

Home School Books – 07 September 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

A great big warm welcome to your first week in nursery! You all made it to the end!

What a fantastic start your children have had and they are all settling in beautifully. We realise it can be very hard for you at the beginning, especially leaving children who are upset but we cannot reassure you all enough, just how quickly they stop crying when you have left. So please do not worry about the hand over to the teachers, your children are in good and experienced hands. What you must not do is leave and then stay elsewhere in the building, if your child spots you, and believe us they will spot you, it will be more upsetting for them. Over the next week we are aiming for all children to be dropped off at the front door so they can make their own way into the playground. This is the first step in helping them to become confident and able to do something independently.



The next couple of weeks are all about settling in and getting to know one another and for the teachers to get to know each child as a unique individual. Personal, Social and Emotional development is a very important area for children of this age. Skills such as sharing, turn taking, expressing emotions and behaviours appropriately, are all a work in progress throughout your little one's time in nursery.

We will also start our topic work on 'This is me' so please don't forget to bring back your 'all about me booklets' which you were given at the parent, teacher meeting. These will be the focus of our discussions during circle time next week, as speaking and listening skills are an essential part of your child's development and as such they are continual focus in nursery. If you look opposite you will see, we have asked your child to draw a picture of themselves; this isn't homework but from time to time it is good for you and your child to do a little something together in the Home school book. If you do not have time to do it, that is fine also. Home school books and library books need to be brought back together in the folder no later than Tuesday, the following week.

Just a quick reminder, if you have not brought back your child's medical questionnaire and permission forms that you received in the parent teacher meeting, you must do so on Monday of next week at the latest.

Last but not least, thank you to all of the parents who have sent in small and nutritious snacks and lunches for their child. Please do not worry about how much your child is eating in nursery but more about what you are providing for them. Cakes, biscuits and highly artificial sugared snacks are not something we encourage in nursery, so please do not put them in as an option in snack or lunch boxes. We give plenty of time for your child to eat snack and lunch but we can only help and encourage them to put it in their mouths. If a child refuses food we will not force them to eat. Look at portion size and if you are sending enough to feed a family of four, then that is too much! We do

not throw food away, so you can see exactly what they have or have not eaten when they get home.

Until we start another exciting week in nursery next week, have a great weekend and hope to see some of you at the coffee morning this Saturday 8th September between 10.00 and 12.00 in the infant department.

Thank you

Alison Davies and Inés van Wassenhove

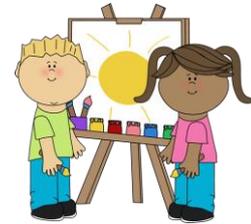
nurseryteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This has been the first week of the new school year and it has been eventful and exciting for the children in their new Reception class. After a whole week together we are all getting to know each other and friendships are already forming. The children are getting along nicely and they are settling quite well into their new school routine.



On Monday we focused on getting to know each other and getting to know the Reception class routine. The children also had their very first PE session and their first French class. Both went brilliantly and the children were happy, although a bit tired, at the end of the day. On Tuesday they worked on a worksheet called “About Me” where they practised writing their name and their age. In the afternoon they did some maths exercises outside with both numbers and shapes, which was a lot of fun for everyone. Wednesday was a short day as usual but despite that the children still managed to do one counting exercise and started working on their hats that they brought home with them on Thursday afternoon. On Thursday the children had a music class, a PE class and they worked on their counting. Furthermore they finished their hats and had some time to play freely outside in the afternoon - a fun and busy day for everyone. Finally, on Friday the children will focus on forms, shapes and imagination, as well as working with numbers from zero to twenty. And as always, we will start the day by singing some phonics songs.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we introduced ourselves and therefore learnt to ask “Comment tu t’appelles ?” and we answered by saying “Je m’appelle ...”. We sang songs with “Bonjour, Salut, Comment t’appelles-tu ?”

We wish you all a wonderful weekend and we hope to see all of you on Saturday morning for the welcome Coffee morning (10.00 – 12.00) in the infant department.

Our Talk Topic for next week is “What do you like doing at the weekend with your parents?”

We are all looking forward to week number two!

Elín Hafstein and Ivana Julaton

receptionteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

It was great to welcome the children back to school and also to welcome our three new classmates - it was quite clear that a number of children had been desperately keen to come back, and they have started the new school year with infectious enthusiasm.

The first week has been spent learning new routines (and some new rules!) and doing some early maths and literacy work to refresh the children's memories. In Phonics, we are revising all the single-letter sounds briefly, and this week covered the first six - s, a, t, p, i & n. The children practised blending the sounds, and we had a session of CVC spelling practice too. For our first writing session, we focused on the relationship between pictures in books and the writing that accompanies them, emphasising that the two must be related; the children then wrote some words or sentences to go with a picture from a 'Floppy' story we had read.

In Maths, we revised a number of areas: counting forwards and backwards, counting in 10s, estimating, repeating patterns, ordering numbers and finding the missing numbers. We will cover all of these areas (several times, in some cases) in the formal curriculum this year.

Our topic for this term is 'Ourselves and Our School', and we will be covering aspects of science and geography as we discover the human body and, later on, study our school. To begin with, we discussed different parts of the body and their functions, and we did a labelling activity, using Mrs Bandaru as our 'body'. We also went outside to try using parts of our body to do things for which they were not designed - for example, using our hands for walking and our feet for writing. You can see some photos of our efforts at <http://www.bisb.org/project/body-parts-activities/>



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we revised a few greeting songs and we got to know one another. We also started listening to our first story called "Un pays blanc". It's about a little boy who lives in a white country.

A few notices: Library books will be issued on Mondays this year (starting on Monday 10th September), so please ensure your child returns his/her books by each Monday morning at the latest. PE this year will be on Tuesdays, so children should wear their PE uniform to school on that day each week. The Curriculum Briefing for

Year 1 will take place next Wednesday, 12th September, at 6.00pm in the Year 1 Classroom. We will explain the academic programme for the year and cover a number of additional points about our routines. It would be very helpful if at least one parent for each child could attend.

Finally, the Talk Topic for Monday 10th September will be "Tell us about your family".

Wishing you a pleasant weekend,

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru

Year1teacher@telenet.be

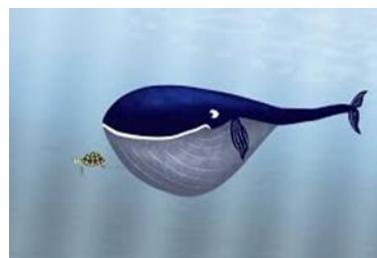
Please click [here](#) for our Year 1 webpage

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to welcome Year 2 back and to see everyone arrive with a happy face and a beautifully smart uniform. Well done to our new class members, everyone has done amazingly well to settle in so quickly – we hope you have enjoyed your first week.

Our topic this term is ‘Carnival of the Animals’, which gives us plenty of scope for exciting work. We started by looking at whales and sea life, using a book called ‘The Unexpected Visitor’, in which a fisherman is visited by a very large whale, as inspiration. We listened to the story and discussed the events and characters, and the underlying conservation message, before rewriting the story in our own words. We concentrated on getting the events in the right order and on adding imaginative vocabulary. The results are impressive!



We watched several video clips on whales and used reference books to create fact bubbles for our whale wall. Do you know one of the reasons why whales blow bubbles? We created underwater scenes of sea creatures by drawing in wax crayon and covering with a paint wash, mixing different shades of blue and green. This was a truly amazing achievement – every person painted, and we didn't have a single drop of water or paint on the floor – FANTASTIC, Year 2!! (Last year's Year 3s will remember the ‘Paint Pot’ disaster!)

In practical maths we worked in pairs and measured our heights. We made a ‘living’ height chart by lining up in size order, although it was difficult to keep still enough to compare people who were nearly the same height – we decided that different hair styles made all the difference! We then made our own tape measures, working carefully to mark centimetres accurately. In number work we estimated various quantities and worked out the best way to check our estimates. We also looked at number sequences, ordering and missing numbers.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we'll focus on "La Grande Rentrée" (back to school) where we'll cover and work with different topics. This week's topic was "je me présente" (I introduce myself) through a fun song and game : je m'appelle, comment ça va? Ça va bien. We introduced "the numbers from 1 to 50" and learned how to say: Quel âge as-tu? J'ai six ans.

In PE we practised throwing and catching skills and had fun with relay races and team games. We also did a lot of practice on instant lining up and splitting into groups – definitely work in progress as we weren't very good at it!

We look forward to seeing you at the Welcome coffee morning on Saturday (10.00 to 12.00 in the Infant department) and at the Curriculum meeting on Wednesday 12th Sept. at 18.00. Have a lovely weekend.

Our talk topic for this week is "If you were a deep-sea diver, what would you like to meet in the depths of the ocean?"

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

year2teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

It has been wonderful to see so many familiar faces this week in year 3! It was lovely to hear about their summer break and seeing so many children excited to start school again. I'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome our families who are new to BISB. It promises to be a fun year!

Our topic for the first term is 'shadow puppets'. In this topic we will find out about China and India, two countries that have a tradition of using shadow puppets. In science we will investigate light, dark and shadows and in literacy we will be looking at stories, poems and non-fiction texts linked to China and India. We will of course be making some shadow puppets too! At the curriculum evening on Wednesday 12th of September I will be discussing the curriculum and timetable for year 3 and expectations for the year.

This week in literacy we read a story called 'The Willow Pattern plot'. We then discussed the setting of the story, what the problem was and how the problem was solved. In art we looked at different Willow Pattern Plates and created our own designs. Also in literacy we practised how to learn spellings using the 'look-cover-write-check' method and the children got their first list of words to practise. The first spelling test will be next Thursday. The children need to ensure that they bring their spelling books to school every



Thursday because they write the test in their books.

In maths we learned pairs of numbers that make 100, starting with 0 in the digits column and then numbers with 5 in the digits column. The children practised using their knowledge of doubles and number bonds to solve addition sums with 3 and 4 numbers. They also used their knowledge of smaller sums such as $7+5=12$ to solve bigger sums such as $87+5=92$.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we introduced ourselves and filled in a questionnaire with our personal information. We revised the vocabulary related to school material and played a game to help us memorise it better. We also wrote it in our notebooks. In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on “ La Grande Rentrée” (back to school). The objective was to greet and introduce ourselves with Bonjour, tout le monde” game using Je suis, comment tu t’appelles? je m’appelle, comment ça va? Je vais bien. We reviewed ‘les, saisons, les animaux et les numéros’ from 1 to 100. We got to work in groups and interview each other using everything we covered.

In science we discussed how shadow puppets work and made our first ones in preparation for some work on storytelling later. We also discussed how light is made up of different colours and made a ‘spinner colour wheel’ which showed us that when the wheel was spun fast enough all we could see was white. And that was the end of a super first week in year 3!

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Fiona King

year3teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school, a new year and a very busy Junior Department! We are full in Year 4 this year but although the ‘Rentrée’ is always a shock to the system, Year 4 with every desk occupied was very cosy and hugely enjoyable this week.



We started the new term reminding ourselves of the Golden Rules and learning the routines we keep in Year 4. Teaching and learning these new habits is tricky but once the children are ‘in the groove’, everything swims along.

What helps is that this is an extremely capable class and I was mightily impressed by their level, the way they articulate themselves, the way they behave and their excellent concentration. What I also noticed was how many times the children did

something which made me say: ‘No one’s ever done that’ or ‘done it like that before in Year 4’. I was over the moon. What a lucky teacher I am!

We learnt what kind of learners we are? (do we learn best with tunes, alone, with others, using our hands, or using logic or maths?)

In Numeracy and helped by Mrs King and pedagogy student, Yashtee, we added up to the next hundred - $345 + ? = 400$ and we started our new Topic, ‘Wishful Thinking’, with some painting of original fairy-tale illustrations.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we introduced ourselves and filled in a questionnaire with our personal information. We revised the vocabulary related to school material and played a game to help us memorise it better. We also wrote it in our notebooks.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on “La Grande Rentrée” (back to school). The objective was to greet and introduce ourselves with Bonjour, tout le monde” game using Je suis, comment tu t’appelles? je m’appelle, comment ça va? Je vais bien. We reviewed ‘les, saisons, les animaux et les numéros’ from 1 to 100. We got to work in groups and interview each other using everything we covered.

And that was our week.

I look forward to seeing you all at next Wednesday’s Year 4 Curriculum Meeting. I’ll be giving out the Year 4 timetable and other information and will answer all the questions and doubts you may have about the year. Doubts you may well have: I literally didn’t know what day it was at points this week (I think the return to school gets harder as one gets older!) and I apologise over some errors broadcast in class and on Edmodo. PE is on Thursdays; spelling tests and new word lists are also given out on Thursdays.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman and Fiona King and Yashtee
year4teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 5. I am very happy to be guiding this class along the path of knowledge and from what I see already, they are very enthusiastic and eager to continue on the journey.

We dove directly into work by revising 4 and 5 digit numbers. We read the numbers, spoke the words and wrote the numerals. We discovered “no work” addition and subtraction where one changes just the digit being added or subtracted, for example: $23\ 418 + 200 = 23\ 618$ we also revised the signs for greater and less than, $>$ and $<$ as well as doing much more place value work.

In Literacy we are reading Kensuke’s Kingdom by Michael Morpugo. We have already completed chapter 1 and the children are eager to see what is going to happen when the family go sailing around the world. We have already discovered new words

and this year will see our vocabulary growing and growing. I have introduced a word of the day. Every day we are introduced to a new word which we discuss and use in sentences. I have posted these words in a folder on Edmodo for the class to share with you all. This led to a rap by Michael Rosen designed to help children learn to spell long words. A link has been posted to this on Edmodo as well. We have also focused on coordinating conjunctions, which are words used to join phrases and sentences. For spelling there is a list of words in a yellow spelling book in your child's folder. I will test these words every Monday and hand out the new spellings.

As we are reading Kensuke's Kingdom, we are going to focus on Japan as our topic. We brainstormed questions we would like answered about Japan. Over the coming weeks we hope to find the answers to these questions. This week we spoke generally about the country and have already found out that Japan is a series of many islands.



In Science we are delving into earth and space. This week we spoke about spherical bodies and explored the flat and spherical theories. We looked for scientific evidence to support a theory and have all agreed on various points to support the spherical body theory. We discovered that as man evolved, the spherical body theory became more widely believed. The moon and the sun were generally believed to be spherical even from flat earth believers.

In Art, of course, we did a bit of origami and made jumping frogs. We also drew paper Japanese houses which we have coloured.

PE this week took the form of a class game outside in the sunshine. We played a version of 'rock, paper, scissors' as a team game. Much fun was had by all and a comment afterwards declared that this game was better than football!

Thank you for allowing your child to join our Edmodo class. As soon as all have joined I will lock the class and allow safe chatting to go on. This is very good for the children as it affords an opportunity to learn how to use social media responsibly and in a safe environment. It will also be a way to share documents and extra work from time to time.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on "La Grande Rentrée" (back to school). The objective was to greet and introduce ourselves with "Bonjour, tout le monde" game using "Je suis, comment tu t'appelles? je m'appelle, comment ça va? Qu'est-ce que tu portes?" We reviewed 'les, saisons, la garde-robe les animaux et les numéros' from 1 to 100. We got to work in groups and interview each other using everything we covered.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we filled in a few questionnaires about personal facts but also about the summer holidays. We read a poem about school and we started revising the prepositions one uses with country names.

The talk topic for this week is: Discuss the spherical body and flat earth theories and try to find evidence to support them.

I look forward to seeing you all on the curriculum briefing evening on Wednesday 12th September at 18.00.

Have a lovely restful weekend,

Best wishes,

Valeria Vetter and Ena Tolentino

year5teacher@telenet.be

Please click [here](#) for our Year 5 webpage

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

I think that we are all delighted to be back at school and in our treasured Year 6 classroom. We are now the proud owners of three round ‘conference’ tables, which the students prefer. We have a very busy year ahead, preparing for secondary school; the children began work immediately, and we have covered quite a lot of ground already...

This year we have the Year 6 Reading Book Challenge; pupils have been given a book, which they should aim to read within three weeks; I am pleased with the positive feedback to this term’s choice of books.. We have started to read Wonder, by R J Palacio; a powerful book about a boy named August with Treacher Collins syndrome. We studied the front and back covers and read the first few chapters. Using the text, we then focused on improving our dialogue skills using the ‘Big Mac’ formula, combining: speech, reporting clause, action or description or narrator comment, to create variety and interest.



We watched a video about craniofacial surgery and learnt about the difficulties that surgeons face in trying to reconstruct skulls of babies and children. To investigate the brain, we made brain hemisphere hats and discovered which sections of the brain are responsible for: understanding dimensions, creativity, logic and many other senses. Also, the students drew portraits of each other in the style of the Wonder book cover; you will be able to see these next week.

In science, the students had to research Cheiloscopy, ready for next week’s lip printing science practical. Thank you for sending in your, what I hope are unwanted lipsticks – if any of you are missing your favourite lipstick, it might be in our classroom!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on “La Grande Rentrée” (back to school). The objective was to greet and introduce ourselves with Bonjour, tout le monde” game using Je suis, comment tu t’appelles? je m’appelle, comment ça va? Qu’est-ce que tu portes? We reviewed ‘les, saisons, la garde-robe les animaux et les numéros’ from 1 to 100. We got to work in groups and interview each other using everything we covered.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we filled in a few questionnaires about personal facts but also about the summer holidays. We read a poem about school and we started revising the prepositions one uses with country names.

We revisited: place value (including decimals), comparing numbers, rounding numbers to beyond a million, rounding to a given number of decimal places, square numbers, cube numbers and binary. Students were introduced to significant figures. Mr E Prescott delighted the rock stars in Year 6 with his first ukulele lesson. The children 'met the family' during our first Latin lesson.

I am looking forward to seeing you all the curriculum briefing next week on Wednesday evening.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

year6teacher@telenet.be

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

English as an Additional Language

Dear Parents,

I am the teacher of English as an Additional Language (EAL) at BISB. I work with children from Reception to Year 6, usually in small groups, to help them to develop and to perfect their English.

In the Infant Department, at the beginning of the school year, the EAL sessions focus mainly on speaking and listening, with the aim of broadening the children's English vocabulary, and developing their ability to use phrases and sentences to express themselves confidently. We work especially on the language that the children need for their work with their class teachers.

In the Junior Department, our main aims in the EAL programme are for the children to develop the language they need to achieve their best in the school curriculum, and for them to be fluent and confident speakers of English. We work on a lot of technical and subject-specific vocabulary, and on using and understanding complex grammar structures correctly. We also work on literacy skills.

I aim to make our EAL sessions fun and full of real communication. As well as conversation, they involve, for example, stories, games, drama and practical activities.

It has been a great pleasure to meet the children this week. I am looking forward to working with them, and to meeting many of you at the coffee morning on Saturday, and at the Curriculum Briefing evening next Wednesday.

I am always available to meet with you to discuss your child's progress in English. Please email me directly, or contact me through your child's class teacher to arrange a meeting.

I wish you a happy weekend.

Kate Read

calteacher@telenet.be