednesday.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Smita Bandaru

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

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

It is good to be back in our own classroom and getting back to our normal routine although we loved our temporary stay in the Junior department. In Literacy, we researched the Tyrannosaurus Rex and took notes as a class. We then wrote our texts in our Literacy books, checked them to make sure the sentences were correct and words were spelt correctly before finally writing them onto our page for our book. We really discovered many facts especially about how large these dinosaurs were. On Thursday we worked in pairs to research the Pterodactyls and also found out fun facts. In Phonics we continued on our theme of different spellings with the /t/ and /m/ sounds.



In Numeracy we added and subtracted by first doing the tens and then the ones. We did this on a 100 square and then progressed to a 150 square where we threw a dice to make 2 2 digit numbers to add together. We worked in pairs for this activity and coloured in our answers. We then moved on to money where we chose items and calculated their cost. After this we worked out the change we would get from a pound. Revising our knowledge of money we each had a turn dragging amounts of money into a purse.

In Art we made stegosaurus models using paper plates and cardboard. We painted the paper plates, made the legs, tail, head and spikes out of cardboard before putting them together. We still need to give our models a few spots and then they will be proudly hung in the classroom.

In Topic we learned all about the teeth of the different dinosaurs. Goodness me, we even found out that the dinosaurs regrew their teeth much like sharks do. Did you know that the carnivore teeth were serrated? Very interesting fact, we thought. When we went outside for PE we took a metre rule with us to measure out the 13 metres of the mighty T-Rex. It opened our eyes to see just how big he has been. We decided that he would have eaten us for a snack! For PE we practised our bat and ball skills in pairs.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we did more of: 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. This time, the objective was to focus on the gender and number agreement with the auxiliary Être (to be).

Next week we will be doing paper maché models so if you have any spare newspaper at home, could you send it in with your child please?

Thank you for coming in to discuss your child's progress. I enjoyed seeing you all. The talk topic this week is: What was the most interesting fact you learnt about dinosaurs this week?

Have a super long weekend and see you back on Wednesday.

Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

I couldn't believe my eyes on Monday when I walked through the hall door to be met by the most amazing pink blossom tree and a host of spring poems and cherry tree pictures! What a fantastic week the children had with Mrs Prescott and Mrs Tollentino. If you didn't notice the lovely work when you came to the parents' meetings, do come up and take a look. You can also see pictures of the week's walks on the website:



<http://www.bisb.org/project/watching-the-blossom-grow-a-weeks-photo-diary-in-avenue-emile-max> . I thoroughly enjoyed discovering Rippledown and had a great week away – it's a really exciting experience.

Back in the classroom we could have spent all week catching up on news, but the most exciting event was the sunflower seed germination rate. The growth is astonishing. A few people were disappointed that their seeds had not germinated, but, after close examination of the pots, realised that they actually hadn't put any seeds in them Hmmmm, that might explain it....

This week we planted radishes, which amazingly started to sprout after only 3 days. The race is on to see who produces the first edible root. Our experimental planting box of seeds and pips is expanding fast and includes apples, tomatoes, melon, pumpkin, coriander and mangoes. I'm not convinced it's possible to grow mangoes in our sunny climes, but there are lots of stories of grandads who have grown mango trees from the stones (in India!), so fingers crossed! We have begun a study of insects and the way they interact with plants, starting with the bee.

Great excitement in literacy as we started our new book – 'Beetle Boy'. We looked first at the synopsis, and, with our steadily improving detective skills, realised there were lots of hidden clues about the story in just the eight lines on the back of the book. We came up with a list of ideas and speculations about what might happen. We are already well into the story and finding out how accurate our ideas are. There is nothing quite like a great story! In grammar we have worked on apostrophes, discovering that contractions are relatively straightforward, but that singular and plural possession is rather complicated. The hunt is on for examples in reading books. We are also writing a diary account of the blossom trips last week.



In maths we continued our measurement work with practical challenges measuring mass, volume and length. We did the mid-term maths tests – very successfully – it is great to see how everyone sets to work, confident that they can find their own way to

solve the problems, even if they might initially think they don't understand some of them.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we wrote down in our all the various meals of the day and what they include. We also listened to various songs on the subject which gave us the opportunity to revise "du, de la, de l' , des". We also worked in our exercises books.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we're starting a series of activities around le printemps (spring). The first series is focused on 'faire des achats' (let's go shopping) where we're applying and playing out scenes using vocabulary and day to day expressions related to clothing, numbers, colours, adjectives, the weather etc..

In PE we drew up two class cricket teams, each with a captain and vice-captain, and the training sessions began in earnest in the lead-up to the interclass cricket matches. Year 3 definitely has promise and determination – and the fielding is improving! It was a pleasure to meet you all at the parents' evenings this week. Thank you for coming.

Our talk topic is: Why is it so important to play and work as a team?

Enjoy the long weekend!

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

Rippledawn was (as every year) a complete success. The weather was great (almost too warm) and the children had a lovely time. Celebrity Sports Day was an absolute triumph and the children saw the fruits of their labour over the Spring Term and not only really, really entertained the Year 5 and 6s but also us teachers too. Everything went to plan and the children really had to take ownership and responsibility for a group activity and of leading that group. They had to be clear, articulate, motivating and think 'on their feet' constantly. I was very proud of them and if you ask them, I'm sure they are proud of themselves.

By now the children may be experiencing the condition, post-Rippledawn withdrawal symptoms. To counteract this, not only will today's exciting orienteering in the forest near Quatre Bras help but I have also brought forward the Year 4 'I'm a 9-year-old get me outta here' trip to May 8th. This second excursion into the forest puts the children in complete control of the navigation and therefore how the trip pans out. Make a mistake and we may all end up in Luxembourg! A letter will come home next week.

In class, we learnt (or perfected) the x11/12 tables, thought about decimals' positions in the Number System and multiplied 2-digit numbers using a myriad of strategies. We also started our new Ancient Greeks Topic and the children are already hooked! Sparta, Athens, myths, 'Eureka' science and democracy filled our thoughts. Forces in science also invoked an equal and positive reaction from the children!



Beside that, we played cricket in PE to get us ready for the annual, inter-class Fifteen15 Tournament. Your Year 4 Nightrider Tigers heroes don't play for a fortnight (when then face the Year 5/6s) but they have a great chance to win this mini league! (I've already placed a bet 😊)

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we discussed the Rippledawn experience which gave the children the opportunity to use the "passé composé" which we will be studying for the next few weeks. We started by revising "être et avoir" and then learnt the passé composé of verbs ending in -ER.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we're starting a series of activities around le printemps (spring). The first series is focused on 'faire des achats' (let's go shopping) where we're applying and playing out scenes using vocabulary and day to day expressions related to clothing, numbers, colours, adjectives, the weather etc..

And that was their week.

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,

Well, what a fantastic week we had at Rippledawn! I do hope that you enjoyed looking at the photographs of your smiling and contented children. As you can imagine, sleep was in short supply for the teachers; I think that we shall need a long weekend to recover!

On Wednesday, I invited the students to a 'book tasting' in the Year 6 classroom. Their eyes lit up as they saw that the room had been transformed into a Bistro, with decorations and candles flickering on the tables. On the menu was – 'Adventure' served with excitement and risk... Each diner was given a questionnaire to complete about today's special: the dish (title), the chef (author), what they thought of the first 'bite' (the book cover) and how the first few pages



'tasted'. We then settled down to read the first two chapters – we are hooked! We identified adverbs and adverbial phrases, which we have been studying, as well as the author's use of personification. You can find photographs of this event at: <http://www.bisb.org/project/years-5-6-book-tasting-the-explorer/>

Using 'The Explorer' book cover for inspiration, the students created their own artistic interpretations of the illustration and these are now proudly on display in our classroom.

In maths, the children have been revisiting: calculating missing angles, drawing 2-D shapes given dimensions and angles, visualising, describing and classifying 2-D and 3-D shapes, reflecting and translating shapes in four quadrants, and reflective symmetry of 2-D shapes.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we discussed the Rippledawn experience which gave the children the opportunity to use the "passé composé" which we will be studying for the next few weeks. We started by revising "être et avoir" and then learnt the passé composé of verbs ending in -ER.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we're starting a series of activities around le printemps (spring). The first series is focused on 'faire des achats' (let's go shopping) where we're applying and playing out scenes using vocabulary and day to day expressions related to clothing, numbers, colours, adjectives, the weather etc..

Preparation for the end of year show is in full flow, and as always, it is a joy to hear the children singing the songs around the department.

It is always a pleasure to meet with you to discuss the achievements of your child, and I thank you for your continued support of all that we do in Years 5 & 6.

We are off on another orienteering adventure today –I was delighted when the Rippledawn staff commented on how fit and resilient our children are compared to other school pupils.

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.

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,

This week, we have had big focus on non-fiction texts.

In the Junior EAL group, we talked about some strategies for reading non-fiction texts, first talking about what we already know, picking out some key words in advance, and stopping after every few sentences to ask each other questions and make

sure we have fully understood. The text in question was about life in Ancient Greece, and we learned many interesting facts. In addition, we looked at the various graphemes for spelling the sounds ai, ee, igh, ow, ew, and looked out for these graphemes in long words. We also practised breaking longer words into syllables, to make sure we read each part of the word.



The Year One and Two EAL group read a text about spiders, connection with Year One's study of spiders. Again, we practised brainstorming what we already knew about spiders, before reading, and we stopped after each short paragraph to check we had understood. I was very pleased to see each child reading independently as much as of the text as they could. We also revised the sounds /ee/ and /ea/.

The Reception EAL group this week worked on the life cycle of caterpillars (in connection with their work in class. They listened to an explanation, and gave their own explanations, using the key vocabulary egg, caterpillar, cocoon, butterfly, along with the words first, then/next. We also practised the digraph er, practised blending simple cvc words, and revised the concept of rhyme

I am looking forward to meeting many parents in the coming weeks. If you would like to meet with me, please let me know via the email address below.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

All the best,
Kate Read
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