

Home School Books – 19 October 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents

Your children smiled beautifully for the photographer on photograph day! There were a lot of instructions to follow and we even managed to climb the big staircase leading up to the hall without any major hiccups. So, well done to everyone for using their listening ears and staying as patient as they could for longer than normal during sitting down time.

The sample photographs for you to look at should be here within the next few weeks; more information will follow then.

Next week is Pumpkin week in school, you should all have received a flyer explaining what that is but in short, it means we will go pumpkin crazy for the week! There will be a pumpkin display with lots of pumpkins that the children will bring in, pumpkin soup, pumpkin bread and a dressing up day on Wednesday, please remember we do not celebrate Halloween in school, so do not send your little one in a witches costume or as Batman etc.! Dress them either as an orange pumpkin or in something representing Autumnal colours. Please also remember that it is only a four day week in school for the children because the 26th October is the parent, teacher meetings.

This week we have talked about healthy eating and what sort of choices we should make to ensure we eat healthily. During circle time we passed the teddy bear around and asked everyone what their favourite fruit or vegetable was. A couple of children said chocolate! With a lot of imagination it could be classed as a legume because it actually comes from a bean! Although we did explain what fruit and vegetables actually were, please talk about the names of fruit and vegetables in English, with your child at home. Try and expand their vocabulary and recognition of the different fruit and vegetables that you see in the supermarket or the fruit and veg corner shops.



If you look opposite, you will see a photocopy of an empty plate and an envelope clipped to it. This is the nursery's version of the healthy eating plate game. Open the envelope and ask your child if they can identify the items inside. We have already explained what they are to them in small group time. See what they can remember, then ask them to place each item on the plate in order of what they like eating the best etc.

There will be no home school book folder next week, but you will get an electronic version of the home school letter.

We are looking forward to meeting with you all next week on Friday and if you haven't yet confirmed your appointment time for the meeting, please do so on Monday.

Until then have a great weekend and don't forget to discuss our talk topic which is, 'why fruit and vegetables are so good for us and how many per day should we eat?'

Thank you

Alison Davies and Inés van Wassenhove

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

Our talk topic this past week was 'What is your favourite season and why?' This week we did all kinds of activities related to the current season, the autumn. We cut out some leaves to decorate the window with, we coloured some autumn leaf pictures, and we learned about all the different seasons that a year has. This week we also had the photograph day for this year, where everyone's photo was taken. We also took pictures of the whole class and the whole school together! All the children in reception class behaved beautifully and did very well on this day!



In phonics this week we practised /r/, /h/, /b/, /f/ and /ff/ and we learned that /f/ and /ff/ make the same sound! We sang phonics songs to help us remember the new sounds and we practised writing the letters. We also looked at some pictures and played a game where we figure out what is the first sound of that word. Last but not least, the class read some words together by blending the sounds. They did a great job in phonics this week!

In Maths, we started looking at how the clock works. We start by learning o'clock, so we don't confuse things by learning ten to, twenty past or half past. They did however learn that when the long arm points to the 12 at the top, and the little arm points at 6 at the bottom, then it's six o'clock. We are going to have to practise reading the time a lot more, but they did great on their first introduction to reading the clock! We have also continued to practise counting by playing some counting games and doing counting worksheets. Finally, we continue to practise the days and we also practise the full date of each day.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been tasting a few autumn fruits and sang songs about apples and autumn in general. We drew beautiful apples and apple trees. We also revised all the colours.

During assembly, two children got stars of the week for excellent work this week. They were 'Reyansh for doing a great job with numbers this week', and 'Shriyansh for excellent drawing and colouring'. Congratulations to both of them!

Finally, our talk topic this week is: What are all the different things you can do with a pumpkin?

Thank you all for a great week and we hope you have a wonderful weekend,

Elín Hafstein and Ivana Julaton

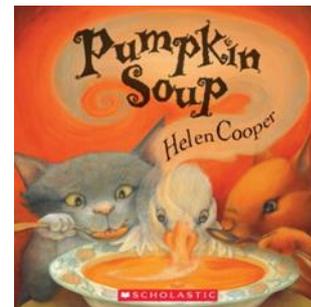
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Please click [here](#) for our Reception webpage

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

A week earlier than the rest of the school, Year 1 started pumpkin fever this week, as pumpkins are to be the focus of our Literacy work up until half-term. We had an extended main Literacy session on Thursday, all about making pumpkin soup. This included a discussion about how to make it, reading a story about how to make it, and a practical session, where we had a go ourselves at making it, with each child having a turn at chopping, mixing and stirring. After all that, the children then wrote their own set of instructions for how to make pumpkin soup.



In Phonics, we learnt about the concept of vowels, long and short, and how we must have at least one in (almost) every word that we read or write. Within Phase 3, we have moved on to the long vowel sounds, starting with /ai/ and /ee/ as our sounds of the week, and practised saying, reading and writing many words containing each sound, as well as playing a number of games to help reinforce our learning. In our grammar session, we again concentrated on ensuring that sentences are properly punctuated (capital letters, spaces between words, full stops).

In Maths this week, we had a long revision session on Monday, during which we recapped counting, ordering numbers, missing number problems, number bonds, doubles, 1 more/1 less, 2-D shapes and Venn diagrams. The children then went on to do their mid-term assessment, the results of which we will discuss at our parent-teacher meetings next week.

We returned to our normal topic work this week, with a look at another of our senses: hearing. The children performed some listening activities, where they had to follow verbal instructions only (with no hand or body gestures to help), they went on a listening walk, and had to write down or draw some of the things they heard, and they had to listen to various sounds (such as cutting paper with scissors) from behind a screen, and work out what was making the sound. Other highlights this week were

making autumn leaf sun-catchers for the classroom window, and a new game in PE: dress the scarecrow - a relay race where teams have to 'dress' their scarecrow with various pieces of PE equipment! As everyone wanted to have a turn at being a scarecrow, it seems this was a popular addition to our repertoire of PE games (see photos at <http://www.bisb.org/project/year-1-october-2018/>).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we focussed on the prepositions we have learnt so far and put them in the right context. We made a memory game to help us learn and remember them.

Our Talk Topic for Monday 22nd October will be "what do you like best about Autumn?" Please remember that the children may come to school on Wednesday 24th October dressed in something pumpkin or autumn-related.

On Tuesday 6th November, we are planning to go to the park, to test our senses, look for signs of Autumn and collect some materials for Autumn craft. We will need three parent helpers to come with us - please let us know if you are able to come along (from 10.55 until 12.45).

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 has been a week of great team work as we continued our dioramas. In Science we identified the animals we had seen in the park and classified them within a woodland food web. We then worked in pairs to choose four elements for our food chain, which had to include a producer and several types of consumer. The next stage was to create the food chain itself, respecting the prey and predator sequence, and write a description of each link in the chain. The technical work to prepare the boxes was detailed and required a lot of patience.

First, the outer and inner sides of the box had to be covered in rectangles of plain paper and then the background was created by painting an abstract design in autumn colours across the entire box. Once this was dry, we emptied our bags of treasure from the park and used lots of glue to create a woodland habitat. The classroom floor certainly resembled the park, but we were amazingly successful with the glue and even the conkers stayed in place! We improved on our initial written descriptions and completed the boxes by using delicate pencil crayons to colour the animals and plants. We added these as 3D models to the habitat. <http://www.bisb.org/project/food-chains-in-science/>

Such a project requires considerable maturity from the children. They need to work together, make decisions, share tasks, and reach agreement with each other at each

stage of the task. They had to decide how to share the written work and how best to create their diorama with the materials they had collected at the park. This required negotiation skills when they discovered that other pairs had a more interesting range of materials. Some of the pairs worked exceptionally well together, others found it hard to work things out fairly, others simply couldn't agree over certain parts of the task. It was very positive to see how the energy of some children helped others, who were more inclined to give up because it was difficult, to persevere and achieve great results. Come and take a look at the finished articles in the new autumn display!



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had a short week due to Photo Day, but we continued working on our project, singing and using words related to “L’automne chantonne”. We introduced other words related to l’automne in preparation for “Pumpkin Week: J’aime ma citrouille lumineuse! (I love my pumpkin lantern).

In Maths we continued with number ordering and placing numbers on beaded and landmarked lines. We also practised by picking random numbers and forming ‘human’ number lines around the hall. Everyone completed the first half term arithmetic test, which is given to check how well the work covered so far has been integrated. We also completed the autumn reading test, which consists of three short comprehension texts and sets of questions. We had fun with books this week, with children reading bits of their books to the class and everyone sharing classroom books during a reading afternoon. We also read “Rikki-Tikki-Tavi” by Rudyard Kipling as a class book. This is a difficult story with ‘old-fashioned’ literary language, but the children were fascinated by the story of the mongoose and the cobra and listened extremely well. I was amazed at how knowledgeable they are about animals, and at how well they can explain what they know. <http://www.bisb.org/project/sharing-books/>

Our talk topic for this week is “We have watched whales and wandered in the woods. Which animal habitat would you like to visit next, and why?”

We wish you a relaxing weekend,

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

There was more space related fun in the junior department this week. The children continued with their space week activities and now the ground floor level of the junior

department has become the street from the story 'Man on the moon – a day in the life of Bob'. We have made the starry sky, moon and planets, the street of houses where some humans and aliens lived and lots of super rockets used to go to the moon and back. Our last space week event was astronaut training; what a super couple of weeks we have had learning all about space!



This week in literacy we revised using commas in lists during our grammar lesson. The children looked at some examples and then had a go at adding commas in the right places in sentences. We explored some non-fiction books about space and discussed using a contents page, glossary and index and the features of a non-fiction text. We did the last week of spelling for this half term from the spelling scheme as well as the space themed words. Next week the children will be tested on their pumpkin words and spelling will continue with week one of the next half term's words after the break.

In maths we practised the 'frog method' of counting up to solve subtraction sums with two 2 digit numbers. The children learned how to bridge through multiples of 10 using this method and saw how effective it is and solving subtraction sums. We also looked at fractions as parts of a whole. We practised finding different amounts of a whole by making fraction strips and by counting how many parts of a shape have been shaded in.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished writing our fact sheet describing the solar system and its planets and wrote down the recipe of the chocolate cake we made last week. We also revised some vocabulary pertaining to the Sortilège outing by the Year 4 group next week.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we finished our beautiful and fun project for Space week "Bonjour l'Espace!" We learned many things about: le Soleil et les planètes (the sun and the planets). We got to participate and bake three different cakes: a delicious 'gâteau au chocolat du système solaire' and two delicious 'étoiles brillantes' (brilliant stars).

Next week is the last week of school before the half term holidays and we will turn out attention to pumpkins for pumpkin week! It promises to be lots of fun. There will be no homework given next week as it is the half term holidays. Homework will resume after the holiday.

Have a lovely weekend.

Camilla Rutayisire and Fiona King

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

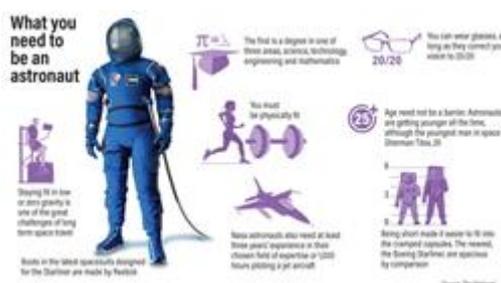
Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

It was another gloriously warm and beautiful week to be at school and in class.

The week was slightly disjointed because of School Photo Day and the final Space Week sessions which continued to inspire and enthral the children. It's been a bumper, action-packed fortnight and we say goodbye today with a more than

likely successful Astronaut Training Programme. The children will have learnt a bit of Russian, performed tricky microgravity manoeuvres, proved their high-level fitness and taken giant leaps for Juniorkind.



Beyond that, we dealt with time on clocks and began reading Cressida Cowell's 'Train your Dragon'. We explored the two main characters and wrote a description of our own invented dragons as the autumn Literacy assessment.

In Topic, we learnt about the Brothers Grimm, the period and atmosphere of Europe in which they wrote their fairy tales and the Germany they were born in.

Apart from that we joined forces with Year 6 for PE as we did a spot of Florr Gymnastics and then practised flicking and aiming skills in football.

Pumpkin Week's next week so the fun and progression keep rolling. We'll be enjoying all things pumpkin and orange and Sortilege isn't quite a Night at the Atomium but it comes a close 2nd; the children will not forget a truly memorable day out.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished writing our fact sheet describing the solar system and its planets and wrote down the recipe of the chocolate cake we made last week. We also revised some vocabulary pertaining to the Sortilège outing by the Year 4 group next week.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we finished our beautiful and fun project for Space week "Bonjour l'Espace!" We learned many things about: le Soleil et les planètes (the sun and the planets). We got to participate and bake three different cakes: a delicious 'gâteau au chocolat du système solaire' and two delicious 'étoiles brillantes' (brilliant stars).

For those not in the loop on Edmodo, our class trip to the forest has been moved to Wednesday 14th November so as not to interfere with Divali festivities.

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,

The final space week has gone by at such a speed. In fact it has rocketed by in a haze of enjoyment and activity.

On Monday we split up into groups and did various activities. The group with me made houses for our display in the entrance hall. The children worked in pairs and used their creativity to construct some beautiful houses. In the other art group the children busied themselves with rocket building and aliens. Science went on upstairs and astronaut food making took place next door. In the afternoon we found time to do our spelling test and get the dictation sentences for next week. I will test the first 3 sentences and the children need to make sure they know where the punctuation goes as well as how to spell the words.

On Tuesday the class had fun with Mrs Read while I was away. In Maths they revised multiples and factors, learning to recognise which numbers are divisible by 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9 and to identify multiples. In Literacy they read another chapter of Kensuke's Kingdom discussing new unfamiliar words and the story. The story was left with Michael being stung by a jellyfish and is close to death. In the afternoon they had a fun filled time making space rockets which they took home.



On Wednesday we had to be very presentable as it was photograph day. After our individual photos in the morning we set off for the Infants in order to have our school and sibling photos taken. The class was impeccably behaved and everything went very well. In the afternoon we again split into groups for our final space week rotation. The group with myself were busy drawing the people and aliens who are walking on the streets in our display.

On Thursday we spent the early morning doing numeracy. We have moved on from multiples and factors and began comparing fractions. First of all we counted in quarters and then looked at our fraction walls. We then did some work in our books. Tennis came next. As usual it was fun and games where we played matches and practiced our tennis strokes. After lunch we spoke about pronouns and the ambiguity that they sometimes present. We then found a little more time to read another chapter of our book. There we saw how Kensuke nursed Michael back to life and their relationship has now been strengthened.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we finished wrapping up our fun project and rockets for Space week. We talked about 'le système solaire, 'notre étoile soleil' (our star: the Sun) and the differences between our eight planets. It was impressive to hear them explaining the characteristics of every planet and 'le Soleil' (the Sun) in French. In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have finished the space project by reading more interesting information about the planets and making a wonderful space display in our French room.

Friday is astronaut training day and we will all be budding astronauts by the end of the day. To view the various activities we have been involved in please consult our class page <http://www.bisb.org/classes/year-5/>

The talk topic for this week is: Do you think Michael will ever leave the island?

Have a super 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,

The excitement is palpable for Thursday night in the Atomium. Whilst I am not included in the ‘secret’ muffled conversations, which stop as soon as I am in the vicinity, it would appear that I am in for a sleepless night! Pod-hopping, gadgets, midnight feasts are on the menu... and no doubt, the Year 6 ‘gambling’ syndicate (of HMS Cavalier fame), will be organising a Casino Pod somewhere! I have started packing: ear-defenders (military strength), two sets of ‘glow-in-the-dark angry eyes, dark sunglasses and a tub of miracle eye-cream for sleep-deprived teachers (available on Amazon)!



Another exciting week continuing our World Space Week activities; I am sure that the students have benefited from the variety of learning workshops on offer. On Tuesday, we completed our Abacus maths tests. I was delighted to see so many students checking and reworking their answers; all are now working at the Year 6 standard – terrific!

We have learnt, that August has ‘a previously unknown type of mandibulofacial dysostosis caused by an autosomal recessive mutation in the TCOF1 gene, which is located on chromosome 5’. Having revised the life cycle of humans, evolution and inheritance, we delved a little further into the topic of genetics. We covered Mendel’s pea plants, the strange case of the cyclops sheep and ‘sex determination – more complicated than you thought’ with Ted-Ed.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we finished wrapping up our fun project and rockets for Space week. We talked about ‘le système solaire, ‘notre étoile soleil’ (our star: the Sun) and the differences between our eight planets. It was impressive to hear them explaining the characteristics of every planet and ‘le Soleil’ (the Sun) in French.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have finished the space project by reading more interesting information about the planets and making a wonderful space display in our French room.

The pupils are busy revising stylistic and grammatical features for their unaided writing task next week. This week, we focused on paragraph cohesion and how to include a variety of punctuation in a text.

Warning - there is a very good chance that your child will be tired this evening. On their return from the Atomium, a final action-packed astronaut training day has been organised – what fun!

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

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

English as an Additional Language

We are nearly half way through the first term. The children have all settled into their classes, and the school routines, and have all made progress in their use of English.

In the Junior Department this week, we had a lot of practice making use of the phonics that we have covered, in writing. I am pleased to see the children's increased willingness to write, as they realise that writing is a good way to share their knowledge and ideas. In these writing activities, and in speaking and listening activities, we worked again on using the correct tense (e.g. Yesterday, I went to the hairdresser; Every day, I go to school; Next week, I will go to the park.) We also began to look at using connectives to join two sentences or phrases together (and, but, because, so).

In the Year One and Two small group, we have been looking at mathematical language, in connection with the children's work in class. We revised the phonics /sh/, /ch/, /th/ and /ng/, and also practised /ai/ and /ee/. Having discussed last week which animals are likely to live in the park, this week we talked about animals which live on farms.

The Reception small group this week played listening game, using vocabulary of the everyday environment. We also read the story *By the Stream*, in which a boy drops his teddy in the stream, and this led to interesting discussions about why it is dangerous to lean over water.



I wish you a happy weekend, and I look forward to seeing many parents at next week's parents' meetings.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read

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