

Home School Books – 22 June 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

This week has flown past as usual but the energy in the nursery is still running high! A number of parents have asked when they will get their child's report. There is always a lot of checking and double checking during the last few weeks to make sure each child has to the best of their ability, reached their potential, throughout the 'Early Year Foundation Curriculum'. Very soon you will receive the collated information about your little one, in written report form, so please be patient and it will be on its way. Please remember the 'early years programme' starts in Pre-Nursery and goes right the way through to the end of Reception. There are different ages and stages of development and each one of your children is unique within that, so there is scope for a wide spectrum of progression throughout the whole programme.



The summer show is almost upon us and this week we have all put in our final efforts to make sure the mummy's and daddy's will be super impressed when they come to hear us sing! Fingers crossed for good weather on Wednesday, as it will be outside.

Please don't forget on the day to dress your little one in a brightly coloured tee-shirt and a pair of shorts, no dresses or skirts or long trousers, please! And they must come to school wearing the above so that we do not have to change every child.

The show will take place on Wednesday 27th June at 11.30am. If your child attends the afternoon session only, then you can either bring them to school at 9am and leave them with us or you can just bring them for the show from 11am but no later than 11.15am. Thank you.

As this is the last time your little one will add anything to their home school book. We thought a lovely photograph was in order. Some of the children, who have been with us since last September, have grown so much! Remember you get to keep your child's home school book forever now! You do not need to return it again.

Next week is our last week before the summer break and school will end at 12.15 for everyone (12.20 for the Junior department), so no afternoon or full time sessions. There is NO garderie on that day either.

There will be an electronic version only of the HSB newsletter next week, so until then have a great weekend and thank you to everyone from nursery who came to our fabulous International Day!

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,

Our week began with our trip to the city farm. Although the weather was not perfect, the rain did hold off, so the children were able to fully enjoy the opportunity to see, feed and handle some of the animals. They each had their favourite animal, but everyone agreed that the sheep were the noisiest! Many thanks to the parents who volunteered to come with us, thus making the trip possible. You can see the photos at <http://www.bisb.org/project/trip-to-the-city-farm/>.

This week we have been working on the last part of our ‘exploration’ topic – underground. We have focused on caves – what they look like, and what we might find in them. After watching a short explanatory video, we set about our activities. We made our own caves from painted cardboard boxes, and added ‘rocks’ and ‘bushes’ using crumpled-up paper.



Inspired by pictures of ancient cave paintings, we also tried our hand at this art-form, and the children used their imagination to produce outline paintings of animals that might have roamed the earth long ago. We also started to make our own flying bats. Finally, the children were able to make their own cave in the playground, using cardboard boxes and a blanket, and then used torches inside to illuminate their cave drawings. You can see photos of all the action on the Reception webpage <http://www.bisb.org/project/june-2018/>.

In Maths, we revisited number pairs to 5, 6 and 10 (4+1 & 1+4, 5+1 & 1+5, 9+1, 1+9 etc.). Familiarity with and recognition of these pairs of numbers, particularly the numbers that make 10, will be important skills for next year, and will enable the children to access more of the Numeracy curriculum. Whilst focusing on the number pairs, we also took the opportunity to do some more practice on writing number sentences, to reinforce use of the + and = signs.

Our phonics sound of the week was the /ur/ sound, as in ‘burn’, and the children practised using the sound in a number of activities and games.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still rehearsing our song for the summer show “Coccinelle demoiselle” which we now know really really well ! We also went colouring our books of all the French songs we have learnt this year and watched Trotro bake a cake, make a pizza, etc. Please let your child watch Trotro on YouTube during the summer holidays as it will be beneficial for his/her French.

Next week will be very busy: swimming, park trips, sports day, Summer show, and plenty more! Please remember to send your child to school wearing Summer shorts

and t-shirt on Wednesday, for the show. Please also return any library books you may still have at home.

Finally, our talk topic question next week will be "What will you be doing during the Summer holidays?"

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.

Patrick Tranter and Ivana Julaton receptionteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

The ongoing football World Cup has formed the focus of much of our work in class this week. We have had our own mini football matches with Year 2 outside in PE and everyone got the chance to play in a match. We have learned about 3 of the world cup countries in more detail this week - Brazil, England and Australia. Next week we will hopefully learn about some more. We have found out what their flags look like, what continent each of the countries is in, what language is spoken there, who their leader is and about famous landmarks and people from those countries.



In literacy we read a football themed story called ‘Willy the Wizard’. We enjoyed reading about his magical pair of football boots and how he learned to play so well. We answered some comprehension questions from the story and the children thought about what they were good at doing. We also talked about verbs from the story and identified the correct verb to use in different sentences from the story. We watched a few short video clips from some of the world cup 2018 football matches and came up with lots of football related vocabulary such as ‘dribbling, tackling, passing, heading, striking and scoring. The children wrote their own football shape poems which can be found in their home school books this week.

In maths we revised giving change by opening our own sports shop. The children learned to calculate change from 10 or 20 cents. They also revised making 5, 10 and 20 cents in different ways using different coins. We did some maths problem solving as well, having to make a given total from a limited selection of numbers. This helps the children to be flexible and come up with many different possibilities.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are continuing listening to our last story : “Un coucou dans la pendule” and learnt about directions and means of transportation.

Unfortunately we never got to go to the park due to rain on Tuesday morning. If possible we will try to go again next Tuesday. Next week promises to be a fun week in school with Sport's day and a visit to Year 2.

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,

The weather was kind to us and we have taken advantage of it this week. International Day was a real treat and it was lovely to see so many of you there.

In Literacy, we have finally finished our phonics for the year. Our books have gone home and it is good to keep these for reference. Our last spelling test on Wednesday was a random one encompassing the next 200 word list we have been using. Spelling tests have generally been welcomed by the children who relish the thought of getting good results. On Thursday I gave the class the words Summer Solstice and they had 10 minutes in which to come up with as many words as they could. The class discussed and came up with quite a few adventurous words. I was impressed to say the least.

We spoke about the summer solstice and that Thursday was the longest day and shortest night. I then threw a curveball and said I had spoken to my mum who had said it was the shortest day of the year and that it was very cold. It took a while before someone came up with the northern and southern hemisphere being opposite.

In Numeracy we did our final maths tests and we went through them together with each child being able to see where he/she went wrong. This, in principle, will help them with tests in the future.

We played some more games from

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?Subject=16> .

In Art we have been putting the final touches to our dinosaurs which we will be painting very soon.

With the Football World Cup in full swing we have been keeping an eye out for the scores and filling in our chart in the hall. We do this at the beginning of every day. We have also drawn and coloured flags for each country and these, too, adorn the hall. We also did a matching and true or false worksheet. Talking about the world cup we have had 3 afternoons of



football with the Year 1's in celebration of the world cup.

We also taught the Year 1's how to play our rock paper scissors game. I know it is a firm favourite in our class.

We decided on our predictions for the world cup final and drew a picture of a goal. These are adorning this very home school letter.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started presenting our final year project "Les Aventures de Mademoiselle et Monsieur..." where every pupil gets to talk about everything we've covered during the year.



Thank you for returning the slips for our outing next week. It is going to be a really good day out.

The talk topic this week is: What do you think we will see on the farm?

The final week of the year has finally come and I simply cannot believe the year has flown by so fast. I intend to enjoy the last few days with this special class.

Have a super weekend,

Valeria Vetter

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

The countdown to the summer show is on, and we have had a lively week of singing, dancing, and acting. It's great to see that almost everyone finally knows all of their lines – there's nothing worse than being on full view of the entire audience and not knowing the songs! We have worked hard with Mrs Mayeur on perfecting the songs, concentrating on diction and expression, and trying to sing in tune and not too loudly.



This involves a great amount of concentration and being aware of the people around you, so that you don't sing too loudly.

We have also gone through the play in detail – practising entrances and exits, listening for cues, understanding what props to take on, and knowing when to move into place. It's not easy practising in a small space and trying to imagine the big stage, but everyone has concentrated and tried hard. Year 3 certainly have talent when it comes to acting and singing, and, despite not yet having major parts, every person has done

his or her very best to put energy and enthusiasm into their individual performance, and this is what will make the show go with a swing. Yet another team effort - well done!

Apart from the acting, singing and dancing, one of the other essentials in a play is the scenery and props, so we have been hard at work creating the backdrops to set the scene for the story. Plain shower curtains make wonderful canvases, and we have scaled up our usual artwork to paint a street scene of colourful shops and houses. We managed to transform an Egyptian sarcophagus into a grandfather clock, and a large sheet of cardboard into a stretch limousine. It's amazing what you can do with some paint and a cardboard box or two. Apologies for the painted uniforms – we also had a multi-coloured floor at one point. However, given that we had several sessions when every person was wielding a paint brush or glue stick, we managed to achieve some impressive results; no-one was actually stuck to a canvas and our clearing-up skills improved enormously!



Whilst the paint dried, we continued our research into beetles and worked on improving the draft versions before writing up the finished texts. As we listen to further episodes of the book, we are finding that the author has certainly done her homework – there are lots of references to many of the beetles that we have researched, and it makes the story even more interesting now that we know more of the scientific background. We had a fun challenge doing our final dictation of the year from an extract from the book. The results were fantastic – three children managed only one tiny mistake in a long dictation! What a difference from the beginning of the year. Dictations are an excellent way of checking not only spelling, but also the ability to use punctuation in context and to write a continuous passage in neat cursive writing. They also require excellent listening skills, concentration, and the ability to proof-read work carefully to spot silly mistakes.

In maths we are putting the year's skills into practice with another maths mystery challenge – this time based on the Football World Cup. The hunt is on for the culprit and the groups are competing to get there first! In PE we swapped cricket for hockey and started a 3-team mini tournament, which was fun and gave us a chance to look at different team tactics, keeping our positions on the pitch and trying to pass the ball to the right person.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we learnt the possessive : mon, ma, mes and did exercises in our notebooks. We also played a game called “téléphone sans fil” (Chinese whispers). We also rehearsed our song for the summer show and read a story. In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started presenting our final year project ‘mon correspondant francophone’ (my French-speaking penpal). We practiced and sang the French song for the summer show.

We hope you have a lovely weekend, making the most of the sunshine, and look forward to seeing you all on Monday – ready to join in the pantomime fun!

Our talk topic is: How can I make the best possible contribution to the summer show?

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 all about perfecting the Summer Show in rehearsals and tying up unfinished loose ends.

In Numeracy, we completed some very enjoyable perimeter problems; the children had to do cunning detective work to reach right answers.

In Topic, we began creating an Ancient Greek timeline wall frieze; each child took charge of a period ranging from the Age of Heroes to The Olympics to Alexander's invasion of Asia. A lot of topic artwork needs to be finished on top of this.



In Science, we had the not-so-small task of our Parachute experiment to investigate air resistance. The class got super excited and couldn't wait to take to the skies. Trickily, there were quite unusually high winds for Brussels and several parachutes and their paratroops unfortunately ended up in enemy territory or worse, missing in action!!!

<http://www.bisb.org/project/y4-science-air-resistance-parachute-experiment/>

We also fitted in a Science test to assess all the aspects we've covered over the course of the year. Tennis was great as usual at the Club but most excitement arose from a cricket test match with Mrs Tranter's class. Y5/6 chose to bat and had to until they were all out. They declared with a whacking total of 505. We are currently 26 for 2 and have 2 more hours to try and reach this target or survive to get a draw. The game concludes next week.

We have now but a week to go before the Summer Holidays but there is a super bumper assortment of great things coming up next week. The show on Monday will not disappoint; Tuesday's main event is the Heads Up charades competition; Wednesday could be a nice surprise; Thursday is the legendary Sports Day/BBQ/Water fight; and on Friday, we meet our new Year 5 teacher. Homework this week is to practise our lines, making sure to project our voices, so that we are the best in the performance (with this aim, we'll all be the best in the show!!)

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we listened to two stories and had a test about the passé composé. We also conjugated pronominal verbs like se laver, se promener etc. in the present tense.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, We practised reading and understanding a fun dialogue between "grand-père et sa petite fille" (grandpa and his grandchild: Papi, qu'est-ce que tu as fait? (grandpa, what did you do?). Through this fun dialogue, we were able to review le passé composé (the simple past) in order to talk about what we did yesterday, last week or last year.

And that was our penultimate week! See you on Monday evening!!

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,

An extremely busy week preparing for our performance on Monday. All the props and costumes are ready to be transported to the theatre; this time, we seem to have more than ever! The actors are performing well, I just hope that they project their voices (we keep telling them to), so that you can hear them.

We have watched quite a few, very professionally produced World Cup presentations, including one from Poland, which included a section about footballers' wives; 'why do they all look like models Mrs Tranter?' Hilarious! As you can imagine, the conversation this week has centred around football, but we did manage to organise a cricket match with Year 4, which changed the sport's focus for a few hours.

Our aircraft has presented us with a few challenges this week. On Tuesday, it was back to the drawing board to redesign the fuselage. It was then a team effort to assemble it and give it a coat of papier maché. It is now lying in state, on top of the desks in Year 5, ready for the undercarriage to be fitted; this could be our greatest hurdle!

Some students have now progressed to using Chinese pens to practise drawing characters. We have been focusing on the mastering the order of strokes according to the eight principles of Yong; their work is most impressive. Interestingly, The British Council website states for Mandarin, that the government is introducing 'An intensive language programme for schools in England, which aims to get at least 5,000 pupils on track to fluency in Mandarin Chinese by 2020.'



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we listened to two stories and had a test about the passé composé. We also conjugated pronominal verbs like se laver, se promener etc in the present tense.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, We practiced reading and understanding a fun dialogue between "grand-père et sa petite fille" (grandpa and his grandchild: Papi, qu'est-ce que tu as fait ? (grandpa, what did you do?). Through this fun dialogue, we were able to review le passé composé (the simple past) in order to talk about what we did yesterday, last week or last year.

I am thrilled to be teaching Year 6 next year and am busy preparing our return to the top floor. We have some terrific new projects for the new academic year – so exciting!

So, next week; Monday - production; Tuesday – recover, Wednesday – mystery adventure; Thursday – Sports Day and BBQ (and water games!); Friday; moving-up day and final assembly.

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

Dear Parents,

In these last weeks of the year, we have been practising some of the essential vocabulary and structures that we have covered in our small group sessions. We have also briefly looked at some more complicated elements of language.

The Junior EAL group again spent some time reflecting on how they have learned over the year, how they learn best, and which features in a school best help them to learn. We spent some time discussing the countries playing in the football World Cup. We revised some essentials, including the letter names, the most common spelling patterns, months and seasons. We looked at the difference between the present continuous tense and the present simple (I am walking to school right now/I walk to school every day). We also looked briefly at the perfect tense (I have arrived at school).

The Year One and Two EAL group focused on verbs (calling them action words), sorting them from nouns, using them to describe pictures, and adding the suffixes –ing and –ed, noting that –ed could not be used with all verbs. The children also wrote a short report about their weekend activities.

The Reception EAL group were inspired by their visit to the farm, and were very keen to talk about all that happened. This gave them the opportunity and the motivation to use a range of vocabulary, in some fairly sophisticated sentences. We also played games, and produced a booklet, using the vocabulary of the farm.



I wish you a happy weekend.

Kate Read

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