

Home School Books – 12 October 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Although it doesn't feel like it at the moment Autumn has started and our mini theme this week was all about the changes of the leaves on the trees during this season.

Thank you to everyone who brought in their beautiful autumn leaves this week, we looked at them during circle time and talked about all of the wonderful colours we saw in each leaf. We decided that red and yellow were our favourites. The children then painted the leaves that had been collected and made some rub and print leaf pictures, which you can see opposite. We looked together at the patterns that were made on the paper and how delicate and fragile leaves were, especially if we put too much paint on them! The painting area was a rainbow of colours after the activity, as were the teacher's trousers!

The children have also made some magnificent hand and wrist prints, which they made into trees and added some autumn leaf finger print patterns. They will make some other Autumnal objects to go with the paintings and you will be able to see these hanging up in the corridor area very soon, so watch out for them next time you are in school.



We hope you have all had a chance to take a look at the photographs that were put on the school website last week, there are more to come, so keep checking our nursery page for new additions at <http://www.bisb.org/classes/nursery/>

We would like to ask that when you collect your child at lunch time or after the afternoon session, can you please refrain from opening up snack boxes on the pavement outside of the school. We realise you are concerned about how much your child has eaten or not eaten but it is tricky for some children, especially if they do not wish to eat what is left. Plus for the children who have eaten all of their snack, their boxes are empty and they think others are getting special treats like chocolate! Please check contents when you are home, as it is not a good idea to feed your child while they are walking or running along the pavement. Try and avoid tears and upset over food, just give them a good nutritious lunch when they arrive home; they will have a better appetite if you are not feeding them snacks on the way.

Thank you to everyone who has returned their parent, teacher appointment slip for the meeting that will take place on 26th October. Please remember, the school is closed for the children on that day and they will not be able to attend the meeting with you. So book your babysitter now or just one of you attend while the other stays home and takes care of your little one.

Last but not least, it is photograph day in school next Wednesday 17th October, more information will follow by e mail and it will be in the whole school newsletter, so

watch out for that. Just to clarify, all children are required to wear full school uniform for their photograph.

Our talk topic for next week is; why do you not run inside of the nursery? What might happen if you do?

Have a wonderful warm Autumnal weekend and see you all next week.

Thank you

Alison Davies and Inés van Wassenhove

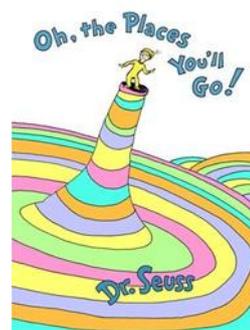
nurseryteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This week we talked about all the places we would like to go to, which turned out to be many! We wondered whether we could visit different countries, like Iceland and India and the children looked at a map to see where these countries are in the world. We even discussed far-away places like space and wondered whether we could go high into the sky and perhaps even reach the moon. Finally we concluded that we couldn't fetch the moon since it's too far away, high above the clouds, all the way up in space where the moon and the sun live!



In phonics this week we added four new sounds, /k/, /ck/, /u/ and /r/ to our collection of sounds and letters. We learned that k makes the same sound as c, so we call 'k' a kicking k and 'c' a curly c. We also learned that c, k and ck all make exactly the same sound and we learned that ck never comes at the beginning of a word, only in the middle or in the end. Whereas kicking k and curly c can come in the beginning, in the middle or at the end of a word.

We played all sorts of fun sound games to practise sound recognition, such as running, jumping or skipping toward the right sound, or towards the first sound of a word. We also practised writing letters, we even wrote letters on the ground outside with chalk. Finally we cut some letters from magazines, which helps training both letter recognition as well as fine motor skills.

In Maths, we are still working on remembering all of the days and which order they come in and we are still practising today, yesterday and tomorrow. We also added in the month and the year, so the children are beginning to understand that a week goes on for seven days, a month goes on for 30 days, and a year goes on for much longer than that. We also continued to make pictures where the children make a picture by connecting the numbers in the right order. If they do it correctly, an animal appears!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still learning colours and are now trying to juggle with all eleven colours: bleu, rouge, jaune, orange, vert, violet, marron (brun), rose,

noir, blanc, gris. Our autumn theme is still being developed and we enjoy talking about rain, clouds, the sun and the rainbow. We sing songs about autumn and talk about the fruit and the vegetables we find in this season.

During assembly, two children got stars of the week for excellent work this week. Adrian got stars of the week for being really good at practising writing letters and excellent progress in speaking and understanding English! And Nishaank, for being great at recognising sounds and reading short words with full understanding!

Finally, our talk topic this week is: What is your favourite season and why?

Thank you all for a great week and 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,

We took a break from our normal topic this week, in honour of World Space Week, and we also had some small timetable alterations, so there were a few changes in our routine. In Literacy, we revised the /ch/, /sh/, /th/ and /ng/ sounds, practised writing them in words and sentences, and played a number of games. The children learnt words in which the first three of these sounds appear either at the beginning or at the end of words, but, as this week's 'new rule', the /ng/ sound can never be used at the beginning of a word. Our main literacy session was about the use of speech bubbles in stories: having re-read and re-enacted the 'Funnybones' story, we used our knowledge of the setting and characters to imagine and write our own captions for conversations the skeletons may have had. In our grammar session, we focused on ensuring that sentences make sense, and that words are always separated by a space.

Our focus in Maths this week has been on number work: recognition of number words (one, two etc.), improving our speed in stating 1 more and 1 less than a given number, and estimating. The latter is a difficult concept for young children to understand - when presented with an unspecified quantity of items, their instinct is to begin counting. However, we practised with boxes of chestnuts, walnut shells, sea-shells and pebbles, and the children began to make some reasonable estimates. They also learned that it is easier, safer and quicker to divide large quantities in to groups of 10, and then to count in 10s at the end.

For Space Week, we discussed where we would like to go, if we could travel in space, and we made 'space scenes' with rockets, planets and stars for our Art project. In our main session on Thursday, we watched a short video which showed the comparative sizes of the sun and Earth, checked our knowledge of the planets, and made air-



powered rockets. Then we went outside to create a human solar system (see photos at <http://www.bisb.org/project/year-1-october-2018/>) - our ordering of the planets was spot-on, but our ability to orbit the 'sun' in concentric circles needs more work!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are now focussing on prepositions like "sur, sous, dans, devant, derrière, à côté de, au milieu de, entre" to which we also added left (gauche) and right (droite). We played a few games and sang a few songs to help us memorise all these new words to answer the question : "Où est Tourloub blanc ?".

Maths homework activities will now take a rest until after half-term. Our Talk Topic for Monday 15th October will be "what do we need and what do we have to do to make pumpkin soup?"

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,

This week has been an interesting mix of Space, food chains and a great Science trip to the park! To celebrate Space week we had space-themed spellings and comprehension texts and discovered a variety of space stories, paying particular attention to the illustrations and looking at how a fiction story can also give us information. Several children brought in some excellent non-fiction Space books, which they presented confidently and proudly to the class, and which were enjoyed by all. We also used the iPads to find information and to answer the questions list we had drawn up about different planets. In Science we made miniature rockets and launched them by blowing through straws, measuring to see how far they travelled. We also set out a mini solar system in the playground using different sized balls and hoops. The measurements and distances are so enormous that we can only try to imagine concepts such as light years, billions and infinity.



In Maths we limited ourselves to numbers below 100 and worked on ordering and creating sequences. We used beaded number lines and landmark lines to locate different numbers using definitions such as 'more than', 'between', 'less than' and odd and even. This sounds simple, as all the children are more than capable of counting to beyond 100, but it can be surprisingly complicated to understand how numbers fit together, and to find them once they are out of their normal recited sequence. We also worked on Carroll diagrams, identifying different criteria for describing shapes and animal groups, and placing each example in the correct space on the diagram. This requires the ability to sort objects according to more than one criterion. We did end up with a few cows living in the sea and triangles with four sides, but on the whole, I think we have cracked it.

We did some more work on food chains, adding concepts such as ‘producer’, ‘energy’ and ‘consumer’ to our descriptions. We also looked more specifically at food chains in different habitats, analysing which animals and plants would be found in which locations. (This was really to ensure that no-one was expecting to encounter a bear or a cobra at the park today as the main predator in their food chain!)

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on our project ‘l’automne chantonne? (is autumn humming?). We reviewed some vocabularies related to ‘l’automne, les couleurs, les animaux, les fruits et légumes and we reviewed ‘la météo’(the weather forecast).

In Art we are creating woodland dioramas, which will feature on the Autumn display on the staircase. At the park we collected leaves, twigs, seed pods and pine cones that will provide authentic backgrounds for the food chain we choose to depict. We also managed to launch the Whale, who is now swimming around the hall upstairs. Mrs Tolentino has been busy putting photos on the website again, so do take a look at them: <http://www.bisb.org/project/science-trip-to-study-micro-habitats-in-the-park/>

Our talk topic for this week is “What did you most enjoy about the park (apart from the playground!)?”

Have a lovely weekend,

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

year2teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

Five, four, three, two, one, blast off! This week has been all about space across the junior department. The children have enjoyed sharing a story called ‘Man on the moon – A day in the life of Bob’. It was interesting to read all about the life of a fictional astronaut! We used the wonderful illustrations in this story as inspiration for doing some super artwork. This will be displayed on the ground floor of the junior department when it’s finished and is sure to look spectacular. The children have also done science with Mrs Tranter, all about astronaut food with Mr Steadman and did some alien pictures with Mrs Vetter. Also they have learned about coordinates and done some space related coding.



This week in literacy we did our first reading assessment of the year. The children showed me how good they have become at decoding and understanding different texts. We also did our spelling test on homophones and the children had to write the

correct word for the context of the sentence. Next week the children have an additional list of spellings to learn for space week in addition to the week 6 words on their list.

In maths we did our end of half term assessment. The topics included placing three digit numbers on an empty number line, the 3 and 4 times tables, adding and subtracting two 2 digit numbers, the greater than and less than signs, place value and partitioning, telling the time and the names and properties of 3D shapes. Also we practised rounding three digit numbers to the nearest 10 and then the nearest 100.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched a few programmes on the solar system. Paxi produced by the European Space Agency is a good one among others. We also did some baking and made chocolate cakes whose decorations represented the solar system. We also produced a facts sheet describing the solar system and its planets. We had great fun and learnt a lot.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started talking about l'Espace (Space) et le système solaire and we also made beautiful, fun and very colourful drawings of planets, rockets, shooting stars, the sun and ourselves as 'les géants astronautes' for our space project: Bonjour l'Espace! We learned many words related to 'le système solaire'.

In our topic lesson we talked about the planets and we researched some simple facts about them. We enjoyed learning their names, how many moons they have, what colour they are and their position in the solar system. Next week the space week fun continues.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

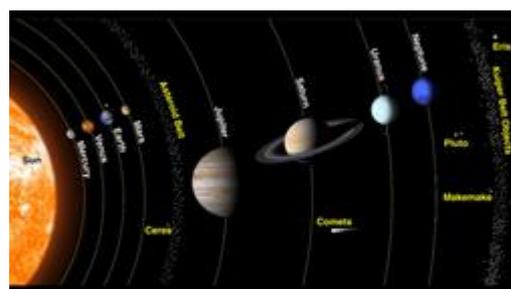
Camilla Rutayisire and Fiona King
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 3 webpage

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

An interstellar, solar week. Space Week lifted us off into infinity and beyond and who would have thought that we would be playing cricket in Week 6 or even in October?!?

It was a hot week, both atmospherically and galactically. We started our Word Space project with a series of carousel activities. The children in 4 groups, visited all the teachers to get a taste of space blasts, food, art, Maths, Literacy and computing. As always, this created a delightful buzz around the school and will have culminated



this afternoon in a fantastic space walk in the park. By the time you read this, the children will have made things jettison, painted the galaxy, made astronaut soup and navigated to the edge of the solar system (or at least Cinquantenaire park)

When not in zero gravity, we started a new Literacy unit on 'How to Train your Dragon', found fractions of amounts and set about an experiment on snail habits in habitats.

Dragons and describing them inspired the children greatly while fractions tend to be an acquired taste and wasn't for all.

The snail investigation, meanwhile, didn't start well as dry conditions over the past months have kept the snails at bay so we were left with just solitary Mr (or Mrs – no one could quite decide) Snail to observe. What would he eat of the dishes we provided and where would he settle best for his short stay in our outside 'lab'? The children planned this experiment with logical, careful and thoughtful reflection and will have learnt a lot.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched a few programmes on the solar system. Paxi produced by the European Space Agency is a good one among others. We also did some baking and made chocolate cakes whose decorations represented the solar system. We also produced a facts sheet describing the solar system and its planets. We had great fun and learnt a lot.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started talking about l'Espace (Space) et le système solaire and we also made beautiful, fun and very colourful drawings of planets, rockets, shooting stars, the sun and ourselves as 'les géants astronautes' for our space project: Bonjour l'Espace! We learned many words related to 'le système solaire'.

Two weeks remain of this half-term and we have much to do and look forward to. Mid Term tests in reading, writing and Numeracy are coming up, pumpkin week is near and we are off to Sortilege to round it all off. You will all now know the times of our progress meetings on Friday 26th; we've been busy in class and there will be lots to talk about.

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,

What a lovely start to space week. The weather has generally been cold at first but getting warmer during the day.

In Numeracy we managed to do our half term tests and have even found time to correct them and see where we made our mistakes. Hopefully we can work on these

for the next set of tests. We have also begun taking a look at multiples and had a lot of fun sorting these out onto a Carroll diagram.

In Literacy we did our PIRA tests and are awaiting the results. We managed our weekly spelling test and worked on our new words which are still homophones. Our word of the day has also been a constant during the week.

Space week has involved a lot of activity and working with children in different classes. We have had short sessions and longer ones throughout the week culminating in our Planets in the Park orienteering. Our short sessions included workshops on coding, 3D paint, literacy and maths. The children enjoyed the moving about and doing the different activities. Longer sessions involve Art, Space Science and space food. In Art we have been creating different aliens for our space theme display. Planets in the park was a superb ending to a really exciting first space week.



To view the various activities we have been involved in please consult our class page <http://www.bisb.org/classes/year-5/>

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 Halvorsen, we started talking about l’Espace (Space). We discussed in French the characteristics of ‘les planètes du système solaire’ and we talked about “pourquoi la Terre est spéciale” (why is our Earth special?) . We also created a fun little booklet of pictures and drawings and details of ‘le soleil et les 8 planètes’ (the sun and the 8 planets) du système solaire.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, this week it has been less grammar and more fun with space activities : we watched a programme called “Ce n’est pas sorcier” explaining the solar system. We also did some baking and made chocolate cakes representing the solar system, two stars and a moon crescent and a planet earth that looked a little funny ! e had great fun and learnt a lot.

PE this week involved our weekly tennis lessons and we played team matches which were competitive and exciting. The class really enjoy these lessons and give their all as can be seen by the way they play.

Homework this week will be posted on Edmodo and will consist of a story and a maths game to play.

The talk topic for this week is: If you meet an alien in the park, what would you do? Thank you for returning the parent meeting slips and confirming the times. I look forward to discussing your child’s progress at this time. Please note that there is no garderie service available on that day.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Best wishes,

Valeria Vetter and Ena Tolentino

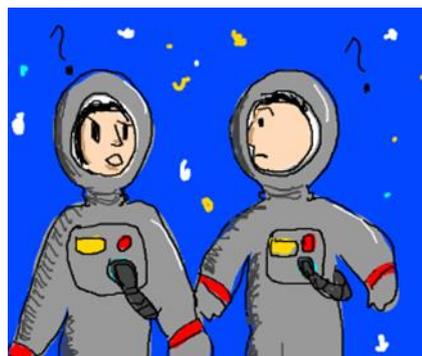
year6teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

Lift off! How do you make learning meaningful, memorable and enjoyable – Space Week! With the organisational plans, timetables and team lists on the notice board, our week began like the Big Bang! We had astronauts drifting everywhere because they expected the staff at mission control (the teachers), to tell them what to do and where to go throughout the day. They quickly realised that they had to take responsibility for informing themselves of each day's plan and being on the right planet at the right time! By Wednesday, everyone could read a timetable, cross-reference information and make a perfect landing.



Space activities this week included:

- Using the Ipads to learn about coding
- Learning how to use the programme 3D paint
- Space Maths - plotting coordinates, translations and converting units of time
- Literacy - with our man on the moon - Bob
- Design and Technology – constructing rockets and manufacturing astronaut food from farm to packaged product
- Art – inspired by the ‘Bob’ stories
- Science - experiments relating to surface tension, hot air, pressure and defying gravity
- Adventure training and orienteering with Planets in the Park

In addition to all of the above, we still managed to complete our PIRA reading test, practise how the up-level sentences with fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases and subordinate clauses. We have continued to read our two books: Wonder and Oranges in No Man's Land.

In maths, the students battled through a fraction, decimal and percentage workout.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started talking about l'Espace (Space). We discussed in French the characteristics of 'les planètes du système solaire' and we talked about "pourquoi la Terre est spéciale" (why is our Earth special?) . We also created a fun little booklet of pictures and drawings and details of 'le soleil et les 8 planètes' (the sun and the 8 planets) du système solaire.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, this week it has been less grammar and more fun with space activities : we watched a programme called "Ce n'est pas sorcier" explaining the solar system. We also did some baking and made chocolate cakes representing the solar system, two stars and a moon crescent and a planet earth that looked a little funny ! We had great fun and learnt a lot.

I am now preparing for a sleepless night at the Atomium next Thursday. Please make sure that your child brings their overnight bag with them on Thursday morning (these will be transported to the Atomium by minibus). A buffet lunch (including vegetarian) will be provided on Friday.

Wishing you a peaceful weekend.
Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 6 webpage

English as an Additional Language

Dear Parents,

This week the children have continued to enjoy many engaging activities in their main classes, all of which provide great opportunities to learn and use language in real communicative situations. In the EAL small group sessions, I try to introduce some of the key words and phrases in advance, and then to provide opportunities to practise it in different way.

In the Junior Department small group sessions this week, we had good fun learning to form and use superlative adjectives, along with ordinal numbers, in relation to the planets of our solar system. Listening to a song about the solar system, which is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOrlgH97v94> , we were able to put the planets in order, and to identify the biggest, smallest, coldest, hottest and brightest planets, as well as the planet with the highest mountain. We also practised using prepositions in sentences, while moving a Lego astronaut around the room. We began to look at asking questions. As we were also going over some key mathematics vocabulary, we played the game Guess my Number, which uses this language, and involves much logical thinking.

The Year 2 trip to the park gave rise to some interesting discussions in the Year 1 and 2 EAL group. We talked about which living things we might see at the park, and why those things might live there. In connection with this, we read the story After the Storm, and dramatized it, with the children very keen to become the characters (all woodland and park animals). We are beginning to spend a couple of sessions each week focusing on reading and writing, following the phonics that are being studied in Year 1.

In the Reception group this week, we enjoyed reading the story The Cat in the Tree. It led on to a discussion about where we can go to climb trees, and where we can go to do other activities that we enjoy. Some examples that the children mentioned were shopping, swimming, riding a



bicycle, running, playing football. I am very pleased to see that all the children are beginning to use their words and phrases in English to get their messages across.

I wish you all a very happy weekend.

Kate Read
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