

Home School Books – 21 September 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents

We started the week with a number of children absent with the horrible cold and fever virus that is very common in schools this time of year and some parents have expressed some anxiety over this. Please don't forget children, especially in the early years, work in close proximity to each other and generally don't have the skill to cover their mouths when sneezing or coughing around others. Although we do practise in circle time how we should always cough into our elbow crease, as this is better than spitting into our hands when we cough or sneeze.

Furthermore, young children are very tactile and touch everything they encounter and love to share with you whatever viruses are going around! Therefore germs spread quickly from one to another; it is quite normal for young children to have what seems like a never ending string of colds when they first start nursery, it takes time for them to build up their immunity to such things, plus viruses keep mutating so one will disappear just to be replaced by another.

Do not despair, it will stop eventually, but in the meantime, please be sensible about whether your child should be in or out of school, it doesn't just depend on whether they have fever or not but on how well your child actually feels. School is not the place for sick children; if they are very under the weather, it is best to keep them at home resting for a few days.

Even with everything going on above, it has not stopped us from having a busy and fun time in nursery this week. During our pass the teddy around the circle game, each child was asked what their favourite colour was, as we had discussed in our talk topic on Monday. When everyone had decided, we then got out the paints! The first few sessions of painting in nursery is always a great and interesting experience for everyone, as some children are only discovering painting activities for the first time.

Amazingly a lot of the children changed their minds about which colour was their favourite, when they spotted the pink paint! Everyone then had a super session just enjoying the feel of the paint on the brush, paper and anywhere else they fancied painting! We hope you like and praise your child for their effort, mostly a Picasso painting moment! Any loose work that comes home in their folder is for you to take out and keep at home.



In the home school book, we concentrated on Tommy Thumb, which is the English version of the finger family song. Each child drew around their hand and then after listening to the Tommy Thumb song, drew the characters on the fingers. Ask your little one to describe each character they have drawn. This is a great language exercise and you can do it in your mother tongue and then in English, using the words above the drawing.

Our talk topic for next week is, 'how does coming to nursery make you feel?' please remember the talk topic is just exactly that, it is only for discussion, so please do not do any written work on it in your child's home-school book. Remember to bring your child's folder back to school before the following Wednesday, with the library book in it also.

That's all for this week, until next week, have a super weekend and we will see you on Monday.

Thank you
Alison Davies and Inés van Wassenhove
nurseryteacher@telenet.be
Please click [here](#) for our Nursery webpage

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

The children are settling smoothly into their daily routines; by now most of them remember to place their backpacks, water bottles and coats in the right place in the morning.

This week in Literacy, we have continued with our phonics lessons and the children have now covered /s/, /a/, /t/, /p/, /i/ and /n/. We have practised making the sound of each letter and the children are practicing connecting a picture of a thing, e.g. a snake, to the letter that represents the first sound in the word. This can become a fun activity and the children are good at practising and improving steadily. They are also practising to write the letters and we have made our first few words, such as sit, sat and tap. These days we are focusing on writing in lower case letters so the children write the letters in lower case letters and they are practising writing their names in lower case letters as well.



In Maths, we have been working with the numbers 0-20. At first we practised counting from 0 - 20. Eventually we started to break the numbers apart so that they can learn to recognise the numbers individually, not only when they are in the 'right place'. The children did really well with this and were surprisingly good at recognising numbers and putting them in the right order themselves!

We also continued our topic by talking about our families and ourselves. We read some books about mummies, daddies and siblings the children are learning that families can be similar and that they can be different. We also continued to work with our family tree on the classroom wall. Most of the children have now made a self-portrait and some of the children have brought in photos of their families that will be put on our family tree wall. We would like to remind all parents to print a family photo and send it to school with their children so that we can add it to our wall.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been listening to all the songs we have learnt so far about introducing oneself and asking how we are doing “Comment ça va ?” and its various answers like “Bien merci !”; “Comme ci comme ça !” or “Ça va mal !”. We can also count up to ten.

Finally, Talk Topic for next week will be " What is my favourite animal and why?

We hope you have a lovely weekend,

Elín Hafstein and Ivana Julaton

receptionteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

Our ‘sounds of the week’ this week were the next six Phase 2 sounds: /ck/, /e/, /u/, /ɪ/, /h/ & /b/. The children learnt that the /ck/ sound is never used at the beginning of a word, only in the middle or at the end - we did a number of activities to help reinforce this rule, one of which you can see in this week's Home School Book. We also practised writing words and sentences containing this week's sounds, including our main writing session, which was about ‘the sun’. In grammar, we did another session on capital letters, particularly at the beginning of sentences, as this is often forgotten when the children do their ‘live’ writing exercises.



The focus in Maths this week has been on number bonds (i.e. pairs of numbers which go together to make a given number). We have practised bonds to 5 (5+0, 4+1 etc.), 6 (4+2, 3+3 etc.) and 10 (8+2, 7+3 etc.), and the children have been learning to spot the pattern these sums make when they are listed in order, and to spot the similarity when, for example, 6+4 and 4+6 are placed next to each other. Rapid recall of number bonds, especially to 10, are a vital building block in children's maths skills, so we have spent a great deal of time on them, using games, songs, iPad apps and exercise books to aid familiarity. We will re-visit this area of maths several times over the course of the year.

We split our topic work into two areas this week: a look at geography in relation to where we all come from, and a continuation of our body-related work. We discussed whether the oldest children were always the biggest, and whether the biggest/oldest children would have the biggest feet. To find out, we drew round everyone's feet, and, having measured everyone's height in the first week, we will soon be able to tell whether there is a link between age, height and shoe size! We also recorded some data on hair and eye colour, which we will be able to use in maths in the coming weeks.

Other highlights included a fun PE session involving trains, robots and jack-in-a-boxes (see photos at <http://www.bisb.org/project/year-1-september-2018/>), and an art session making a face collage, using cuttings from magazines.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still following Tourloubanc who is now going to the country of colours. We have been revising the name of the colours by listening to songs and reading various fun stories. We also revised many animal names also with the help of stories and games.

The Maths homework for next week is entitled 'Pesky Pests 1.3' and the Talk Topic for Monday 24th September will be "What parts of a skeleton do you know, and how do they help us?"

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend,

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru

Year1teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

What a lovely week it has been, both in and out of the classroom. It is such a treat to have the windows open and the sun shining! In our science topic work we have emerged from the depths of the ocean and started to study animal habitats. We chose various animals and tried to decide what each would need to survive. Using books, iPads and video clips we looked at different habitats and the animals that live there, identifying their food sources and habits. We built up a useful vocabulary bank, including words such as predator and prey, and used these to write a report on what we had found out. We were all interested in different facts, but everyone succeeded in producing vivid writing with some good description.



We edited our first drafts, checking for missing words and grammar mistakes, and extended sentences to include extra information. Do you know why a panda has six thumbs, or how long a polar bear can swim for? It's great to see everyone writing enthusiastically, regardless of whether they think they can spell the words or not. The most important thing is to get the ideas flowing – it is always possible to have a good guess at the words by using the phonic sounds. Learning the weekly spelling words is also invaluable as these are based around the topic work for the week.

One of the children made a brilliant egg box whale at home, and so we each made one in Art. These will shortly be floating around the walls of the hall – in a pod – the collective noun for



a group of whales. The activity involved listening carefully to instructions and using paint, glue and scissor skills – successfully! We also made origami fish and painted some more underwater seascapes.

In maths we continued our work on number bonds to 20, identifying number patterns and sequences. We played various games using the different combinations and most of us are now pretty quick at instant answers, particularly for addition. Subtraction is a bit trickier, but we are getting there. In maths investigations we practiced ordinal numbers and did some fun challenges building cube towers according to instructions. In PE we had races getting ourselves into different sized teams, using odd and even numbers and finding number partners. It's amazing how many children you can fit into a hoop, even at speed! Well done to the first group of swimmers – they had a great time at the pool and came back really excited at their achievements.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on the use of “Qui est-ce? (who is he/she?) in order to ask: Comment s'appelle-t-il? Comment s'appelle-t-elle? (what's his name? What's her name?) We reviewed introductions and greetings and learned different answers and expressions used with greetings.

Have a lovely weekend out and about looking at bugs and micro-habitats!

Our talk topic for this week is “How might it feel to be a caterpillar on a leaf in the middle of the forest?”

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

year2teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

This week has been all about dragons in year 3! We brainstormed ideas about dragons from our talk topic and we learned about why dragons are important in Chinese culture. We explored poems written about dragons that used some fabulous adjectives and then we wrote our own dragon shape poems, making our writing as exciting and interesting as possible. We draw and painted dragons and made 3D dragon models out of paper to decorate our classroom.



In our grammar lesson this week we learned about expanded noun phrases. We learned about how these groups of words can work together to give us more information about the noun e.g. ‘the supersonic helicopter with black blades’ and ‘the red bike with a basket on the front’. We then had a go at writing our own expanded noun phrases and agreed that it made our writing much more interesting to read. In our spelling lesson we completed our second spelling test and learned about words

with the /ai/ spelling pattern ready for next week's spelling test. Also in literacy we pulled together all of the work we have done on 'the Willow Pattern Plot' story to rehearse and perform our own shadow puppet performances. The children did a great job of working together to narrate and perform their own versions of the story.

In maths this week we practised the 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 times tables. We explored how the 2 times table can be doubled to give us the 4 times table. We looked at how division is the inverse of multiplication through practical examples by dividing sets of cubes and objects into groups and then moved on to solving division sums related to the 4 times table.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we discovered that there are three ways to ask questions and we answered them in a positive and in a negative way and wrote everything in our notebooks. On Monday afternoons, we will be watching a beautiful film based on an African tale full of wise teachings : Kirikou.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on ' je crée mon passeport' . They got to draw and describe themselves and their families by telling their age, describing their favourite colours, sports, food, day, animals.

In science we talked about reflective materials. We learned about how some materials and objects can reflect light and we tested a range of different materials using a torch and to find the best material for a reflective strip to go onto a school bag. In computing the children researched famous Chinese landmarks and practised word processing a couple of facts about them and in swimming on Thursday the group 1 swimmers had a successful first lesson at the pool.

Have a lovely weekend.

Camilla Rutayisire and Fiona King

year3teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

We started the week off beautifully with a trip to nearby Josaphat Park to look at local habitats. The fieldtrip started a little slowly but as the sun appeared through the trees and the wildlife and the children woke up, came out and looked a little more carefully, all sorts of great discoveries were made. Invisible croaking frogs in the undergrowth, ducks on the pond, parakeets in the trees, spiders scurrying under leaves and donkey's braying in the background (but technically they didn't count). It was a lovely day and a lovely trip – thanks to Aarav and Hithaishi's mums for coming with us.



<http://www.bisb.org/project/y4-science-habitats-fieldtrip-to-parc-josaphat/> (just 6 photos but the success of the morning out is captured for all to see)

Back at school, the botany continued as many members of the class were inspired to collect yet more specimens in the playground. Soon Year 4 resembled more like a city farm. Releasing the organisms taken for research purposes proved a little tougher for some, unfortunately.

Have you heard about the great house spider that was also snared this week?

We also visited Botany Bay with Captain James Cook. The aspect of the discovery of Australia we concentrated on, though, was that of the first encounters between explorers and natives and the after effects.

In Numeracy we were still adding, comparing and placing in the Number System while in Literacy, we learnt about the past and the perfect tense, revelled in impactful 'Wow!' words and read more amusing fairy-tale twists. We ended the week having a go at writing one ourselves.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we discovered that there are three ways to ask questions and we answered them in a positive and in a negative way and wrote everything in our notebooks. On Monday afternoons, we will be watching a beautiful film based on an African tale full of wise teachings: Kirikou.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on ' je crée mon passeport' . They got to draw and describe themselves and their families by telling their age, describing their favourite colours, sports, food, day, animals.

PE took advantage of the continued good weather and we had yet another nail biting-close cricket match. This class take their sport very seriously, get very motivated from the outset and stay completely on their game BUT they are still learning the nuances of the rules and necessary technique.

The class is now shaping and working more as I'd like to steer and we are really settling into a routine. It's been great fun so far.

Enjoy your weekend.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman and Fiona King

year4teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

We have been working really hard this week and will certainly appreciate the weekend to recharge our batteries.

In Numeracy we began looking at decimals. We first revised the place value of these numbers and then we began multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100. We discovered how to move the decimal point when multiplying and dividing. We also counted in decimals and began to add them as well. We then learnt that multiplying by 4 is as

easy as doubling and doubling again. It then followed that dividing by 4 is as simple as halving and halving again.

In Literacy we completed our work on fronted adverbials and took a look at subordinate clauses. Our homework this week is to do with this. We did a lot of class examples and completed a worksheet in our grammar books. We then moved on to look at direct and indirect speech. We found out how to punctuate direct speech correctly. For our comprehension this week we read a report about a seal saving a distressed dog in a river. We answered the questions and discussed tricky new vocabulary. For our reading this week we read the 3rd chapter in Kensuke's Kingdom. It was the ship's log and we have stopped at a very exciting point. We are fully into our word of the day and this week our words have begun with -c one of them being claustrophobia. This is very exciting and the class enjoy learning new words. Our creative writing was a story about the greatest library in the world.

In topic this week we took a look at the physical geography of Japan. We researched on our ipads and then wrote the facts on a poster for our display.

In Science we took a look at the geocentric versus the heliocentric models. We spoke of many scientists such as Ptolemy, Copernicus, Galileo and Kepler, to name a few. It was certainly interesting to note the influence of religion and mathematics in these theories. Did you know Galileo spent a lot of his life under house arrest due to his theories? The church did not enjoy the fact that the earth might not be the centre of the universe after all.

In Art, we looked at a painting called the Great Wave and then using paints and crayons created our own interpretation of it.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we went reading our book and had our first dictation. We also had another test on the prepositions used with country names and cities. We then went on with nationalities used as adjectives.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on *Quelle heure est-il?* (what time is it?) They learned how to tell the time in French. We also worked on: *À quelle heure ...?* (At what time do you...?) They got to practice and answer nine questions regarding the time of their usual activities in order to prepare them for next week's activity.

For PE this week we played a game of cricket and went to tennis at the Castle Club. We enjoyed our cricket and I see a lot of promise amongst the class. An area of weakness to work on is our fielding. I was proud of how well the class behaved at the Castle Club and how they threw themselves into the tennis lesson.

Edmodo is now a locked group where the class can interact in safety.

The talk topic for this week is: Do you think Galileo deserved to be under house arrest? Discuss.



Have a super 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,

We enjoyed an excellent start to our speaking and listening projects: Year 6 news reporter and student teacher programme. It was evident that both pupils were well prepared; both spoke confidently, and we all enjoyed learning many interesting new facts and exchanging opinions on a variety of subjects.

World classes continue to cause confusion. Therefore, from next week, the Word Work homework will include annotating each word with its world class; we must take every learning opportunity possible to consolidate our learning.

In SPaG, we studied; the subjunctive mood, question types and noun phrases. We continued our reading of Wonder. August is now at school and coping with being ignored, sniggered at and having no one to sit next to, except for one kind-hearted girl, called Summer...

We completed our work on long division with learning about remainders as: whole numbers, fractions and decimal fractions. After this, it was time to attack the fractions! The students revised: simplifying, finding equivalents, ordering, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

In Design Technology, the pupils, using 3D paint, designed a helmet for a child suffering with craniofacial syndrome. These were then constructed using papier-mâché – to be painted next week. The Forensic Science lab was a busy place on Wednesday. After having researched and categorised different fingerprints, it was time to complete the 'Fingerprint Identification Form'. Amazingly, without covering themselves and the classroom in ink, the students produced some excellent documents. Each child made a fingerprint glass slide to examine using the digital and ordinary microscopes.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we went reading our book and had our first dictation. We also had another test on the prepositions used with country names and cities. We then went on with nationalities used as adjectives.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on *Quelle heure est-il?* (what time is it?) They learned how to tell the time in French. We also worked on: *À quelle heure ...?* (At what time do you...?) They got to practise and answer nine questions regarding the time of their usual activities in order to prepare them for next week's activity. The Latin scholars managed to translate an original birthday invitation found at Vindolanda. This week, we changed our names to Roman names and focused on English derivatives from Latin words.

We have the EU Science is Wonderful outing next Tuesday; please make sure that your child arrives before 0900 – many thanks.

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.

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

In this third week of school, I am pleased to see most of the children have settled into their new classes and are getting used to the routines of school. In the quiet environment of the small group EAL sessions, the children are beginning to feel more confident to communicate, and to try some words of English.

I am getting to know the particular needs of the children, in terms of acquiring English to access the school curriculum.

In the Junior Department, we need to build up a range of vocabulary, practise using the correct word order and grammar structures in speaking (and in writing), and develop the children's skills in reading and writing.

I plan to spend each Wednesday session focusing on writing. Many of the children who joined the school this September have learned to read and write through a method which is different from the phonics-based method used at BISB, and in the UK in general. One essential idea of the phonics method is that, once the children have learned the letters and letter combinations which represent each sound in English, they can use that knowledge to work out for themselves how to write new words, if they have not yet learned the spelling. This means that the children can be independent writers. This, in turn, helps them to practise their English. The children will bring home their writing book at times, to show you, and they should feel free to write a piece of writing of their own choice if they like.

In the Year One and Two small group sessions, we need to build up the children's vocabulary, including very common words which often need to be expressly learned and practised. This week, we practised using the simple, common questions Can I have... please? Do you have...? Where is...? Do you like...? and we read, wrote and used the words where and who, in the context of games and of the book We're Going on a Bear Hunt.

In the Reception small group session, we will focus at first on developing the children's confidence in speaking (and listening) to each other, using simple phrases and questions, in the context of games, discussion of stories, and explanations of the own pictures. We will also, of course, build up a range of essential vocabulary. This

week, we played another version of the animal and colour lotto game, the children asking each other Can I have the red dog? etc. We looked at photos of places around the school, and spotted animals hiding in each one. We re-read the stories Hide and Seek and Look at Me, from the Oxford Reading Tree series.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read
EALteacher@telenet.be