

Home School Books – 25 May 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents

The last of the public holidays is over for this academic year but the rest of the term is going to fly past if this week is anything to go by! The children came back to nursery full of beans, jumping ones at that, so we have tried to do plenty of gross motor skill activities to not only practise our coordination skills but to work off some of that energy!

We have started our new topic for the rest of the term on 'the jungle'. During circle time each child was asked if they could name something that you would expect to find in the jungle. The answers ranged from poisonous snakes to rivers and swamps and one of the little ones said she had visited the jungle last year with her mummy and daddy and she went to the cafe and had a cup of hot chocolate! We realised after a while she was talking about a zoo! This led onto a conversation about the difference between these two places.



We started to talk about the many different animals you would find in the jungle or the rainforest. If you look opposite you will see this week's HSB is a 'to do at home' activity; please do not worry if you have not got time to finish it, as every piece of work is supplemented by similar activities throughout the nursery day. It is for you to have a little bit of fun, talking and interacting with your child to boost language and specific vocabulary in English. The writing is only for the children who are sufficiently confident to try it. Please do not insist they do it, as any 'to do at home' activities, should be relaxing and fun at this age.

Our dinosaur eggs are ready to take home and the children have had great fun gluing and sticking and then painting their giant eggs. We hope you like the little something we found to accompany the eggs and also hope they remained intact on the journey home! If they are a bit crumpled, remember it's the process of making them that counts, not the end product!

The children continue to practise their songs for our summer show and next week we will also send out the words to a poem we need to learn before the big event! So keep an eye out for that.

Please remember when it is hot and humid that your child does not need to wear a winter coat. In the mornings if it is raining please use a rain jacket or an umbrella. Plus if wellington boots are worn, please send in some indoor shoes too, as wellies make feet very hot and sweaty indoors. This situation is not very comfortable for your child. They are great for puddle jumping but not for carpet time in nursery!

Next week is outdoor learning week for all classes throughout the whole school including nursery, which will be pairing up with the year 3 children to do some interesting and exciting activities. So watch this space to find out more.

Our talk topic for you to chat about with your child over the weekend is; if you were a jungle animal, what would you be?

Until next week, have a fun 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,

We started our final topic of the year this week: Exploration and Inventions. We began by discussing where we would each like to explore, and we began to think about how explorers travelled in the past and how they might travel today and in the future. The children made model sailing ships, which we launched in a tub of water, although a few didn't survive the first sea battle...! We also went on an exploration expedition in the school basement, with its many rooms and lots of dark corners hiding all sorts of interesting stuff!



In Literacy this week, we learned the /oy/ sound, which, although not very common, does appear in two important words for young children - 'boy' and 'toy'. The children also practised their writing this week, making up their own sentences to go with a number of pictures. The results were very encouraging, and you can see your child's work in this week's Home School Book.

In Maths, we practised number work, including counting forward and backward, starting from random numbers between 1 and 20, and writing numbers from 1-100. We also revisited number bonds to 10, and the children wrote 'number sentences' including the + and = signs.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are having fun with our new topic: food. We discovered new fruit and learnt a song on the same subject. We mentioned all the fruit we like (j'aime) and those we don't like (je n'aime pas). We went on repeating "j'ai faim, je voudrais" (I'm hungry I would like)

Although we have officially finished our 'Spring' topic, we still have our creatures and our plants - the children are really very interested in them, and observe them

daily. On Thursday morning, three of our Painted Lady caterpillars hatched, so the children were able to observe the first hours in the life of a butterfly.

In your child's folder, you should find a letter about our end-of-term outing, on Monday 18 June, to the city farm at Parc Maximilien. In order for the trip to take place, we will need 4 parent volunteers to help on the day. We will take the first four volunteers!

We also still need parent volunteers to help with swimming on a number of Tuesdays, so please add your name to the list on the classroom door, if you would like to help. If you have already signed up, but are unable to come, please do let us know, so that we can try to find another volunteer.

Next week's talk topic will be answering the question "What things will you need to be a space explorer?"

We wish you a pleasant 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's been yet another busy week in year 1. It's only a few weeks until our summer show so we started to practise our songs, dances and words for our poem. We also made some beautiful sparkly hats which you will see on the day of the show. Our theme this year is 'weather and water' and we've certainly experienced it all this week with glorious sunshine and also lots of rain!

We have continued with our garden topic. The children learned about bees this week. We learned some facts about them and labelled their main body parts. The children learned that bees are very fast fliers and that they make lovely sticky honey! We then explored a poem 'I think I'd like to be a bee' and talked about what it would be like to be a bee. The children tried some creative writing in response to the poem to explore what it might be like to be a bee. In literacy we continued with our phase 5 phonics programme. We did the /ow/ and /ou/ phonemes this week.



In maths we have started to learn about multiplication. We learned that the 'times' symbol means 'lots or groups of' and we practised solving 2, 5 and 10 x sums by using practical apparatus such as towers of cubes and pictures to help us. We practised counting forwards and backwards in 2s, 5s and 10s and continuing sequences. We also revised identifying odd and even numbers up 100.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we learnt the days of the week and we also started our last story: “Un coucou dans la pendule” in which we will learn to read the time, the parts of the day, the means of transportation etc.

In science we talked about plants we can eat and which parts of these plants are eaten. For example with a carrot we eat the root, we eat the leaves of a cabbage, the stem of celery and leeks and the flower part of a cauliflower. The children then sorted pictures of fruit and vegetables according to which part is eaten. 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,

It has been a busy bittersweet week as we had to say goodbye to another classmate. Aadharrshini we will miss you but we wish you and your family good luck as you move on.

In Literacy, we concentrated on grammar and phonics. In grammar we spoke about nouns and noun phrases. We had fun identifying nouns and using them in sentences. Finishing off sentences and reading them out aloud is always an enjoyable exercise. In phonics we again looked at different spellings but this time for the long sounds ee, igh, and ai. We also had to make the correct spelling choices for these sounds. On Thursday we researched a herbivore and began writing the info text on Friday. We baked again this week and had to read the recipe in order to find out what to do.

In Numeracy we did really well. We counted in threes and fives. We did multiplication and discovered that we could use division to check our answers. We spoke a lot about inverse operations and how you could check your answer using the ‘sister’ operation. We are now confident in the 2x, 3x, 5x and 10x tables. We understand the concept of division and have used it regularly this week.

In Science, we were in a state of huge excitement on Thursday morning at the emergence of 4 butterflies. We excitedly watched the butterflies spread their wings and get their colours. We put some strawberry and sugar water into the habitat for them to drink. Our fifth chrysalis seemed to be the lazy caterpillar who did everything a couple of days after the others.

In Topic we finished our timeline with a look at the Cretaceous period and touched on various extinction theories. The timeline has been printed out and we will add this to our information texts.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about the use of 'Être & Avoir' (to be and to have). We did several interactive activities to practise using those two auxiliaries, starting with: 'Dis-moi, tu es comment?' (Tell me, what are you like?) and dis-moi, quel animal as-tu? (tell me, what animal have you got?) and Quel âge as-tu?

On Wednesday and Thursday afternoons we baked. First we prepared the filling for our delicious samosas. We added onion, potatoes and peas as well as lots of delicious smelling spices. On Thursday we bravely entered the realm of using filo pastry and crafted our samosas. Contrary to tradition, we brushed them with oil and baked them in the oven. I am sure you will agree that the results were very tasty indeed.



The talk topic this week is: Which extinction theory do you think is more believable? Have a really super weekend,

Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

The week has flown by with great excitement as we arrived in the classroom each day to find another of our caterpillars had metamorphosed into a butterfly. I went home last weekend really worried that they were never going to emerge from the chrysalides, particularly as the transfer from caterpillar pot to butterfly habitat, which involved our carefully removing the silk threads to prevent damage to the wings, was not very delicate and we could clearly see that the caterpillars were agitated by the noise and movement of the table being joggled every two minutes! However, 3 days of peace and quiet clearly worked wonders, and we now have 5 painted lady butterflies fluttering around their tunnel. We sprinkled fresh flower heads with sugar syrup and watched the butterflies feeding on them. Those children who did their science presentations on butterflies are delighted to see live proof of their research right in front of them.



The other highlight of the week was the Bernstein concert at Flagey. The music was vibrant, modern and exciting, performed by first-rate musicians, who clearly enjoyed having an enthusiastic audience to perform to and with. We were privileged to be one of only four schools participating in the concert-rehearsal, so we had a perfect view of the entire orchestra, which, because of the music, was at full capacity, with every type

of percussion, an enormous (very loud) brass section, a gold harp, so many string instruments it was difficult to count, and a conductor who was genuinely enthusiastic in encouraging the children to participate. We danced, clapped, waved napkins and sang to some really complicated rhythms and watched entranced, as the dancer leapt and twirled around the concert hall – a truly amazing morning!

In literacy we looked in detail at the stage instructions and dialogue in our class play script. We acted out the scenes again in small groups and continued work on our own scripts. Our class book continues and many of our initial predictions are proving to be accurate, as we have now encountered the villain and can begin to see how the story has built up to the first dilemma. The character descriptions are excellent and are giving us plenty of scope for discussion of how characters feel and how this is conveyed in the writing. We also looked at sequences and the order of events in stories, reading several less well-known fairy tales and studying the conventional patterns around which traditional tales are built.

In maths we continued to revise this year's work, concentrating on multiplication, word problems and number sequences. Once we get beyond the initial reaction of 'I don't understand this', and re-read the question carefully, the actual maths is well within our grasp!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had a short week. We talked about the use of 'Être & Avoir' (to be and to have). We did several interactive activities to practice using those two auxiliaries, starting with: 'Dis-moi, tu es comment?' (Tell me, what are you like?) and dis-moi, quel animal as-tu? (tell me, what animal have you got?) and Quel âge as-tu? We reviewed the use of 'Avoir mal' (to be in pain) by enacting a fun scene 'chez le docteur'.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we went on with our two new topics : human body and sports. We sang songs we learnt a lot of vocabulary and did some grammar with au, à la, aux. We worked hard in our exercises books and learnt to spell the sound "on" like maison, garçon

We returned to Tennis this week and thoroughly enjoyed being much better at it than we were in the autumn term. The difference was amazing, and we now have two more sessions to improve yet further.

Our talk topic is: How do our class butterflies make a difference to the way you feel about wildlife?

Have a lovely weekend – the Brussels 20km race is on this Sunday and is a fun morning if you want to be outside in the sunshine!

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

This week was another short week but full of fun and learning. Fun came in the guise of storyboarding our Greek Myth in Literacy, completing our Toy car-ramp experiment and Wednesday morning's concert trip to Place Flagey. Learning hit us hard with our end-of-year PIRA reading test; 2-place decimals and a clocks speed test; and some sentence grammar and punctuation work.

Thursday's Science investigation was finished off effectively but it was interesting to see the groups of children at work and the level of logic and common sense on display. What was the most appropriate height to keep the car ramp? What to do if the car flew off the end of a table or hit a wall? Where would we need to measure from? How do we create and manage space in the classroom if things are in the way? Responses were fascinating.

On our way to the Theatre at Flagey, we braved the midsummer monsoon that opened up above us and skipped into our row 10 seats. What a fantastic performance! The Brussels Philharmonic played sensational music from Bernstein's West Side Story while our children and other schools joined in with lyrics, movements and cloth-waving practised beforehand. We delighted in the professional dancer and our own Madame Mayeur's master conducting: what she did, we followed. It was a super concert and a super experience with monumental pieces of music.



We have been building up to the summer PIRA reading tests all year and we concentrated hard to do our best. While Wednesday Group's scores were tremendous and hugely satisfying, the majority of the class hit the Year 4 UK national average and, while commendable, this was disappointing overall. We aim much higher than the UK average.

Reading books is the key and many more need to be read by next September.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we experienced another short week but we still managed to practise the passé composé both orally and in writing.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had the same short week. We talked about the use of 'Être & Avoir' (to be and to have), and we went further exploring all the other expressions used with Avoir. We did some interactive activities and situations to practice using those expressions, such as: il neige, As-tu froid? (it's snowing, are you cold?) Il est midi, Avez-vous faim? (It's noon, are you hungry?) etc.

Abacus course maths, writing and Literacy and Numeracy computer-based tests are all coming soon. Everything we have done this year will be put to trial.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman and Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

Wonderful weather for a wonderful week! Please take a look at the stunning photographs on the BISB website of our magical trip to Flagey. The conductor of the Brussels' Philharmonic Orchestra is terrific with children, and I was delighted when he agreed to a photo shoot after the performance.

<http://www.bisb.org/project/interactive-concert-with-the-brussels-philharmonic-orchestra-in-studio-4-flagey/>



On Tuesday, it was noses to the grindstone as we worked our way through a range of revision topics, but we still managed to find time, at the end of the day, to continue reading our gripping novel 'The Explorer', and this week, the explorer finally appeared.

In literacy, we have analysed how to recognise and answer summarising type questions with Summarising Sheba and using vocabulary in context with Vocabulary Victor. As always, the students work through a selection of texts to consolidate their learning.

Many pupils are involved with next week's football and netball competitions and have spent most of their lunchtimes training for these events. You will receive a letter with the final instructions and details today. Of course, the highlight for many children this week was the Asia v Europe cricket match on Wednesday.

In preparation for our Amazonian raft race next week, which is going to be filmed, we have begun our computing module on stop-motion animation. We looked at a selection of animation skills from the Aardman Studios of Wallace and Gromit fame. Students are now planning their storyboards and collecting any other additional props that they would like to include.

The rehearsal for our production (without scripts) highlighted the fact that many children have not yet learnt their lines; I hope that, by Monday, this situation will have changed!

In maths, we have continued our daily workouts which cover a range of mathematical topics and focused, in depth, on ratio and proportion. Your child can find supporting information on Edmodo.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we experienced another short week but we still managed to practice the passé composé both orally and in writing.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had the same short week. We talked about the use of 'Être & Avoir' (to be and to have), and we went further exploring all the other expressions used with Avoir. We did some interactive activities and situations to practise using those expressions, such as: il neige, As-tu froid? (it's snowing, are you cold?) Il est midi, Avez-vous faim? (It's noon, are you hungry?) etc.

Enjoy the sunshine!

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

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

English as an Additional Language

This week, in the Junior Department, the EAL small group met for only two sessions. We spent one of these sessions talking about the Ancient Greek myth of Daedalus and Icarus, which the children had read in class. We worked especially on making use of time phrases, such as In ancient times, Long ago, At the end of the day or When he had finished, After the work was finished, to structure a story. We are continuing to work on developing reading strategies, and this week we focused on creating a mental image of what we are reading.



The Year One and Two small group worked again on questions. We sorted different kinds of questions into groups (eg. those with one correct answer/ those with many possible answers; those with short answers/those with long answers) . We had fun creating a game together using questions and the numbers up to 20. We also worked on the digraph (i.e. sound spelt with 2 letters) oy, and revised the other digraphs that we have covered.

The Reception small group had fun reading the story of the Cat in the Tree, and talking about the feelings of the characters. We are going over all the basic letter sounds, and practising blending them for reading simple words, and we also began to try writing simple sentences about pictures (eg. I can see a cat in a tree).

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read

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