

Home School Books – 09 November 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to nursery and we hope you had a restful half term break; it was great for the little ones to recharge their batteries ready for a busy few weeks ahead.



This half of the term is full of sparkle and shine, starting of course with Diwali, the festival of light and Bonfire night full of soaring rockets and spitting sparklers! To celebrate both occasions we have talked about, looked at and recreated a firework scene high above the city sky line. If you look opposite you can see your child's colourful pencil play fireworks, each child was asked if they could follow the lines with a felt tip pen.

This activity shows how your child's fine motor skills are developing and what the teacher needs to put into place to get their fingers moving with dexterity, which helps build up good pencil control for later stage writing. We also used it as a language activity and tried to think of as many different words to describe what the fireworks did. We came up with words like, fizzle, pop, bang, whoosh, sparkle, glitter, shine and explode! Talk to your child about the activity and see what they can remember about our discussions.

Next week we are starting our new topic which is 'people who help us' so watch this space for more information.

Please remember to send your child to nursery in a coat every day, especially in the mornings when it is at its coolest. Please don't let them choose not to wear one.

Our talk topic this week is 'When do we need to go to the dentist?'

Have a good weekend and why not wrap up warm and go for a lovely walk in one of the beautiful Brussels parks. The Autumn colours are still wonderful to see at the moment.

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,

This week has been great! Everyone was well rested after their holidays and happy to come back to school. The weather has also been great this week so we have spent lots of time playing outside and enjoying the warm autumn weather. In fact, because the weather is so good these days, we would like to go for our very first trip to the park next Tuesday! We will share the bus with the older children when they go swimming and we will have an hour to spend in the park, which gives us plenty of time to collect leaves and nuts in the park. We will leave the school with the bus at 10.55 and we'll be back from the park at 12.45. We do need four parent-volunteers to come with us, so we ask the parents who are able to come with us to please send us an email at receptionteacher@telenet.be or schooloffice@bisb.org .



In phonics this week we practised blending CVC words, reading them and writing them. We also sang some phonics songs to help us remember what sound each letter makes and what the letters look like.

In Maths we started to look at measuring and using the vocabulary associated with that. We learned that we call a higher thing taller and we call a smaller thing shorter. We also started to learn adding. In the beginning we only do very simple adding where we add one two a number between one and ten. Last but not least, we learned what it means when something is empty, full and half empty. To help us learn about empty, full and half empty we did some experiments with different colour water, which was great fun for everyone!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have resumed our autumn topic. We keep singing songs about rain but in vain because this autumn it does not rain much ! We drew beautiful “escargots” (snails) and other animals who like rain and learnt new songs. We also revised the fruit and vegetables of this beautiful season.

Finally, our talk topic for next week is: What is your favourite book? Tell us about it! And Stars of the week go to: Mithu for being good at practising her letters and doing great work in phonics! And to Ishaan, for knowing all the days of the week and for being really good at practising today, tomorrow and yesterday!

We hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Elín Hafstein and Ivana Julaton
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Please click [here](#) for our Reception webpage

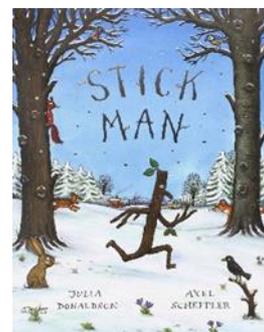
[Home School Book – Year 1](#)

Dear Parents,

We had super weather for our trip to the park on Tuesday, and we enjoyed using our different senses to see, hear, touch and smell (but not taste!) numerous things associated with autumn (you can see some photos at <http://www.bisb.org/project/year->

[1-november-2018/](#)). Many of the items we collected (leaves, berries, pine cones etc.) have already been used in our autumn art projects.

As usual, we began our week by learning our focus sounds, which this week share the same vowel digraph /oo/. This has a 'long' sound, as in 'moon', and a 'short' sound, as in 'book'. We created lists of words with each sound, and practised writing them both separately and in sentences. We also had our first spelling test on Wednesday, which went very well. Our Literacy focus for the next 3 weeks is the book 'Stick Man' - this week we read it together, discussed it and mapped it out on the board. Then, in pairs, the children created their own story map, placing pictures and text in the correct sequence.



In Maths, we have concentrated on 'teen' numbers, learning that they include 11 & 12, that they are made up of 10 and some 1s, and that the first-digit '1' in teen numbers stands for '10'. The children also had their first go at using 'place-value cards', which is a system we use to reinforce the concept of tens and units (and, later, hundreds). I have been very impressed by the children's learning this week. We also practised our biggest/smallest number and number-ordering skills (using 2, 3 or 4 random numbers), and finished off with a session on ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd etc.).

In our main Topic session, we continued learning about our senses - this week we investigated our sense of smell, and learned that our nose can help us detect dangerous or unhealthy substances and liquids. We did a fun activity involving six 'mystery smells' - a variety of strong-smelling things hidden in blacked-out pots, which the children had to smell, describe and then decide whether it was a pleasant or unpleasant smell.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished the story of Turloublanc who brought back colours to his white country, did some activities around the story and revised the prepositions we learnt before the break. We also listened to French nursery rhymes that we had learned in Reception and talked about autumn and the weather.

Our Talk Topic for Monday 12th November will be "When do we use our sense of touch?" Next week's Maths homework is called 'Mushroom Mayhem 1.7', and will be added to the children's ActiveLearn accounts on Sunday.

Finally, we have started practising for our Christmas Show, which will take place on Thursday 13th December. If you are planning to be away on that date, please let us know as soon as possible, so that we can avoid allocating roles to children who will not be taking part in the show. We will be sending out a letter about costume requirements soon.

We wish you an enjoyable 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,

It was lovely to welcome everyone back to school on Monday and to hear all the news of half term. This week has flown past with everyone getting back into a routine and working enthusiastically. Happy Diwali to all who celebrated!

It was good to see that the new reading books had been enjoyed over the holiday. Some of the book reviews were excellent and showed a good understanding of the story. It is not always easy to explain why we have enjoyed (or not enjoyed) a book, so we will be sharing a lot of stories with each other to develop ways of expressing our opinions. I have been impressed with the way that children are choosing to read extracts out loud in pairs – this definitely helps reading fluency and encourages others to try the books too.

In Topic work we have gone to the other end of the Earth to explore the Antarctic. This gives us the opportunity to study extreme habitats and to look at the way in which animals have adapted. We studied the idea of continents and looked at the globe to see where different countries can be found in relation to Antarctica. We watched various video clips showing the Antarctic landscape and compared it to the woodland and ocean habitats that we have already worked on. We then compared the different types of animal that can be found in each habitat and decided why they live where they do.

It has been particularly fascinating studying penguins – we found out that there are 17 species, of which have very particular characteristics. In art we worked in teams to make life-sized models of different penguins, which we have painted in black and white, before deciding on our specific species and adding the details. Did you know that penguins are black and white because the colours act as camouflage when they are swimming, but that this is called ‘countershading’ rather than camouflage? (I didn’t!) We have also written our first descriptions of life in Antarctica, trying to make our writing as interesting as possible. We listened to several penguin stories and talked about the way in which a story can be fiction, but also convey information, both through the writing and, particularly, the illustrations. We discussed how an illustrator might have to do specific research to ensure that the pictures are accurate.



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In maths we did some more work on ordinal numbers, practising lining up in number order and then giving our place numbers. We used random numbers between 0 – 100 and looked at how number patterns repeat. We counted backwards and forwards and played games in which we had to organize ourselves into number lines as a whole class. We also started work on money, identifying coins and determining their value. We found different combinations of coins to make certain amounts and noticed how money can help us to understand place value in 2-digit numbers. We practised adding and subtracting 10p to and from different amounts and used number squares to check our calculations.

Christmas is fast-approaching, and work has started on the Christmas play. The songs are already ringing around the classrooms and we will be getting the paintbrushes out to start the scenery. Could you please let us know if your child is likely to be absent on Thursday, December 13th, as we need to make sure that speaking parts are only given to children who are certain to be at school. We will send you a note next week with information on the costume your child will need. (This will be a simple t-shirt and tights in a particular colour).

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we introduced ‘ Je porte/ Qu’est-ce que tu portes? (I’m wearing / What are you wearing?), we talked about ‘les vêtements’ (clothing) and what we can wear en ‘Automne’ (in autumn) which allowed us to review the weather vocabulary.

Our talk topic for the week is “What would you like to find out about if you went to Antarctica?”

Enjoy your weekend!

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

year2teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

I’d like to wish a Happy Diwali to all who celebrate it. We had some fun this week discussing the festival of lights and making some lovely Diwali cards. We discussed how people celebrate Diwali around the world and the story of Rama and Sita. This week we’ve also been busy with starting to learn the songs for our annual Christmas production and we’ve also spent some time exploring Van Gogh’s work and discussing his life as an artist. We found out some interesting facts about him such as when he was born and when he died, where he lived and studied and that he only sold one of his paintings in his lifetime! We looked at some of his most famous work and had a go at doing our own impressionist paintings inspired by his piece ‘Starry Night.’ We are all looking forward to visiting the Van Gogh Immersive Experience on Monday.



This week in literacy we discussed in our grammar lesson how we use apostrophes. We revised how they are used to shorten words in contractions and then we explored using apostrophes to mark possession e.g. the tiger’s stripes, the artist’s easel, dad’s car. In our spelling lesson we did the first test on the new set of lists which is all about adverbs. Then we discussed forming adverbs where the root word ends in ‘y’ and has

more than one syllable. We also started a new text called 'Harry Miller's Run'. We explored our initial impression of the characters through discussing illustrations of them and came up with some predictions about who they were.

In maths we practised writing amounts of money using a decimal point and the correct notation. We then practised adding sets of mixed coins to make different amounts up to £5. The children also solved addition and subtraction problems using money. This week in science we discussed forces and what makes things move. We identified whether objects needed a push or pull in order to move and whether that force was required to make it start or stop moving.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on les vêtements (clothing) and 'Qu'est-ce que tu portes aujourd'hui? What are you wearing today? We combined this topic with the weather forecast, the seasons and the days of the week through an interactive game called 'match de tennis' where they had to use and play with the clothing vocabulary while constructing simple and coherent phrases.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched another chapter of the film "Kirikou". We revised the French alphabet and did some spelling exercises, we revised a few classical topics and counting. We also worked in our TipTop exercises books.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Fiona King

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

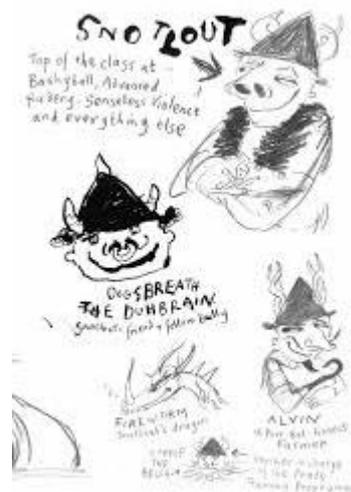
Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

The children were fresh and fighting fit after a clearly re-energising half term break. Ready and eager to learn and right on the ball, the classroom was a hive of activity but also a scene of tranquillity.

We began by exploring food chains and organism keys in Habitats and later went about measuring various things around school, converting cm into m or mm and vice versa in maths. The following day, we added up using column method but the class got really drawn into our current Literacy text, How to Train your Dragon. The children used dictionaries (and me) to find definitions to new adventurous words and delved into the text to profile characters.

In particular, we analysed the baddie of the story, Snotface Snotlout and his friend Dogsbreath.



On Wednesday, the whole Junior Department had its first run-through of the Christmas Show which spread a hubbub of excitement through the school although not quite as much as did Diwali – the Indian Festival of Light. Presents were exchanged, stories explained, happenings recounted and informative videos were watched on Espresso learning platform – it was a lovely, positive day. The Year 4s also learnt how to subtract using the ‘expanded method’ and this was a most intriguing exercise as it really drew the children’s attentions to what happens when taking away bigger numbers and exposed a few misconceptions and weaknesses too!!!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on les vêtements (clothing) and ‘Qu’est-ce que tu portes aujourd’hui? What are you wearing today? We combined this topic with the weather forecast, the seasons and the days of the week through an interactive game called ‘match de tennis’ where they had to use and play with the clothing vocabulary while constructing simple and coherent phrases.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched another chapter of the film “Kirikou”. We revised the French alphabet and did some spelling exercises, we revised a few classical topics and counting. We also worked in our TipTop exercises books.

In PE, the children really loved playing basketball and enjoyed learning to dribble and shoot for 2 or 3 points. This new sport and the warm weather helped make our time in the yard most enjoyable.

And that was our week.

Enjoy your weekend and have a restful weekend ready for exertions come Wednesday in the majestic Foret des Soignes!

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,

Welcome back after our half term break. We welcomed new classmates into our class and hope that both Aishwarya and Arnav enjoy being in our class.

In Literacy we have been learning some really interesting words beginning with -g. it will be interesting to use these words in our future creative writing. Our dictation sentences are over and this week’s spelling is focused on silent letters. We read a text about Vincent van Gogh and did a comprehension and crossword. In this way we found out a lot about this interesting artist. We looked at a photo of some old fashioned hob nailed boots and discussed



who they might have belonged to and who could have worn them. After reading the first 2 pages of our new class book, we had a very lively discussion as to who Harry Miller was and why it would be his last day in his house. In grammar we took a look at auxiliary verbs and had fun using them in sentences.

In Numeracy we looked at multiplying 3 and 4 digit numbers by single digit numbers. We revised using the ladder or column method and the grid method. We enjoyed estimating which sums had the largest answers and putting them in order. We doubled and halved numbers, many times into decimals. We have also done some story problems where the children had to use multiplication to find the answers. In Art we looked at van Gogh's paintings and then chose one to copy. We coloured these with crayons, felt tips and pastels. The effects are wonderful.

In Computing we again explored the wonderful world of Tynker coding and did the second unit this time. In this unit we had to move a dragon along to get the treasure. We had to use a repeat loop which was tricky for some children.

We have finished reading through the Christmas play and have been tasked with learning our words as soon as possible. Perhaps you could help your child with this at home.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we introduced the 'possessive pronouns' through role-playing and going over short and fun dialogues. We also reviewed the possessive adjectives and we did several interactive group activities to work with the possessive pronouns and adjectives .

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished reading our witch story by Pierre Gripari and watched the movie of it. We also worked on counting, writing and spelling numbers up to a thousand. We also learnt the ordinal numbers like "premier, deuxième, troisième...etc."

In PE on Wednesday, we played handball until the rain forced us to stop. On Thursday we played a game of circular rock, paper, scissors which involves team work. This game was hotly contested and finally won 5:4 by Arnav's team. Thank you for sending in your money and permission slips for our outing on Monday. We will be leaving soon after 9am so please could you get your child to school on time. We shall be back by lunch time.

The talk topic is: which is your favourite painting by van Gogh? Discuss why you like this particular painting.

Have a super relaxing 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 thrilling week – Diwali, The Antwerp Diamond Centre (AWDC) and Christmas is Forever!

On Monday, in order to refresh our memories, two pupils gave whistle-stop presentations about our Diamonds are Forever project. By the end of the morning, we were glistening with diamond knowledge and prepared for our trip. Thank you for ensuring that your child arrived at Gare Centrale before 07.40. We caught the 08.01 train (a double-decker to add the excitement) and arrived in Antwerp in time for our meeting. This is a unique opportunity – to be able to sit in the boardroom of the AWDC, and then, using a range of sophisticated equipment, analyse and grade natural diamonds for the 4Cs: colour, clarity, cut and carat. The students visited various locations in the diamond district, before being presented with their certificates.



Students are designing diamond pop-up thank you cards to send to our hosts at the AWDC. Using the 4cs as inspiration, they are composing their texts as a diamond grading report.

Continuing with our diamond project, next week, our first Year 6 Debating Club event will take place; ‘Should the Koh-i-Noor be returned to its rightful owner?’ Students have already been introduced to the controversy surrounding this famous diamond and, this weekend, will need to research the topic. Teams ‘for and against’ will be announced thirty minutes before the debate. We have ‘bags’ in our classroom for ‘preconceived ideas and personal emotions’; these are to be ‘put’ into the bags before the debate begins. Key skills being developed are: reasoning and evidence, expression and delivery, listening and responding and organisation and prioritisation.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we introduced the ‘possessive pronouns’ through role-playing and going over short and fun dialogues. We also reviewed the possessive adjectives and we did several interactive group activities to work with the possessive pronouns and adjectives .

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished reading our witch story by Pierre Gripari and watched the movie of it. We also worked on counting, writing and spelling numbers up to a thousand. We also learnt the ordinal numbers like “premier, deuxième, troisième...etc.”.

We finished reading (and listening to an audio version) ‘Wonder’ on Monday afternoon and everyone was eager to watch the film. As a teacher, it is always reassuring to observe how much of the story, students have absorbed. Throughout our viewing, I could hear children commenting about, and referring to the text, making comparisons etc.; there was an air of satisfaction about having a clear and deep understanding about this story.

We are taking a closer look at algebra. Students began by exploring simple one and two-step function machines and understanding these as simple algebraic expressions.

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,

Welcome back, and Happy Diwali to all those celebrating this week. It has been very interesting to hear about the activities the children did during the half term holiday.

In the Year One and Two EAL small group we have been practising vocabulary relating to the park and the forest, in connection with Year One's trip to the park, and also with Year One's reading of the book Stick Man. We practised using a variety of verbs (including make, build, use, put, attach, swing, throw) with the construction You can ... as part of the conversation about what we can do with a stick.

In the Reception class, the children have been exploring the idea of comparing size and amount, and in the Reception EAL small group, we have been practising the vocabulary relating to these concepts, in the context of the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. This also gave us the opportunity to talk about what we do at home, and what we can find in a house.



In the Junior EAL small group this half term, while I plan to continue giving the children plenty of opportunity to practise their speaking and listening, I also plan to spend more time each week developing the children's literacy skills. Through focused reading, I hope to broaden the children's vocabulary, and skills of understanding full sentences. Through focused writing, we will develop fluency and confidence, and will also have practise using correct grammar structures. This week, we enjoyed our writing focus activity, which was making small posters to explain how Diwali is celebrated. We also spent some time working on using the simple past tense, especially for irregular verbs (which includes most of the commonly used verbs).

The links to stories did not work in my last letter. I will try again. These stories are especially suitable for the Infant children

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_f95a4MX7M&list=PLPnDZ5RCbnq6ENYbHputbki1i2s02_6KW

and for the Junior children this is one example of several good story-readings to be found by searching: youtube cbbc Jackanory
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atV6YmMlvYM>

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read
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