

Home School Books – 18 May 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents

Welcome back after the break; we thought it would be a nice long week this week but unfortunately there was a transport strike! So still a short week for some of the children.

However we have not been constrained by time and the children have been busy, busy as always. It takes them a little while to settle back into the normal rhythm of school life when they have had an extended break. So we have spent some time revisiting our 'golden rules' that we have in the nursery. One very important rule is respecting each other and not hurting other children's feelings and definitely not snatching, grabbing or hitting others if we cannot get what we want from them.

Turn taking and sharing is always a work in progress with children of this age, as we must remember they are only 3 & 4 years old. We are trying to introduce new ways of negotiating by using our words and not our hands! We assume you appreciate this is a tricky concept when you are only 3! So please talk to your children at home about all of the above, so we then have continuity between school and home. If your child does fall foul of the occasional spat, do not get too upset by it, we can assure you it has already been dealt with in the best possible way at the time it happens. As your child grows and develops, they will test the water as we say and if a bump or a scratch is the worst they encounter through life, then that is a bonus! As growing up can be a tricky business for all of us at times!

If you look opposite you will see our Dinosaur eggs are starting to shape up nicely; this week was all about papier maché or in other words newspaper and lots of glue! The children have enjoyed the sticky gloopy mess and have really embraced the activity; we hope you can see that in the photograph! Unfortunately they will not be ready to take home for a little while yet, as they need to dry in between layers. We are however hoping at the end of it each egg will be strong and colourful, ready for the little surprise that will go home with it!

In our maths this week, we have continued with counting, using ourselves as the counters! The children have counted how many boys, girls and how many children there are all together, so the introduction of simple addition is modelled through this activity.

We continue to practise our conversational language skills, extending vocabulary from one word answers to sentences and eventually a two way conversation about a given subject. Please take time to talk with your children about everything and anything, in your mother tongue and within their scope of understanding, of course. It is so easy in the business of life to forget the art of conversation, especially as we live in a digital age, where electronic



messaging and texting is the norm. It will become the choice of communication for many of our children as they grow into adults, so now is the time to talk, talk, talk, in person face to face!

Next week we will start our new topic 'The Jungle'; we can't wait to explore that one! Please remember it is also a short week as Monday is a public holiday but thankfully that is the last one until the end of the term. If you are leaving before the 29th June, even if it is only a few days before, please inform the school office by e mail and also us in the nursery. It is a very hectic term with many activities including our summer show, so please let us know your child's last day in school if it is different to June 29th.

Enjoy your Monday off next week and while you are exploring chat about our talk topic 'What would you expect to see in the jungle'?

That's all for now, have a lovely long weekend.

Thank you

Alison Davies and Inés van Wassenhove

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

Springwatch update: our Green Tiger Beetle is still alive, our large caterpillar has formed a cocoon, several snails have been added to the 'mollusc cage', and, overnight on Tuesday, two of our 'rescued' box tree caterpillars hatched into moths. The tiny Painted Lady caterpillars we received two weeks ago became enormous and have now formed their cocoons – butterflies, soon, we hope!



In Literacy this week, we learned a group of tricky words all having the same sound – he, she, we, me and be, and the children practised using these words in sentences. We also discovered the /oa/ sound, as in 'boat', and the children tried to think of words they know which contain that sound.

In Maths, we revised a number of topics and concepts – measuring by weighing, time, money, counting in 2s and 10s, and doubles and halves. The children each performed an informal assessment, to check on their progress.

For the final week of our 'Spring' topic, we talked about plants and animals that grow and live on the ground – flowers, vegetables, fruit trees, cows, pigs etc. On Wednesday we had a 'Jack and the Beanstalk Day', where we learned about the life cycle of a bean plant, and planted some of our own 'magic' beans in transparent pots,

so that we will be able to watch them grow. We have set up a mini-garden just outside the classroom doors.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have started our new topic: food. We talked about the fruit we can find in this season and we said what we like (j'aime) and what we don't like (je n'aime pas). We learnt to say I'm hungry (j'ai faim) and we pretended to order ice cream.

A reminder that, starting next week, both Reception swimming groups will now swim every week until the end of term: Group A re-start swimming next Tuesday 22nd May, and Group B continues on Thursdays. Both groups will swim with Mrs Prescott and Mrs Julaton, and the non-swimming groups will stay at school with Mr Tranter. To help get the children changed for swimming, we still need parent volunteers on a number of days, so please add your name to the list on the classroom door, if you would like to help on either a Tuesday or a Thursday.

Next week, we start our final topic of the year 'Exploration and Inventions', so the talk topic will be answering the question "Where would you most like to explore, and why?"

Enjoy another long weekend!

Patrick Tranter and Ivana Julaton

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

We've had a very busy week in year 1! The children completed their end of year phonics progress test and I was very pleased to see the progress they have made in their ability to decode words. Good progress has also been made in their reading comprehension and understanding of texts which I am also in the progress of assessing. I can see the results of all the hard work that the children have put in both at school and at home into developing their reading skills.

Royal wedding fever has gripped the international press ahead of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding this Saturday so we took the opportunity to learn some vocabulary related to weddings and royalty. Some of the words we discussed included bride, groom, castle, ceremony, carriage, best man and bridesmaids. Instead of our home school books this week we are taking home some beautiful

jewelled crowns that we made to celebrate! We also had a little party in class to celebrate the occasion as children are doing in British curriculum schools all around the world.



In maths this week the children have learned about place value and that two digit numbers are made of tens and units. We practised making two digit numbers using cubes arranged into towers of ten and groups of units. We practised breaking numbers apart using place value cards and putting them back together again so knowing that 26 is made up of 20 and 6. Some children also explored making numbers with hundreds, tens and units.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finally reached the end of our house topic. Our houses look fabulous and the children are so proud of them. They actually know all the rooms of the house, the furniture still needs learning but they will tackle this topic again in the future.

In our art lessons we have been busy making things for the infant department seasonal display which will be changing to summer soon. As our topic is gardens we made some insects that live there. We made some bees and their beehives, some stunning dragonflies and a class centipede and millipede. When we made the millipede and centipede we also learned a bit about them and their differences. A millipede has around 150 legs and the centipede has only around 30 which surprised us!

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Ivana Julaton

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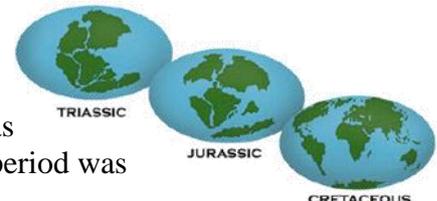
Please click [here](#) for our Year 1 webpage

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

Time flies when you're having fun! This is so true because this week has flown by.

In Literacy, we did our termly PIRA tests. We also wrote acrostic poems about summer for our wall display. On Friday we wrote adventure stories about the age of dinosaurs which you will find in their home school books. The rest of our literacy time was spent researching the timeline of the dinosaurs. Together we are creating a document about the three different periods of the Mesozoic era. We have completed the Triassic and Jurassic periods and learnt so much, not only about the dinosaurs but about the continents and weather conditions as well. The Triassic period was hot and dry and the Jurassic period was also hot but humid and subtropical as well.



In Numeracy we did our half termly tests. We also revisited doubling and halving. Then we moved on to money where we counted, added and subtracted notes and coins.

In Computing we played our maths interactive games on [activelearnprimary](http://activelearnprimary.com).

In Art, we carried on with our papier maché modelling of our dinosaurs. This is a mucky business and very hands on. We also made kites and hot air balloons for our summer wall display. We drew and then painted them before cutting them out and adding tails to the kites.

In Topic we discovered that the world had one continent, Pangaea, in the Triassic period and in the Jurassic period this land mass split into 2 distinct continents. The climate changed and the vegetation evolved from desert like conditions to lush vegetation which in turn gave rise to many new dinosaurs.

An update on our caterpillars is that they have spun their chrysalis and are now in their new home. It is a case of wait and see for the moment.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed the use of 'Avoir' (to have) to express: Quel âge as-tu? (How old are you?) Quel animal as-tu? (What animal do you have?) and to use it with different subject pronouns.

In PE we practised our bat and ball skills once again. It is interesting to see that the aim and return ability has improved. We also played our favourite class game involving hoops and rock, paper, scissors.

The talk topic this week is: What colour do you think our butterflies will be?
We had to say a sad farewell to one of our classmates this week. Shreyas, we will miss you and your sunny demeanour but wish you and your family well on your return to your own country

Enjoy your long weekend,

Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

It's official – Year 3 are the proud holders of the wooden spoon in the annual Junior Department cricket tournament! Our second team put up a courageous performance against the Year 4s, (who have some amazing batsmen), and managed to achieve a good score with excellent running between the wickets and some acrobatic fielding. The team work was impressive, as was the determination in the face of the super-confident opposition. Well done to all, both for the actual game, and more importantly, for the team spirit and enthusiasm. Next year we will be the team to beat!



The same determination is very much in evidence in the classroom too as we tackle the joys of division, in all its forms. I'm pleased that more and more children know their times tables – this makes the maths so much easier and far more fun, as we can juggle the numbers automatically and try out different methods. Everyone is becoming more confident at manipulating numbers and finding their own ways of solving problems. We worked a lot in groups this week, comparing methods and explaining our own ways of looking at and solving problems.

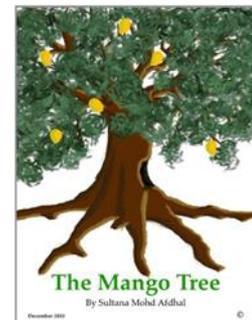
Well done to everyone for the superb science presentations. We enjoyed listening to each person and to learning new facts. Most people had made a great effort to prepare the material and to practice the 'performance' itself, and were therefore able to present the information clearly, confidently and enthusiastically, using their notes and visual material effectively. Everyone gave constructive feedback and we discussed the importance of using clear sentence structures and interesting, varied vocabulary. We were horrified to realise that we tend to use the same words over and over again without noticing it, and decided that we definitely have several 'like' and 'errrr' champions in our midst!

In literacy we looked at play scripts and the way in which they are constructed. We split into groups to practise reading a version of Cinderella and started to work on our own ideas for the second act. We also did a dictation and, on the whole, managed to include the correct apostrophes, speech marks and general punctuation – although, for some reason, capital letters still tend to be totally random, despite the fact that everyone knows (and can recite) the rules!!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have tackled two new topics that go together: human body and sports. We sang songs and we learnt a lot of vocabulary and did some grammar with *au, à la, aux*. ...

We reviewed the use of 'Avoir' (to have) and *Avoir Mal* (to have pain) in order to talk about how we're feeling : *J'ai mal à la tête* , *J'ai mal au genou*, *J'ai mal aux oreilles* etc... We also started a letter to a penpal " Je me présente" which will allow us to review all the things we've covered up to now.

Over the holiday weekend our caterpillars metamorphosed into chrysalides, and, with great trepidation, we transferred them to the special butterfly tunnel. We are watching them carefully. There is great excitement on the horticultural front with the germination of our mango! Despite my doubts, it is growing very fast. Who knows? Maybe one day the children really will come back and admire the BISB mango tree in the playground!



Our talk topic is: Why is it important to be able to speak clearly in front of an audience?

We wish you an enjoyable 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,

We had a fun return to a full-time week. We got really motivated by Roman numerals and shape in Maths while in Literacy we edited text and wrote exciting opening paragraphs. In Topic, we met the Greek gods and in Science we planned and prepared the famous car ramp experiment; which deity carried an owl in Athens? And on which surface in the classroom will a toy car travel furthest?

In PE yesterday, we played badminton in perfect weather – beautifully sunny but with a chill breeze in the air. The children enjoyed relay races keeping up the shuttlecock and then playing singles matches across the whole playground.



Main highlight this week, though, was the cricket as we played Year 3 in the final match of the Fifteen15 tournament. Last week the class had made the lowest score ever recorded in the championship – 0. So, our performance could only improve. And it did! We broke 100 runs and - despite riding a bit of luck – won the game quite comfortably thereby avoiding coming last. The team had reshuffled, regrouped and shown what they were really capable of:

<http://www.bisb.org/project/fifteen-15-cricket-championship-year-3-vs-year-4-the-wooden-spoon-decider/>

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we rehearsed our French song for the end of the year show. We revised reading the time and watched a part of a new movie. We also worked on the passé composé again and again.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, We did some singing and rehearsing for the school show - “Au Bal Masqué” . We reviewed the numbers and we talked about ‘ l’heure’ (the time) à quelle heure ...? (At what time do you..?)

Before the holiday, the ‘I’m a 9-year-old get me out of here trip’ lived up to the anticipated excitement. The children set off at a tremendous pace but the cool shade quickly warmed up as the temperature rocketed. The class had a clear idea of what they wanted to achieve and ‘Mr Stedman’s Canyon’ was chief objective. This was never completely reached but a key moment came at 2.00pm. Arjun and his 2nd-in-command Aahil (Maanas and Dev before them) had successfully got Y4 to ‘The Tunnel’ which also happened to be the same location as the Medium finish. A dilemma arose as Arjun (and half the class) wanted to end the trip here and didn’t fancy the tunnel. But the rest wanted to both traverse the tunnel and continue to the Canyon. Parvesh was one of these and due to take command in about 10 minutes and was circling. A lot of lobbying of Arjun followed. The result: the tunnel was bypassed and the Canyon was sought. A classic forest trip:

<http://www.bisb.org/project/y4-im-a-9-year-old-get-me-out-of-here-forest-trip18/>

Best wishes

Tim Stedman

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,

For the past two weeks, we have been busy preparing for our end-of year examinations. It is such a disappointment that so many children were taken on holiday during this period, as every lesson counts!

In maths, the students were asked to complete a SATs test as part of their homework. On marking these, it was evident that there were still some topics that needed to be revisited in class. We studied scaling up and down and worked through a selection of associated word problems. Last week, we completed the algebra module for this academic year.

In grammar, we are working through all the topics that we have covered this year; pupils are aware of the subject areas that they need to revise, and resources are available on our Edmodo learning platform.

With the help of our 'Paw Pals': Reading with Inference Iggy, Predictive Pip, Cassie the Commentator and Rex the Retriever, we have been analysing different reading skills. Each day, the pupils have worked through a set of texts to improve their comprehension skills.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we rehearsed our French song for the end of the year show. We revised reading the time and watched a part of a new movie. We also worked on the passé composé again and again.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, We did some singing and rehearsing for the school show - "Au Bal Masqué". We reviewed the numbers and we talked about ' l'heure' (the time) à quelle heure ...? (At what time do you..?)

Our intrepid explorers need transportation, so in teams, the students have been designing and constructing rafts. During Outdoor Learning week, they will be able to test (and race) these in a mini-Amazon river (to be constructed in our playground). Children are invited to bring any rafts they have created at home.

Rehearsals for the end of year show are now in full swing – the songs are fantastic – and most of the children have learnt their lines.

Enjoy another long 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

In our EAL small group sessions this week, Year One and Two studied questions. The children had an interesting discussion working out what exactly a question is. They cleverly explained that if you don't know something, you ask a question, and that a question is like a mystery. We looked at the words which often start questions: how, why, what, who, which, where, when. We also began to look at questions which do not start with these words, and to notice the importance of word order in these questions (eg. The girl is happy. Is the girl happy?)

The Reception small group this week talked about different kinds of transport, revising their names, and making sentences to explain where we can go by plane, by bus etc. We also looked at a globe and an atlas, finding countries and oceans, and talking about things that we can see in different countries (including different kinds of weather, landscape, buildings). We enjoyed reading and using the words 'he' and 'she', following the Reception class work.



The Junior Department small group this week talked about different kinds of nouns, notably proper nouns compared with common nouns, and countable nouns compared with uncountable nouns. We talked about the need for the, a, or some other determiner (ie. my, your, our, some, many, much, enough etc.) with common nouns. We also revised verbs, and noticed how finding the verb in a sentence, then working out who is doing the verb, is a useful strategy to help us understand a sentence when we are reading.

I wish you a very happy long weekend.

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