

Home School Books – 1 June 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents

What an amazing week we have all had, with a variety of interesting and interactive projects happening not only for our new jungle theme but also for our outdoor learning week.

The weather has been super kind to us, which made our outdoor learning adventures even better. The nursery was partnered with the Year 3 class, which did an absolutely fabulous job of helping each child to make a hobby horse. We hope you were as suitably impressed with their handiwork as we were! and not only that but the Year 3 children were so patient and kind when guiding the nursery children how to put the bits and bobs of the horse together.



A round of applause to Mrs Still the class teacher and Mrs Tolentino the Teaching Assistant in Year 3, for the hobby horse idea and all of the prep beforehand and the delicious cookies we all had at the picnic afterwards. Photographs will be on the website soon, so you can put a visual perspective on the day.

Of course you should all have your little ones hobby horse in pride of place but please don't forget they are to be played with and if you are worried about the cord used for the reins, just shorten it or cut it off altogether but importantly don't let your child put it over their head. The stick of the horse goes in between your child's knees and the reins are only to control the horse's head, so they can pretend they are on horseback. Much cheaper than riding lessons on a real horse and fun to do!

We also had our water play activities outside in the wonderful sunshine; thank you to everyone who sent their child to nursery in shorts and please keep sending them in shorts when it is hot. Children absolutely love water play and we also included a bubble blowing session, which was very exciting! Some of the children became quite an expert at making bubbles, whereas others became experts at popping them! Photos will be on the website soon.

Last but not least, we released our remaining butterflies into the wild this week, as most of you will have heard, there was a sad incident with the butterfly house and some of our lovely butterfly's didn't make it! However it has been a great experience watching them grow from tiny little specks to big fat caterpillars and then after they had wrapped themselves up in a warm blanket (cocoon) they popped out into the world as beautiful butterflies! A great sense of awe and wonder was had throughout the whole process and the children have talked about and coloured in the life cycle of the butterfly diagram, which you can see opposite.

The main object of this was not the colouring components, it was used as a maths activity, a great way to use dice and count the dots and correspond the oral number to a written number. Of course most importantly everyone learned about the life cycle and the sequence in which it happens. Please ask your little one about the activity and see what they can remember.

Our jungle role play area is taking shape, we will continue with this next week. Finally, your child should have definitely brought their dinosaur egg home on Friday, we hope after such a long wait, they enjoyed the surprise inside the egg! and it definitely isn't chocolate like they all thought!

That's all for this week folks, keep enjoying the sunshine and the refreshing showers. See you next week.

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This has been a very busy week in Reception! It has been 'Outdoor Learning Week' in school, and also a week full of space-related activities.

Our theme for the week was the book 'Back to Earth With a Bump', in which a boy, Hal, is sent off in search of the sun, which has 'disappeared'. We used it as a focus for our termly writing exercise, where the children had to write sentences to go with scenes from the story, and also for learning the tricky words 'was' and 'are'.

The same book appeared again in our topic work, when we used it as a springboard to investigate the reasons for night and day. This involved groups of children sitting inside a dark 'space station' (an inflatable tent, black on the inside), taking turns to shine the Sun (a torch) on the revolving globe (with Hal stuck on with blu-tack). We also watched a video about the solar system, hung up some planets in the classroom, listened to some songs about planets and then did some work on placing the planets in the correct order – you can see this in your child's Home School Book this week. Finally, we finished off our new role-play centrepiece: a rocket and launch control area, to replace the long-serving shop.



In Maths, still with a planetary theme, we focused on 'one more than' and 'one less than', and linked this to the associated numbers sentences, such as $7+1=8$, $9-1=8$ etc.

Our outdoor learning activities this week included two sessions of water-based fun (bubbles, boats, pouring etc.) and a super session with the Years 5 & 6 children, who came over to help us make a shelter large enough for 40 children (we had been

expecting rain!) followed by some cardboard-box building work. The afternoon ended with each class singing their end-of-term show songs to the other. You can see the pictures at <http://www.bisb.org/project/outdoor-learning-week-construction-activities-reception-years-56/>

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been rehearsing our song for the summer show "Coccinelle demoiselle". We also went on having fun with our food topic. We learnt lots of new fruit with a new song "J'aime les fruits".

I note that a number of children have not accessed any of the interactive maths games. Access details and passwords were given out in April, and there are now five different activities available, all related to maths topics that we cover in school. You can login via <https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0>. There is, of course, no obligation with these games, but they are a fun way for your child to practise regularly.

Next week's talk topic will be answering the question "What things will you need to explore the oceans?"

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.

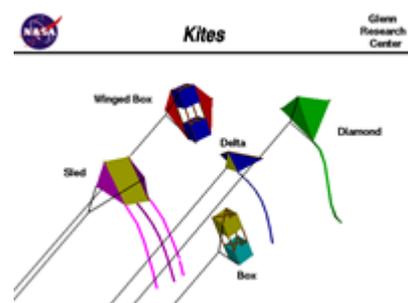
Patrick Tranter and Ivana Julaton
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Please click [here](#) for our Reception webpage

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

We've had so much fun this week enjoying Outdoor Learning Week! We've been outside for some of our lessons every day and the sunny weather has really helped us to make the most of it. We went on a minibeast hunt in the playground to look for lots of bugs. We found quite a few including snails, beetles, woodlice, ants and earwigs. We also let our beautiful painted lady butterflies go which we have been caring for in the classroom. We watched them grow from caterpillars to pupae and finally they emerged as butterflies. We also enjoyed some water play. We practised making bubbles of different sizes and enjoyed exploring the capacity of different containers.

In our art and design lesson for outdoor learning week we made kites with the Year 6 class. Year 6 children were paired with Year 1 children and they designed and made their kites together. Then we flew them in the air. In PE we made obstacle courses in groups and practised doing our own courses and ones made by other groups. The children practised balancing, jumping and going over, under and through things.



In phonics we learned about the /er/ /ir/ and /ur/ family. We learned to read and write words containing these graphemes and write them in sentences. In our grammar lesson we talked about question marks and exclamation marks. The children practised writing their own sentences that ended in a question mark or an exclamation mark.

In maths we worked hard on telling the time on analogue and digital clocks. We practised telling the time on the hour, quarter past the hour and half past the hour. We also talked about data handling and organising information. We made pictograms to show how many children in the class had their birthday in different months of the year.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have started our new and last story: “Un coucou dans la pendule” and have learnt to ask the time with the question “Quelle heure est-il ?” We have also learnt the different parts of the day: le matin (morning), l’après-midi (afternoon), le soir (evening) and la nuit (night) and the greetings: “bonjour, bonsoir, bonne nuit”.

The summer show is coming soon so we’ve started to rehearse with the Year 2 children. Please note that on the day of the show, the 14th of June, the children can come to school wearing their own colourful clothes. They will need to be able to wear them all day so it needs to be something they will be safe and comfortable wearing on the playground and during lessons.

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,

This has been a week of hot weather and we have taken advantage of it. Outdoor Learning Week was celebrated in the most glorious of weather. You can find the photos of these activities here <http://www.bisb.org/classes/year-2/>

In Literacy, we concentrated on phonics with a look at the different ways to spell the - /oa/ and /ie/ sounds. We also looked at the tricky words of Mr and Mrs. We did our weekly spelling test and got to the library on Thursday. As part of our Outdoor Learning Week, we did some paired reading with the Year 1 class on the playground. The class were very patient and asked questions of their partners.

In Numeracy we revisited measuring in centimetres. We had fun measuring our feet and hands as well as other classroom objects. We then moved on to telling the time.

We spoke about the time being segmented into 5 minute segments and when it is past the hour and when it is to the hour. After this we tried to work out what the time would be if we added 10 minutes.

In Science, we had all five caterpillars hatch but unfortunately 2 of the butterflies passed on to happier pastures at the weekend leaving us 3 to let go. One refused to open its wings and preferred to rest in the habitat net for another day. It was then let go later than the others.



On Tuesday we went to the park with the Year 4's and learnt how to do orienteering. We were paired up with the older children and worked together as a team in order to complete all the tasks. We had a lot of fun and the weather was very obliging. Thank you to Mr Stedman for setting up and supervising this activity.

On Wednesday afternoon we had our turn to enjoy various water activities such as bubbles, squeaky toys and measuring cups. We blew bubbles, both great and small, filled the squeaky toys with water and squirted them out, filled and refilled different containers.

On Monday, after letting our butterflies go we had fun with balls and bats. The children are improving and can now hit the ball back to each other. In Art we made our hats for the show. The theme is summer and water and each child chose how they wanted to decorate their hats.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started "Les Aventures de Mademoiselle et Monsieur..." (the adventures of Miss and Mr.) it's a project where they will create, describe and talk about their own imaginary character. The objective of this project is to consolidate everything we have covered

On Wednesday the 27th June 2018 we are going to the farm in Genval. The letters for this very educational outing have gone out today.

I have not given a lot of homework this week as I would like the children to revise their poem and song words for the show on the 14th June 2018. The letters for the clothes they need to wear have also been sent home this week.

The talk topic this week is: Which part of Outdoor Learning Week did you enjoy the most?

Have a relaxing weekend,

Valeria Vetter

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

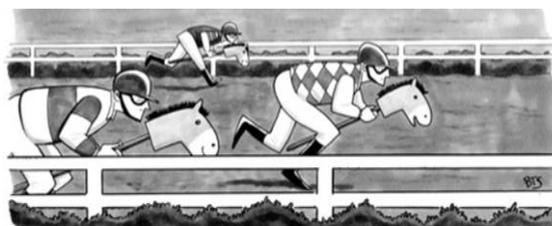
Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

What amazing weather we've had for Outdoor Learning Week! The seedlings are shooting up in all of the boxes outside – it's a good job we labelled the rows carefully, as some plants are hard to identify. We watered the new trees every day and picked off the leaves affected by aphids. There are several raspberries and white currants on each bush, and the strawberries are growing, but taking a while to ripen. The butterflies we released last week haven't been spotted yet, but we're hoping that they may return when the seedlings start to bloom. These are now ready to be planted out into the main boxes, where they should provide perennial colour for the next few years. As for the mango and sweet chestnut trees – they're having a race with each other and almost seem to grow as we watch them! They too need new (large!) pots so that they can grow into healthy trees in our expanding garden.



The highlight of our Outdoor Week was the morning spent with the Nursery children. We spent the previous afternoon designing and making hobby horse kits – stuffing the heads (socks), preparing the manes (wool wrapped around cardboard templates), making rosettes and choosing coordinating bridles and ears. Santa's workshop had nothing on Year 3, with the race definitely on to finish the basic horses in time. We then set off, half-finished horses at the ready, to trot round to the Infant Department.



Once the horses had been adopted, the new owners set to work to finish them off; decorating the rosettes, choosing a name, adding eyes, nostrils and smiles, and then testing them out on the obstacle course race track – all helped by their Year 3 partners and a dashing demonstration by Mrs Davies! A well-deserved picnic snack finished off the celebrations and then everyone had fun playing together with the construction toys. What a lovely morning! Despite some initial regret at not being able to keep the horses, the Year 3s discovered in the end that it was maybe even more fun to give such a lovely present to someone else, for them to enjoy. Take look at the photos: <http://www.bisb.org/project/outdoor-learning-week-year-3-make-hobby-horses-for-nursery> .

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished working on the human body and sports. As a result, we worked hard in our exercises books on these two topics but also revising other subjects we have learnt during this school year. We have now started a new topic : les vêtements (clothes).

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we 're learning how to write a letter to 'mon correspondant francophone' (my French-speaking penpal). In this letter, we describe ourselves, starting by introducing name and age, as well as what colours, animals, seasons and food we like, we have , we eat and we drink

The week finishes with a day out in Parc Josaphat – I’m hoping the weather holds and that we can explore the park, identify some of the trees and plants, and make our own nature sculptures.

We completed our Pira summer reading assessment – generally very successfully, although I was heard to utter more than a few exasperated squawks at those who still don’t read the instructions carefully, and therefore lose important marks. It is such a shame to lose points for silly mistakes, when in fact you understand the question content perfectly well! I am very pleased with the progress that everyone has made in reading – it is a pleasure to be able to read challenging class books with everyone following the storyline and being involved in the character development and action. In literacy we also looked at different tenses in grammar, revising past and present and working on the present perfect and future tenses – a bit confusing, but easier once we started to spot the patterns.

In maths we did more on division and multiplication (please continue with the times tables...) and then each person chose to work on particular areas that they feel less confident in, working individually to start with and then in pairs to discuss differences and correct mistakes.

Our talk topic is: What would I do to make the city greener and more child-friendly?

Have a lovely 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,

Outdoor Learning Week was a cool show this week. We started on Monday with some coordinate work in the playground. The children made a grid using equipment in the backyard and then had to translate shapes across it. (Incidentally, the children will have to plot the coordinates of such a shape translation in the exam coming up)

On Tuesday, we hopped on the ‘Swimming Bus’ for the week’s main (or at least joint main) event – Mini Orienteering with Year 2. Year 4 are now past masters at this but they were fantastic in delivering ‘Orienteering for beginners’ to our 7-year-old friends. The rules were simple: get around the 8 controls in the park in Year 2-Year 4 pairs in the shortest time possible....only, our Y4 heroes could not touch anything – not the map, not the stamp sheet, nor the controls themselves. A lot of coaching and verbal instruction was required.



<http://www.bisb.org/project/orienteering-in-the-park-year-2-year-4/>

As you can see, everyone had a lovely time and Year 2 were awesome!! Thanks for coming Year 2.

Outside, we also rehearsed for the Summer Show, played volleyball and observed the Year 6 messing about in 'boats' (raft making) in a makeshift Amazon River in the playground.

Our delve into outdoor learning is not quite over; we know when the 'Swimming Bus' leaves Infants, there's space on it and I have a cunning plan for something we can do next week in the park. Watch this space....

In French with Mrs. Scharf, passé composé has become our obsession and we are slowly but surely getting better at using it and writing it too.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen we are getting ready for 'Faire du Shopping pour les Grandes Vacances (go shopping for the summer holidays). We're applying and playing out scenes using vocabulary and day to day expressions related to clothing, numbers, colours, adjectives, the weather etc.. focusing on the different expressions that come with the Avoir (to have) auxiliary.

Today was an unforgettable day for everybody. Some went to the International schools Football and Netball tournament while the others went on a fantastic day-out trip to Josaphat Park. To see the fun had, go to the website over the weekend as images emerge. Every child will have had a terrific day.

Elsewhere, we drew pictograms, plotted line graphs, converted sentences from 3rd to 1st person and explored friction (with fascination) through asphalt, aggregate and winter tyres.

Have a good 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,

We have all enjoyed Outdoor Learning Week and we have been fortunate with the tropical weather, which is such an unusual treat. On Monday, with great ceremony we let our butterflies go. At first, they were reluctant to leave their idyllic home, but with gentle persuasion they flew away into the bushes.

We met our last 'PawPal' in our reading revision module – Arlo the Author. These resources are really useful in helping children identify the 'skill' being tested in the question. On Tuesday, the children sat the PIRA test and then in the afternoon, we visited the Infant Department.

What an adventure. Our first challenge was to build a shelter in case of rain. Equipment available was a selection of tarpaulins and rope. Within 30 minutes a shelter was erected and the children were praying for rain to test it out! Our second challenge was to construct a street scene using cardboard boxes. So, the four teams set to work... our street included: Big Ben, a school, the BISB minibus, a skyscraper and the Junior Department. A fabulous effort and result.

On Wednesday, the children sat their Abacus mental arithmetic and problem-solving tests. In the afternoon, it was off to Year 1, where our challenge this time was to construct kites. By the end of the session, beautiful, colourful kites could be seen flying (or nearly) in the playground – what an enjoyable and productive afternoon.

For the entire week, our classroom has been littered with rafts, Duplo, Lego and other creatures ready for our Stop-Go animation activity. What an escapade! Using a pond-base liner, waffle blocks and tyres, we constructed a river in the playground and decorated it with vines and tropical birds. After a few hiccups, our river was ready... each student was given the opportunity to take pictures for their animation project. A tropical storm (Mrs T dressed in her Amazon camouflage outfit on the end of a hosepipe!) helped the rafts to bob along the river; a few capsized, but most made it!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, passé composé has become our obsession and we are slowly but surely getting better at using it and writing it too. In French with Mrs Halvorsen we are getting ready for 'Faire du Shopping pour les Grandes Vacances (go shopping for the summer holidays). We're applying and playing out scenes using vocabulary and day to day expressions related to clothing, numbers, colours, adjectives, the weather etc.. focusing on the different expressions that come with the Avoir (to have) auxiliary.

Please look at the fantastic photographs of our thrilling week at:
<http://www.bisb.org/classes/year-6/>

We have an exciting day on Friday with the sport tournament and the outing to Parc Josephat.

Enjoy your 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

We have enjoyed Outdoor Learning Week, and our focus has been mainly on developing and practising the language we need to talk about the playground environment.

In the Junior EAL sessions, this involved describing what we see in the playground in two different ways: firstly in a poetic way, using adjectives and similes (e.g. the tree is as strong as a rock; the wind blowing the leaves sounds like snow; birdsong is as sweet as juice); and secondly in a factual way, using correct scientific language to explain how trees live. We are also spending some time going over the spellings of those words which are frequently used, but which are not spelt phonetically (e.g. there, their, where, once).

The Year One and Two EAL group also spent time in the playground, noting what we could see, what we could hear, and what we could feel. We used a range of adjectives to describe these things (e.g. soft, hard, rough, smooth, natural, human-made, loud, quiet, far) . We asked questions including, for example, What do blackbirds eat? Why do birds fly? We had interesting discussions about whether we can see colour, or softness.



The Reception EAL group also went outside, to talk about what we could see, and what we could hear. We used our own footsteps to measure the length of the playground. We also spent some time inside going over the basic letter sounds. We practised spelling simple words, and putting them together to write simple phrases retelling parts of a story.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read