

Home School Books – 05 October 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

We have ‘shaped’ up very nicely this week! with the piece of work for our home school book, which you can see opposite. During circle time and small group discussions we looked at different shapes around the class room and then tried to draw them in the air with our finger. Each child then spent one to one time with the teacher and talked about the different coloured shapes presented to them. They were then asked to make themselves or another person, using the shapes and stick the pieces into their book. Don’t worry if your little one has made a disjointed figure, this is quite normal, even when shown how to put the pieces together, some children have not grasped the transference process from looking at the visual image to creating a concrete and recognisable piece of work. This takes time and lots of practice for some children. Always remember it is the process and not the end result that is important at this stage, so always give lots of praise to your child for their efforts.



We are continually working in nursery on communication and language skills and trying to create as many opportunities as possible for your child to acquire English vocabulary in a fun and creative way. As part of this process, listening skills are taken to task, as many children are not able to listen for longer than a few minutes at this age. We try and increase little by little the time spent listening to the teacher and other children who are speaking in circle time, without interrupting or talking over the top of others. You can help your child at home by using the same listening rhyme as we do, which is: **This is what we will do, first you listen to me (point to yourself) and then I will listen to you (point to your child)**. Encourage your little one to be respectful and stay quiet when you are talking and vice-versa. It sounds like an impossible task with a 3 & 4 year old to ask them to be quiet and listen for a few minutes but it isn’t and with practice and perseverance they quickly get the idea!

Autumn is definitely here and we can see signs of this all around us, regardless of the warmer temperatures for this time of year. Next week we will concentrate on some Autumn themed projects, so if you are out walking this weekend and find any brightly coloured leaves, collect a few in a bag and bring them into nursery on Monday.

In your child’s folder today you will receive your appointment time for the parent-teacher meeting on October 26th,. Take note that school is closed for the children on that day. Please respect your appointment time and if you need to book time off work to attend, do so now. This is the first individual parent/teacher meeting of this academic year and all of the appointments will be tightly scheduled. We are happy with either one or two parents attending, that decision is entirely yours.

Our talk topic for next week is ‘What colour leaves did you see on the trees this weekend?’

Have an enjoyable weekend, see you soon.

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,

In phonics this week we added /g/ and /o/ to our collection of sounds and letters, and also reviewed some of the sounds we have already learned this term so as not to forget which sound each letter makes. The children are steadily getting better at recognising the beginning sounds of words and they are slowly starting to be able to recognise other sounds in words, which is excellent progress!

In Maths, we focused on learning the days of the week and the children are starting to understand that a week refers to a period of time. Most of the children now remember the days of the week and in what order they come. Furthermore, they are starting to understand that yesterday is the day that came before today and that tomorrow is the next day that we will have. We have also worked with numbers and the children did some worksheets where they connected the numbers to create a picture. This was excellent fun for everyone!

As the autumn is settling in we have been doing worksheets relating to the season, so you will see a hedgehog worksheet in your child’s folder this Friday. We also continued working with our topic and we discussed what each child wanted to be when they grow up. They had all sorts of interesting ideas of what they want to become and they all drew pictures of themselves as adults doing the jobs that they would like to do in the future.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still learning colours and have added “orange, vert, violet”. We are also developing our autumn theme and enjoyed talking about rain, clouds and the sun of course. We sang songs about autumn and what we wear when it rains.

Finally, our talk topic this week is: If I could go anywhere in the world, where would I go?

We hope you all have a wonderful weekend,

Elín Hafstein and Ivana Julaton

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

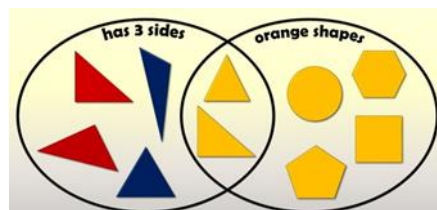
Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

Our 'sounds of the week' have been the first set of Phase 3 sounds: /j/, /v/, /w/, /x/, /y/, /z/ and /qu/, together with /zz/. Although these sounds occur less frequently, the children already recognise them when reading, and can use them to write simple words. The children have also learnt that, in English, the letter 'q' is always accompanied by its friend 'u', to form the /qu/ sound.

Our text for the next couple of weeks is the story 'Funnybones', about some silly skeletons that come out to play at night. Having read the book once, we then discussed it and decided which character and part of the story we liked best. Then, having coloured in some pictures to match the setting, in small groups we re-enacted the opening scenes, with each child saying his/her lines in turn. You can see the children in action at <http://www.bisb.org/project/skeletons/>. In grammar, we continued working on full stops - we are aiming for systematic use (at the end of a sentence), correct position (on the line) and 'reasonable' size (no golf balls)!

In Maths this week, it has been all about shapes and their properties: the basic 2-D shapes of circle, triangle, square and rectangle, how many sides and corners they each have, and whether their sides are straight or curved. We then learnt how to sort them according to their properties (for example, straight sides and curved sides) using Venn diagrams, and discovered where to place something which had both properties (in the intersection of the two circles). From there, we moved on to using Venn diagrams to sort different things, such as monsters with different numbers of legs, arms and eyes.



In our topic work, we have moved on to the five senses, and in our main topic session this week we talked about our eyesight and learnt about the parts of the eye. We also did some activities to test different aspects of our ability to see: the children had to perform some simple exercises, such as kicking a ball, while blindfolded; they had to find some dark-coloured objects inside the dark 'space tent'; and, with one eye covered, they had to try to guide a partner to drop a coin into a cup - a hectic, but fun afternoon!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we now know quite a number of animal names so that we can resume our story. Tourloubanc will play with the animals in the "pays des couleurs" which will give us the opportunity to learn a few prepositions.

We were depleted in number on Tuesday, due to the transport strike, but we still enjoyed a Computing session, which involved giving instructions to a human robot to navigate him/her around the squares on the carpet, and a PE session of catching

practice. In Art, we made a start on our Autumn art project, which will soon be on display alongside the main staircase.

The Maths homework for next week will be 'Excellent Estimating 1.5'. We will pause our main topic for one week, to accommodate Space Week, so the Talk Topic for Monday 8th October will be "If you could travel anywhere in space, where would you like to go?"

Wishing you a relaxing weekend

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru

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

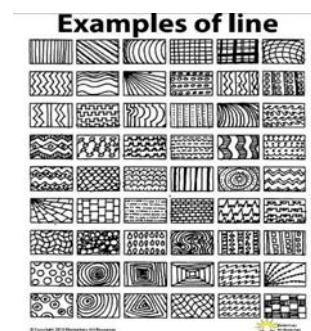
Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

What a productive week! Everyone is now well and truly 'on board' and the routines are becoming automatic. We are much better at sorting ourselves out and listening skills are improving, which makes classroom life a lot more efficient and enjoyable for everyone. Most children are doing brilliantly at changing their reading books independently, without having to be reminded, and their reading progress is fantastic – thank you for encouraging them at home. Year 2 is lucky to have some very positive, motivated children who are always ready and waiting enthusiastically for the next activity, and who help others to organise themselves.

Maths has been fun this week as we looked at 2D shapes, symmetry and right-angles. We did lots of practical work manipulating and drawing shapes, folding them to check whether they were symmetrical, and using a corner guide to check right-angles. We identified the properties of different shapes, deciding whether they were regular or irregular, and counting sides and corners before sorting them into Venn diagrams according to various criteria.

In Art we explored the idea of using lines to create patterns and contrasts. We moved away from colour, using special, fine black pens to create graphic designs in a fish outline. We discovered that we could create optical illusions by emphasizing certain parts of the design and tried to use as many different pen strokes as possible to make our fish interesting. This required considerable concentration and excellent fine motor skills, but the results are unique and impressive.



In Literacy we read several tales about woodland animals to tie in with our Science and Topic work. We then wrote our own woodland story, using the key 'Who', 'When', 'Where' questions to create a structure to help us add extra description. We are beginning to get over the hurdle of 'How do I spell it?', using our phonic

knowledge to have a good guess at possible spellings. This makes the creative process far easier as we don't have to stop to check every word.

In Science and Topic we continued our study of food chains in micro-habitats and found out about different woodland animals in preparation for our trip to the park next week. We used iPads to find more facts and studied how a non-fiction book is set out and how to find specific information by using the index and contents pages. Next week we will be taking a break from our Animals theme and heading out into Space as part of the school Space Week adventure. Who knows what life there may be on the moon!



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started getting ready to work on our next project 'l'automne chantonne?' (is autumn humming?) to introduce the magic of the autumn colours, animals, fruits and vegetables and to talk about 'la météo' (the weather forecast) .

Details of the park trip can be found in the letter in the home-school folder, along with your appointment times for the Parent meetings on October 26th. Our talk topic for this week is "If you went on a trip into Outer Space, what would you take with you?"

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the autumn colours.

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

We've had yet another busy week in school! This week we have noticed how the weather is getting colder now and the season is changing to autumn. We discussed why leaves change colour in the autumn and why some trees drop their leaves and other trees don't. We did some lovely autumn artwork to turn the tree trunk outside our classroom into an autumnal tree. We drew and painted autumn leaves carefully trying to represent their colours and shape.



This week in literacy we wrote our own stories on the theme of 'Chinese Adventure' after reading a story of the same title. We discussed where Biff, Chip and Kipper could go on their new Chinese adventure and what they could do. In our stories they went to see skyscrapers on the Bund, Shanghai, got lost along the Great Wall of China and visited the Giant Buddha in Hong Kong. In grammar we quickly revisited vowels and consonants and when we use 'a' or 'an' before a noun. The children are making

progress with their spellings and we discussed homophones which will be the theme for the next two weeks of spelling sessions.

In maths we practised telling the time on analogue and digital clocks, and even on analogue clocks with roman numerals! We revisited quarter past and quarter to and then telling the time at five minute intervals e.g five minutes past five, ten minutes past five, twenty five minutes to six, five minutes to six etc. We looked at 3D shapes and described them in terms of their mathematical properties such as the number and shape of the faces they have, whether the faces are flat or curved and how many vertices (corners) they have.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen we all got to present ‘Mon passeport’ where each one of us gave a wonderful presentation expressing and describing the following : Mon prénom, mon âge, ma famille, ma couleur préférée, mon animal préféré, mon jour préféré et mon activité préférée.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched a third episode of our film Kirikou and in grammar, we asked and wrote the questions: “Qu’est-ce que c’est ?” and “Qui est-ce?” We answered with: “C’est un / une ...” or “C’est Alex”.

In science we learned about light from the sun including UV light. We talked about how the sun can be both a ‘hero’ bringing good things to our lives by providing light for plants to grow, keeping us warm, making us feel happy and helping us to see. But also we learned how it can be a ‘villain’ and UV light from the sun can hurt our eyes or even cause skin cancer. We discussed ways of staying safe in the sun and protecting our eyes.

Please note that the appointments for the parent teacher meeting day have been sent home. If you cannot make your appointment please see me or send an email. We are all looking forward to Space week next week!

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Fiona King

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

Charles Dickens begins his book about the French Revolution, ‘It was the best of times; it was the worst of times,...’ and that pretty much describes Topic this term perfectly.

Our ‘Wishful Thinking’ topic isn’t great because of the lovely fairytales we’re reading and studying: we know and love those. It’s great because of the history behind them and the period in which they were published. The world was waking up; new lands,

new discoveries, new music and new ideas were being found. This week, we learnt about Edward Jenner's medical breakthroughs and how France became a republic after its revolution.

As ever, the children like the gruesome parts but they enjoy written work and painting too.

In Literacy, we finished some fairytales of our own we have been working on, made amendments to them to give them a bit more fairy dust, and finished off with some acting and writing playscripts.

Numeracy consisted of 9x table fun and multiplying using the Grid Method. We learnt a couple of tricks for remembering the x9 facts including the legendary 'fingers' one. (Ask your child for a demonstration).

Practise the 9's on:

<https://www.digipuzzle.net/minigames/mathracer/mathracer.htm?language=english>

and last week's 6's on:

http://www.transum.org/Software/Fast_Factors/Default.asp

and this site is also good as answers must be verbal:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/daily10>

In Science, we briefly looked at Charles Darwin's work on the Tree of Life (tying in again with Topic!) and classified insects and bugs according to features.

PE took advantage of perhaps a final opportunity to play cricket before the weather turns and we had yet another close finish. When we get to May next year, the class will be most ready to try and compete against the older classes in the Juniors Fifteen15 championship.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen we all got to present 'Mon passeport' where each one of us gave a wonderful presentation expressing and describing the following : Mon prénom, mon âge, ma famille, ma couleur préférée, mon animal préféré, mon jour préféré et mon activité préférée.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched a third episode of our film Kirikou and in grammar, we asked and wrote the questions: "Qu'est-ce que c'est ?" and "Qui est-ce?" We answered with: "C'est un / une" or "C'est Alex".

In Circle Time, we began as we have been with one of the children reading us a fairytale and then passed round the crocodile to discuss what 'I am afraid of...'. We had the usual fears but a phobia of books or people was not expected and the laughter it produced blew our cares and worries away very nicely.



And that was our week.

Enjoy your weekend.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman and Fiona King

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

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

Please remember to send in a rainproof coat every day. The weather can be very changeable at this time of the year, this week being a very good example.

In Numeracy we have been subtracting 3 digit numbers using the column method and moving tens and hundreds to achieve the correct results. It is very important to show your working out and many of the mistakes made this week have been by children who have not done this. We then moved onto subtracting 4 digit methods using both the column method and the frog method (subtracting by adding). On Friday we began our think tank workbooks which will expand our logical knowledge.

In Literacy we looked at our spelling which are homophones and discussed the difference between homophones and homonyms before moving on the work consolidating these words. It is a common mistake to confuse are/our, there/their and too/to/two so we revised these in particular. We read another chapter from Kensuke's Kingdom and the children have now been introduced to Kensuke. The vocabulary coming out of this book is wonderful and we are stumbling across words such as agitated, bewildered, appalling, predicament and wretched, to name but a few. This, in addition to our daily word, is building up the class vocabulary. What an eye-opener! On Wednesday we did a comprehension on the subject of the moon and on Friday we wrote about moon exploration.

In Topic this week we learnt some Japanese phrases, practiced saying them and writing them as well as drawing a cartoon using them. We now at least know how to say hello and goodbye in Japanese.

In Computing we have finally sorted out our codehs accounts and we introduced to Karel the dog. In the first lesson we learnt how to moved Karel and play with tennis balls. Next week will see another Karel move. The login to this site is NOT an email address and should not be used as one. I would also ask that the children do not go ahead of the lessons at home, please. If they want to explore coding, www.code.org is the place to go. They can also play their maths games and chat on Edmodo.

In Science we looked at the phases of the moon and discussed why we only see a part of it at times. We learnt the names for the different moon phases and read a text about it before answering some questions.

In Art, we made man in the moon posters which the class took home and then made a large one to put downstairs. Our space week is based on some very inspiring fiction books about Bob. We also made the most beautiful space pictures of aliens, rockets and shooting stars which I am going to use



to decorate the classroom.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we revised the adjectives describing nationalities. In order to do that, we revised some geography notions and studied a summary of the history of the European Union. We then studied the féminin of these adjectives and added more nationalities.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we prepared and talked about “mes activités” in a fun and interactive approach in order to practise using the ‘regular’ action verbs ending in -er. We also talked about ‘la météo et ma garde-robe’ (the weather forecast and my wardrobe) where they got to describe the weather and what they’re wearing.

For PE we played handball. This was very fast paced and the children all had fun, taking advantage of warm sunny weather. Thursday saw our tennis lessons being thoroughly enjoyed by the class.

The slips have been handed out for our parent meetings on Friday 26th October. I do hope you got yours.

The talk topic for this week is: Would you like to go to the moon? Discuss.

The weather is supposed to be great next week, have a lovely restful weekend,

Best wishes,

Valeria Vetter and Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

What a fascinating day we had at the House of European History. Our first workshop was about young European perspectives on war and peace. Reflecting on the idea of war as a producer of absence and loss, the students studied a variety of objects and artwork to discover the background to these. Artefacts included: a passenger ship ticket, a uniform, radio and spoon. The students were then given an opportunity to write their own messages on the blackboard walls. Photographs of this trip can be found at:

<http://www.bisb.org/project/the-house-of-european-history-unheard-voices/>

After lunch we visited the interactive exhibition ‘INTERACTIONS’. This project tells stories about people moving and meeting, the ‘travelling’ of ideas and goods, about encounters and exchange, into a kaleidoscopic view of Europe's cultural history. Students were delighted to find their favourite food cooking on the stove and discover the origins of many of the toys and games they love.

Phrases and clauses are still causing confusion; we shall revisit these. On Monday, we studied the active and passive form. Spellings are always tested in a variety of ways; this week, it was in the form of a dictation.

The student teacher projects continue to enjoy popularity. Last Friday, we were transported to the Nazca lines in Peru, then, using a mixture of paint, sand and glue, the pupils (including me) recreated replicas of some of the symbols. Our art looks amazing and is now on display. It is a joy to watch the ‘teacher’s’ confidence increasing as they deliver either the news report or lesson.

We revised calculating angles, Pythagoras’ Theorem, units of measurement, finding the perimeter of compound shapes, analogue, digital and the 24-hour clock. The students then had to solve a selection of word problems relating to train timetables.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we revised the adjectives describing nationalities. In order to do that, we revised some geography notions and studied a summary of the history of the European Union. We then studied the féminin of these adjectives and added more nationalities.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we prepared and talked about “mes activités” in a fun and interactive approach in order to practise using the ‘regular’ action verbs ending in -er. We also talked about ‘la météo et ma garde-robe’ (the weather forecast and my wardrobe) where they got to describe the weather and what they’re wearing.

On Thursday, we started to think about our next writing task. Taking inspiration from the two workshops we have participated in at the House of European History, we have decided to find an object (from home) from which a story can be told or imagined. A note for your diary – tickets have been booked for Hamlet on Thursday, 29th November –this will be a late night!

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,

We are five weeks into the school year, and the children are all engrossed in very interesting activities and discussions in their classes. In our small group EAL sessions, we support this class work, by going over some of the key vocabulary, picking out some essential concepts and reinforcing them in simple English, and giving the children a chance to listen and to speak in a small, quiet environment.



In the Reception EAL group this week, we spent some time discussing what we would like to be when we grow up. We looked at books and watched a short video showing people doing different jobs, the places where they work, the clothes they wear, and the things that they need. In a different session, we reread the story Brown Bear, Brown Bear, and the children played a simple card game using the pictures. They followed instructions to use tissue paper to make big pictures of the animals, describing what they did.

In the Year One and Two small group session this week, we continued the discussion about the body, discussing why we need a skeleton. The children cleverly suggested that without a skeleton, we would not be able to move or stand up, and that the skeleton protects our “inside squishy bits” (which we established were our organs).

In the Junior EAL group this week, we have continued the conversation about space, in preparation for Space Week. We talked especially about the Earth in relation to the Sun and to the other planets. We also began to think about verb tenses, and we noticed how verbs change to show when something is happening (or happened, or will happen). We will continue to work on this next week, as well as on prepositions.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read
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