

Home School Books – 8 June 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

This term seems to be going very quickly indeed! The children are full of excitement and energy; we are trying to have as much gross motor play outside as possible. We are not only taking advantage of the amazing weather but we are concentrating on different ways to control our large motor movements and become more aware of the space around us and others. Of course exercise is also a good way of calming our minds and it helps us to concentrate for increasing periods of time when we are required to sit down and listen quietly to the teacher. Plus and most importantly, outdoor play is fun!

We have continued with our Jungle theme this week and have combined two of the EYFS early learning goals. Understanding of the World looking in particular at: ELG 15 - Technology:

- Children recognise that a range of technology is used in places such as homes and schools.



- They select and use technology for particular purposes.

Plus Creative Art and Design looking at: ELG 17 - Being imaginative:

- Children use what they have learnt about media and materials in original ways, thinking about uses and purposes.

- They represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role-play and stories.

The end result is what you see opposite, but please remember that it is the process of engaging with it that is the most important aspect.

Thank you to everyone who has sent their child to nursery in shorts and their white school shirt, even though it is a little cooler in the mornings the temperature soon rises and it gets increasingly warm throughout the day. Children do not like to be hot and uncomfortable, it makes them very grumpy!

Please do not forget the schools International Day is happening soon, in fact it is next Saturday 16th of June. If you would like to represent your home country by having a table with interesting items, games, facts etc. about it. Please fill in the form at the bottom of the letter you received last week and send it back to the school office. It is always an amazing day, so please come along with the whole family and any friends you wish to invite.

Until next week, have a super weekend and chat over our talk topic ‘What sounds would you hear in the jungle during the day and at night?’

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,

It has been another busy week in Reception - this time full of ocean-related activities. Our topic was exploring the oceans – first we looked at the five oceans of the world, then we talked about different types of ships and boats (ancient and modern), what they were made of and how they were propelled. We made colourful ‘boats on a wavy sea’ for our classroom display, and conducted two scientific experiments – one was a candle-powered boat (using a tea-light and some copper tubing), the other a sink or float experiment, to learn more about materials.



Our phonic sound of the week was the /ai/ sound, as in ‘rain’, and the children practised writing the sound in a series of ‘ai’ words. We have been doing some end-of-year phonics assessment activities, and it is encouraging to see how well the children have progressed and retained their knowledge of the different sounds we have covered over the year.

In Maths, we revisited money, looking at the similarities and differences between the various Euro and cent coins, and learning that a single coin can have the same value as multiple smaller-value coins (e.g. one 2c coin is the same as two 1c coins etc.). We also practised subtraction again - this time using the number sentence formula $5-1=4$, rather than the 'one less than' approach that we used initially.

Our trip to the farm takes place on Monday 18th June. We have not yet received all the authorisation slips and payment. If you have not sent yours in, please do so immediately.

Next week, Mr Tranter will be away on a swimming course from Monday to Thursday inclusive. Mrs Prescott will be teaching the class for those four days.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still rehearsing our song for the summer show “Coccinelle demoiselle”. We also went on having fun with our food topic and keep on singing “J’aime les fruits”. We also started colouring our books of all the French songs we have learnt this year.

Finally, a polite request: if your child has a snack or lunch which requires either a fork or a spoon, please provide one for him/her – we are trying to do our bit to reduce plastic waste, and this is an ‘easy win’.

Next week's talk topic will be answering the question "What things will you need to explore the North or South Pole?"

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,

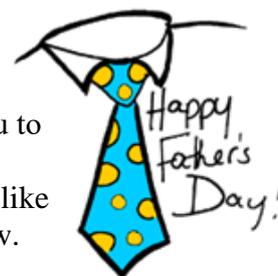
This week we've been very busy practising for our summer show which is taking place next Thursday afternoon in the infant department at 14.30. Thank you to everyone who has practised the lines of the poem at home with your child, they have made some good progress in their performance of it. We have been practising our singing and dancing and there will be a watery surprise too! Don't forget that the children can wear their own colourful clothes to school on the day of the show, but it needs to be something they can comfortably wear throughout the day.

In our literacy lessons we have almost finished phase 5 of letters and sounds, there is just one more sound to learn next week. The sound we learned this week was /wh/. We practised reading and writing words with this sound and putting the words into sentences. In our grammar lesson we finished our work on questions by writing questions and answers about a picture of a pirate ship. We now know the difference between questions and statements, and that questions must have a question mark at the end.

In maths we used our knowledge of smaller sums to help us solve bigger sums for example knowing that $8-2=6$ can help us to know that $68-2=66$ or even $348-2=346$. We also talked about giving change in a shop. The children learned that when you don't pay with an exact amount you get the difference back as change. We practised calculating the change we would get from a 20 cent coin when buying small items up to the value of 20 cents.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been listening to our last story: "Un coucou dans la pendule" and have learnt to ask the time with the question "Quelle heure est-il?" We have made beautiful clocks to help us read the time (only the hours). We also listened to a song about "le jour et la nuit" (day and night).

In our art lesson we made a special surprise for our dads in honour of father's day in Belgium, which is this Sunday, the 10th of June. If your child hasn't given it to you check their school folder! Thank you to everyone who has already returned the permission slip about our upcoming trip to the park on Tuesday the 19th of June. If you would like to accompany us on the trip from 10.45 until 12.45 please let us know.



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,

The weather has been hot again this week which has made it possible for us to practise for our summer show outside in the playground.

In Literacy, we have been reciting our poem for the show and trying to add expression and feeling into it. We have also been doing quite a bit of phonics work carrying on with our theme of different spellings. We have studied the different spellings for /ur/, /or/, /y/, /oi/, /eer/, /air/ and /ou/. Most of this involves revision of sounds taught previously and learning when to use which grapheme. We also did a bit of work on Father's day which you will see soon. Our creative writing this week is all about a pet dinosaur.



In Numeracy we moved back to the four operations. We first revised how to partition numbers in order to add them as well as subtraction by counting up. We then counted in 2's, 3's, 4's and 5's in order to multiply numbers. We also solved division problems using these steps bearing in mind that multiplication and division can be used to help each other. We all understand that the inverse operations can be used to check our calculations. To complete our numeracy for this week, we counted in halves and quarters.

Art was a happy and interesting affair this week with us making a surprise for our dads. This involved cutting and sticking, as well as designing a tie for dad. We have also been doing some activity worksheets on dinosaurs. One of them was spotting the differences which the children really enjoyed. The ever popular word searches were also in evidence.

Our summer show practices are coming along well and I can hear a vast improvement in the singing now. We will need a few umbrellas, galoshes (plastic boots) and mackintoshes (raincoats) so if you have some, please could you send them in on Monday? Many thanks.

Don't forget our outing on Wednesday the 27th June 2018 to the farm in Genval. Thank you to those who have already sent in the replies and money.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we continued working on "Les Aventures de Mademoiselle et Monsieur..." (the adventures of Miss and Mr.) where they wrote so

many fun and funny things about their 'special character'. We also prepared a nice craft for 'La Fête des Pères' (Father's Day).

Your child might have come home and mentioned the testing we have been doing on the computers. These are done every year and are a good indication of the level of the children.

The talk topic this week is: Do you agree that going to bed by day is really not fair?

Don't forget our show on Thursday next week. See you then.

Have a super weekend and Happy Father's Day to all the dads,

Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

Following our fantastic day out in the rain in Parc Josaphat last week, <http://www.bisb.org/project/a-wonderful-wet-day-in-parc-josaphat> (many thanks to the parents who braved the elements and accompanied us!) we returned to school with armfuls of nature sculptures to plant out in the garden boxes this week. They provide a beautiful backdrop to the plants and should last through the winter, providing interest when the flowers have gone. We also potted on the rest of our plants from the balcony, and are keeping our fingers crossed that they flower before the end of term.



In Science we studied the different types of seed dispersal, and realised that we had seen many examples during our outdoor day, particularly when identifying leaves and trees. We searched the playground to see if we could spot any 'foreign' species, and also looked for dandelions on our walk to the tennis bus. It's amazing what you can spot when you really look!

We have had fun in Literacy this week with our Superstar Spelling competition; checking out all the spellings we have learnt over the year. The competition is ongoing, and very close – teams have to spell the basic words correctly, but also have to be able to change them, turning them into adjectives, adverbs, or verbs, adding prefixes and suffixes, changing their tense or giving an opposite, making other words out of their letters ... you name it, the teams have to rise to the challenge!

We did our second oral presentation, this time based on the book review set in last week's homework. With a few exceptions, the written preparation was very disappointing and didn't demonstrate much effort, but the presentations themselves

were excellent and showed considerable improvement on the science presentation. Most children spoke clearly, using interesting vocabulary and varied sentence structure. We were all impressed that we managed to avoid too many ‘likes’, and decided that we were much better at making eye contact and showing books to the audience. It was good to see everyone presenting their book confidently, and being able to ask questions, as well as listening carefully to constructive comments. The presentations showed clear understanding of the books read and the ability to explain ideas in a logical sequence.

The rest of the week has been taken up with the remaining end-of-year tests. We completed the two Abacus maths papers, and it was very positive to see the progress made in problem solving. We have done a lot of work on how to tackle questions that seem difficult – how to decode them and work out exactly what is being asked, and how to decide which strategy we feel most comfortable with in order to solve the problem. Those children who really take the time to analyse the questions and to set out their working-out processes carefully and methodically, definitely score far higher, and feel far more in control of what they are doing. Well done to those ‘I can do it!’ champions!



We have started the online tests in English and Maths and will complete them early next week – there were a few worried faces as we sat down at the computers, so many thanks to the Year 5 and 6 experts, who helped everyone log in and get going. Once started, everyone really enjoyed themselves!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we continued working on the letter to ‘mon correspondant francophone’ (my French-speaking penpal) where they wrote so many fun and funny things about themselves. We also prepared a nice craft for ‘La Fête des Pères’ (Father’s Day).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had a busy and very productive week : we revised all the vocabulary regarding clothing and learnt to conjugate -ER verbs like “danser, jouer, chanter, etc”. It was difficult but the children did really well. We also rehearsed our French song for the show.

Our talk topic is: What have I most enjoyed so far in the Junior Department?
We wish you a peaceful weekend out and about, making the most of the summer activities on offer.

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 3 webpage

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

Mrs Tolentino took literally hundreds of pictures this week and it's really difficult to say which was the best event of all as there's been so many great things we've done.

In Monday afternoon's cricket match there were a number of Y4's in action. Unicorn set an enormous (record-breaking) target for Phoenix and it didn't seem likely. All until Dev came to the crease and took hold of the run-chase with his South Paw, left-handed style. The watching mums and dad (and myself) were thoroughly entertained. It gave hope and made the impossible seem possible. Pity the fairytale wasn't to be.

<http://www.bisb.org/project/phoenix-v-unicorn-after-school-match-1st-test/>

On Tuesday, our re-trip to the park was a huge success. It was such a simple idea but everyone who went thought it was great: forage in the wood, get good sticks for a mini raft, build it in the park and then see if it 'sails' in the lake. Many thanks for technicians, Mrs Read and Tolentino who worked doggedly to help bind the children's crafts with string and tape and to Mrs Tranter for her inspiration via Pinterest.

<http://www.bisb.org/project/outdoor-learning-week-year-4-mini-raft-building/>

On Thursday, we had a forces experiment double bill. Half the class investigated water resistance while the other half examined the force exerted by gravity - two for the price of one! Mr Prescott visited the classroom while we were dropping marbles from 3metres....



<http://www.bisb.org/project/y4-science-water-resistance-and-effect-of-gravity-experiment/>

Photos weren't taken of Maths, Topic and all the tests we did, though. Maths was top-end Y4 arithmetic stuff and there was nowhere to hide for the children! TUxTU, HTU ÷ U and adding money. In Topic, we looked at the Greek Soldier - the mighty hoplite and some of his (and her) weapons – these children are quite bloodthirsty! Furthermore, we had writing (long and short task) tests and online exams. Next week, Numeracy will take over.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have reading and talking about the football World Cup; the history of football, the vocabulary related to this sport and we read the biography of Zinedine Zidane in which we practiced the passé composé.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we played out some funny scenes focusing on 'shopping situations'. They were able to come up with all sorts of questions and answers, using vocabulary and day to day expressions related to clothing, numbers, colours, adjectives, the weather and the different expressions with Avoir (to have) auxiliary. We also prepared a nice craft for 'La Fête des Pères' (Father's Day).

Finally, the children really enjoyed athletics in PE – sprinting, hurdles, long and high jump.

And that was our 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,

All over! The students have now completed their end-of-year tests, so the 'cloud of gloom' has lifted and I am left with happy, excited and relieved pupils – what are we going to do now Mrs T? I do hope that a few important skills have been mastered during the exam preparation phase; responsibility for one's own learning, how to plan a revision schedule and knowing where to go for support. If your child has made progress with these competences, then they will be ready for lift-off in September!

This week, we have been focusing on our animation skills. Animators have been busy taking hundreds of shots to turn into animations. We have had creatures being trapped in coral in the ocean, various characters from 'Clash of Clans' involved in battles, gymnastic Morphs, disappearing Morphs, beheaded Morphs, Morphs falling love, Morphs stealing classroom equipment; their animations are awesome and they are all very proud of their efforts.



We have been revising our Primary Chinese lessons, ready to move on to the next module. Also, we watched a 'Ted Talks' to help us understand how important the Zodiac is in Chinese Culture; the children have produced some beautiful interpretations of this. We had a Chineasy test and, I was very impressed that most students were able to recognise about 20 Chinese (including compound) characters. Thank you all very much for providing lunch for us on Thursday. We set the table in our classroom and I think that I tried everything! I will not need any supper, this evening!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have reading and talking about the football World Cup; the history of football, the vocabulary related to this sport and we read the biography of Zinedine Zidane in which we practiced the passé composé.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we played out some funny scenes focusing on 'shopping situations'. They were able to come up with all sorts of questions and answers, using vocabulary and day to day expressions related to clothing, numbers, colours, adjectives, the weather and the different expressions with Avoir (to have) auxiliary. We also prepared a nice craft for 'La Fête des Pères' (Father's Day).

On Friday, some of us are going to a concert at Flagey and others will be enjoying an art workshop at school – a great way to end examination week!

Rehearsals for our production will be on the agenda next week – so everyone must know their lines!

Enjoy 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, our EAL sessions in Year One and Two continued to focus on questions. Each child worked with a partner, and they took turns to interview each other, asking a set of questions which used the question words how, why, what, who, which, where and when. We found out interesting things about each other, including that some people feel happiest when travelling on a metro, one person would like to be like Spiderman, and one would like to go on holiday to China.

The Reception EAL group this week practised using the language of mathematics, especially more, less, same, equal, odd and even, as well as the numbers up to 20. We shared out counters between two teddies, seeing which numbers gave the teddies an equal number of counters.

The Junior EAL group spent one session writing their own stories. It is wonderful to see how the children's increasing range of vocabulary, and increasingly sophisticated use of grammar, enables them to express their highly imaginative ideas more precisely and with more subtlety. The writing also shows the points of grammar, spelling and vocabulary that we need to keep practising in the remaining weeks of term.

If you would like to meet before the end of term to discuss your child's progress in English, please let me know by email, or through the school office.

I wish you a happy weekend.

Kate Read
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