

Home School Books – 11 January 2019.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents

Happy New Year and welcome back to what we hope will be a fun packed and fruitful spring term in 2019!

The children have started back with renewed energy after all of the coughs and colds from last term, so let's hope we can keep it that way. We are going to revisit our hygiene routines with the children, to help keep the spread of germs to a minimum, so please remind your little one to wash hands after using the toilet and before eating.

Plus when sneezing or coughing to do it into the crease of the elbow and not into the hands, as this helps too. Please do not give your child a cotton handkerchief to use, as we encourage children to use paper tissues and then put them in the bin straight away, again another way to help to contain the spread of germs. Above all else, the best thing to help stop the spread of viruses, is **please do not send your child to school when they are unwell and keep them at home until they are fully recovered!** Then hopefully we can get through the Winter season well!

Our new topic is all about 'space, rockets and other things' and it has started with great excitement. You may have noticed our fantastic Rocket Ship that we have in nursery. We introduced the topic during circle time this week and have already decided we would like to fly to the moon or Mars but not to the sun because it's too hot! The children wondered if we might meet any aliens there and what does an actual alien look like? Someone suggested it might look like a big frog or a lion or even a teacher, so we definitely need more discussion on this subject!



If you look opposite, you will see a space rockets or space stars cutting out activity and we have included an extra sheet for you to do more practice with your little one on their cutting out skills, at home. This is such an important skill to acquire and takes a lot of concentration and coordination for your child to achieve it. So the more practise the better!

We have welcomed three new children into nursery this week, Sashvanth and Rugved, who have joined our morning session and Anuvrat in our afternoon session, so please say hello to their mum's and dad's when you come to pick your child up.

Our adventures in space will continue next week, so watch out for any strange looking creatures; they might be the aliens we are waiting for! **Our talk topic is also space related 'If an alien came around for tea, what would you give them to eat?'**

Have a lovely weekend and keep warm!

Thank you
Alison Davies and Inés van Wassenhove

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

Home School Book – Reception

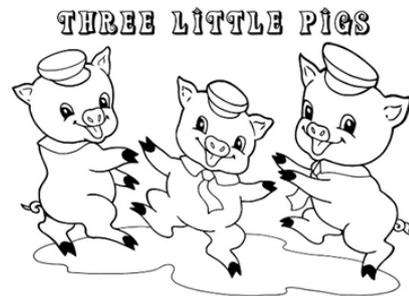
Dear Parents,

Our first week back after the holidays has been eventful, fun and lovely. We were all happy to see each other after the holidays and it has been nice to settle back into our routine. We also welcomed a new friend to our class this week – Myrah. Although we are very sad to see Mithu leave, and we will all miss her dearly, we are very happy to have Myrah as our newest addition to the class!

In phonics this week we learned the ai diagraph, the ee diagraph and the igh diagraph. Again, we learned that some diagraphs only come in the middle of a word or at the end of a word but never at the beginning, like ee and igh. Additionally, we have been practising the sounds for the letters which we learned last term and we practised reading simple CVC words.

In Maths we continued to work with numbers. The children are now learning that the teen numbers are 10 plus. This means that they are starting to understand that eighteen, is ten and eight, and thirteen, is three and ten. The children also practised ordering numbers 1 - 20. Both of these things can be quite challenging but the children still did a good job.

Furthermore, as we are starting a new term, we also started a new topic. These next few weeks our topic is Fairy tales! In the next few weeks we will be reading lots of fairy tales, discussing them and trying to learn a little something from each and every one of them. We have no doubt that this will be a fun topic for everyone!



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we wished each other “bonne année” and we resumed talking about the weather using all the vocabulary we now know. We sang old and new songs on the same subject and we also talked about the clothes we wear according to the weather.

The talk topic this week is: What did you like best about the Three Little Pigs story?

Finally, the stars of the week go to Mihir, for doing a great job in phonics this week and for being really good at practicing his writing and to Aarush for being really good at practising his sounds, his writing and his reading.

Elín Hafstein and Ivana Julaton

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

It was great to see all the children back at school after the holidays. We have quickly re-found our rhythm, although there have been a few small changes to our weekly timetable.

Our focus this term in Literacy will initially be on story-telling, using some well-known stories to help us with ideas for plots and endings. Later in the term, we will move on to non-fiction work. We started this week with the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt': reading, illustrating, acting and discussing it, then thinking of alternative things we could hunt for, in different locations. In Phonics, we started work on Phase 4, which is all about 'consonant clusters' - pairs or groups of adjacent consonants which can be used at the beginning or end of words. This week we looked at pairs of consonants used to start words, such as 'black', 'flight', 'swing', 'train' and so on.

In Maths, we have been working on the concepts of 1 and 2 more and less, and learnt to use the terms 'before' and 'after' in this context. We have also spent some time reinforcing our knowledge of 'digits' in 2-digit numbers - i.e. that the 1st digit stands for the number of 10s and the second for the number of 1s - and did some exercises with place-value cards to reinforce this. Finally, we studied the arrangement of numbers on a 100-square, learnt about rows and columns, and spotted number patterns, for example when highlighting all the numbers beginning with 3, or ending with 7, and so on. You can see your child's work on this in their Home School Book.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Our new topic for this term is 'All About Toys'. Over the next twelve weeks, we will be looking at toys of different categories, what they are made of, how they work and where they come from. This week, we began by sorting toys into categories, and then looked at some toy bears, comparing old with new. To coincide with our topic, on 23rd January we will be visiting the Brussels Museum of Natural Sciences, where there is a children's exhibition all about bears - real and imaginary. You will soon receive a separate letter with details of this trip.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have started a new story "Une maison de musiciens" and we started by learning the vocabulary of musical instruments and sang the song "Nous sommes les musiciens...". In this story, the children will learn a lot of new vocabulary relating to the human body, the house, the family etc.

The first week of swimming for Group A was very successful, and in Group B, we finished our last piece of work on instructions, ready to start coding next week, and we also had fun doing a variety of rolls on the gym mats in the Library!

Talk Topic for next week will be "What is your favourite toy, and why?"

Maths homework will be 'Marching Madness 1.12' - all about missing numbers!

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru

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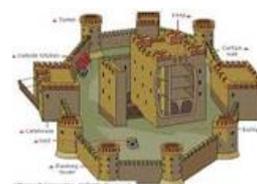
Please click [here](#) for our Year 1 webpage

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

It was a real pleasure to see 21 smiley faces coming into the classroom on Monday – and even more of a pleasure to have 21 enthusiastic children working hard all week!

Our new topic for the Spring is 'Castles and Dragons'. We will be looking at the historical aspect of castles – where and why they were built, and at the design and technology involved in the buildings. This links to our new Science work on materials. Dragons is a perfect theme for exploring literature and poetry and ideal for practising our creative writing skills and extending our vocabulary. The spelling list this week included quite complicated words about castles, these will be useful throughout the topic, so it is well worth learning them carefully (but please don't worry if they aren't all learnt perfectly in one go).



In addition to our work on castles, we are rounding off our work on animals and their habitats by looking at Bears, before visiting the Bear exhibition at the Natural Sciences Museum on January 23rd. We watched a video on bears, identified the characteristics of



the different species and mapped out where each can be found on a world map, creating a legend to differentiate between each type of bear. The exhibition also looks at the way in which bears have become so important as toys, so we have been reading some of the 'Old Bear' books by Jane Hissey. These feature a whole range of toy bears and animals and have amazing coloured pencil illustrations. Many of the stories are available as animated versions on youtube

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePCof76DLO0 and are well worth watching. We followed an online tutorial on drawing bears and also watched an interview with Jane Hissey in which she explains how she illustrates her books. Once we knew how to draw the basic outline and features it was much easier to create our own original versions - the results are impressive.

In literacy we identified the sequence of events in Old Bear and created a written story board. In grammar we are learning the difference between the past and present tenses and converting sentences from one to the other. Some verbs are easy to change, others are far less obvious, so this is definitely work in progress!

In maths we started a new Abacus workbook and took another look at place value, number patterns and number sequencing. We identified odd and even numbers and looked at the differences between one- and two-digit numbers, adding and subtracting by using coins, bead strings and place value cards. Our maths challenge this week was based on the 2- and 5-times tables.

We also used lots of maths in our PE lessons – racing against the clock to divide ourselves into different sized groups and playing games involving direction, speed and quick calculations. We practiced our ball skills with an easy version of basketball.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about the use of the definite article ‘le and la’ when used with ‘les instruments de musique’. We learned how to use and ask questions with ‘jouer du/ jouer de la’ combined with different musical instruments. We also sang and discussed a fun song showing these examples.

Our talk topic is “Why are some bears threatened with extinction, and what should we do about it?”

We wish you a very Happy New Year and a relaxing weekend, many thanks for the boxes and bottles sent in already for our castle model – it promises to be a very large one!

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school after the Christmas break. We’ve gotten straight to work on our new topic ‘Celebrity Chef.’ For this topic we will be focusing on the text ‘The Delicious Life of Julia Child’ which is an autobiography of the famous American Chef Julia Child written specifically for children. We have already found out lots of interesting things about her including that she came from a town called Pasadena, California, she was a spy in world war 2 and she wrote a cookery book called ‘Mastering the Art of French Cooking’ which still sells oodles of copies.



In our art lesson we did a cross curricular display to make a ‘fractions picnic’ linking our food topic to work we’ve done in mathematics.

This week in literacy we started reading our new text and used some new vocabulary from the book in our own sentences – ‘oodles’, ‘gangly’, ‘gleefully’ ‘pioneering’ and ‘effervescence’. In our grammar lesson we looked at how adverbs are used for different purposes – to describe how an action is done, when it is done and where it’s

done. We looked at identifying the purpose of adverbs within sentences and then rewrote example sentences to contain the appropriate adverb.

In maths we returned to looking at the greater than and less than signs to compare sets of numbers. We practised using them to compare three or more numbers at a time. We also practised writing numbers that come between any two given three digit numbers. We then used our knowledge of place value to solve word problems and did problems involving multiplying and dividing by 10.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on 'la phrase négative' with 'avoir (to have) and how to request something using 'puis-je avoir' with the masculine and feminine indefinite article (un, une) , then we applied it to our fun game 'puis-je avoir..?' (may I have?..) . They also got to give a brief presentation about themselves. In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched another episode of the film "Les trois brigands", we revised the months of the year and the days of the week and wrote them in our notebook. We also worked in our exercises books.

In our topic lesson we started to discuss World War 2. We found out why the war started and identified allied and axis countries. We ordered key events in the war along a timeline which helped us to understand the chronology of the war and we learned that it lasted 6 years from 1939 to 1945.

Our Talk Topic this week is 'During World War 2 people couldn't always get the ingredients they needed for their recipes. How do you think they tried to solve the problem?'

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,

It was a very gentle and enjoyable return to school and the Spring Term. We slid easily into place value, and rounding maths and relaxed into our chairs to start a new tropical non-fiction persuasive writing unit about rainforests.

To begin, we read Jeannie Baker's collage picture book, 'Where the River Meets the Sea' delving into its message and the jungle. This was followed up with some research into the rainforests of the world: what makes them important, what is making them disappear and what can be done to stop it. Our Topic is Superhero and the children are already abuzz about the



character they will write a comic strip for, the environmental problem they will fight to fix and the gadget they will use to defeat it!

This week, the class had their first go at making a comic using LEGO Comic Builder. This took us upstairs to the ICT suite and to a lot of fun, as the children really enjoyed selecting the scenery, Lego people, narration captions, onomatopoeic sound bursts and the all-important speech bubbles to add to their creation.

Guided reading groups learnt (or will learn next week) the features typical of these 'graphic stories/novels'.

The week actually began with wrapping up our old Science topic. We put away the festive period with an experiment about varying the number of bulbs in a circuit.

In Circle Time, we talked about times when we have been proud but the class can consider themselves very proud of the way they have welcomed new classmate, Pranaya from Chennai; it wasn't difficult to recruit a volunteer for First Day Friend to help her settle in and I was impressed when a Second Day Friend also came forward on Tuesday!!!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on 'la phrase négative' with 'avoir (to have) and how to request something using 'puis-je avoir' with the masculine and feminine indefinite article (un, une) , then we applied it to our fun game 'puis-je avoir..?' (may I have?..) . They also got to give a brief presentation about themselves. In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched another episode of the film "Les trois brigands", we revised the months of the year and the days of the week and wrote them in our notebook. We also worked in our exercises books.

And that was our week.

Our Talk Topic for this week is: What is the biggest problem facing humankind now?

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,

It is good to see the children back after the winter break. I hope you all had a very good time.

In Literacy we have been very busy. Linked to our topic, we found out all about David Attenborough. We spoke of his life and his work and watched a few examples of his very excellent documentaries. We then chose an animal to research using a worksheet. We discovered facts about the animal as well as where it lived and what it ate. After this, using a writing frame, we constructed a short documentary about our

animal. Finally we performed this to the class. To follow up on this we used our Art time to begin a poster about our animal which will go on the board to decorate the classroom. Before the break we had been discussing standard and non-standard English and we followed this up with work on the double negative. After doing quite a few examples, we read an account by an old man about a giant. The class picked up the double negatives and the non-standard English use and we had fun deciphering some examples. There were also comprehension questions to answer about this text. Returning to our book, Harry Miller's run, we began to make connections, looked at Harry's life in a box and discussed what our "life in a box" would contain.



In Numeracy we have been focusing on place value of 6 digit numbers. We plotted numbers on a number line. We have been doing "no work" addition and subtraction. These are operations where we change just certain digits in a number. We then looked at place value of decimals before multiplying and dividing by ten, hundred and a thousand. We have also looked at rounding decimals to the nearest whole number.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started with 'je me présente' where every student got to prepare and deliver a brief and personal summary of himself or herself. We also talked about how to distinguish feminine or masculine nouns, and we went on using feminine and masculine definite, indefinite articles and possessive adjectives (ma, mon, mes) with common nouns and vocabulary we've already acquired. We also talked about 'Ma Famille' and my relatives.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we revised the vocabulary pertaining to the family which is more difficult than we think. This also gave us the opportunity to revise the possessives which are also not easy! A difficult but fun week!

We had fun outside during PE and explored throwing and catching techniques. From next week in Music, the class is again expected to bring their recorders in. Our new music days are Wednesdays and Thursdays with Wednesdays being our recorder day.

Next week we will be focusing on Margaret Hamilton. As with David Attenborough, it would be good if the children had a heads up on who she was.

Our science topic will be about living things and will initially focus on flowers.

The talk topic is: Discuss what you and your family would put into a "life in a box"

Warm regards,

Valeria Vetter and Ena Tolentino

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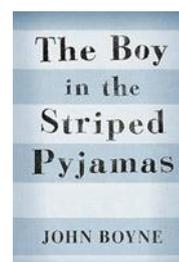
Please click [here](#) for our Year 5 webpage

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

As always, it was great to see the children return to school with smiling faces and full of energy. I do hope that you all enjoyed the festive season; I wish you much health and happiness in 2019.

We have launched straight into our revision programme for the forthcoming examinations in May, as well as beginning our next project - World War II. This week, we have studied the events leading up to the outbreak of the war, including the (unpopular) Treaty of Versailles. Our new book is 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' that is about a small boy, Bruno, who has to move to a place called 'Out-With' with his family. Using our 'paw-patrol' friends, the students answered comprehension questions about the first two chapters of the books. All students have been given individual reading books from the new class collection. Also, we learnt about the work of Alan Turing and the Enigma machine; the students have a comprehension homework on this topic.



Daily workouts in maths, literacy and grammar are on the menu this term. One of our first stumbling blocks was understanding the use of relative pronouns - which and that - in restrictive and non-restrictive clause; this proved to be a challenge, but eventually, we found a Year 6 'hack' to make life easier; you can find more information about this in this week's support folder.

In maths, we worked on the following: identifying the value of each digit in numbers given to 3 decimal places and multiply numbers by 10, 100 and 1,000 giving answers up to 3 decimal places. Multiplying 1-digit numbers with up to 2 decimal places by whole numbers. Using written division methods in cases where the answer has up to 2 decimal places and solving problems which require answers to be rounded to specified degrees of accuracy.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started with 'je me présente' where every student got to prepare and deliver a brief and personal summary of himself or herself. We also talked about how to distinguish feminine or masculine nouns, and we went on using feminine and masculine definite, indefinite articles and possessive adjectives (ma, mon, mes) with common nouns and vocabulary we've already acquired. We also talked about 'Ma Famille' and my relatives.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we revised the vocabulary pertaining to the family which is more difficult than we think. This also gave us the opportunity to revise the possessives which are also not easy! A difficult but fun week!

Our Talk Topic this week is 'How does the view from your bedroom window compare to that of Bruno's?'

We have a few outings on the horizon: 22nd January – theatre trip to Montagne Magique; 19th February – the House of European History; a trip to the Mill at Evere

and a workshop at the Jewish Museum. You should have received the letter about Montagne Magique; there is a copy of this on Edmodo.

Happy 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

It is lovely to see the children again, and I have enjoyed hearing a little about their adventures during the holiday.

This week, in the Junior Department, the EAL small group sessions worked on using adverbs. The children were quick to understand the concept, and were very imaginative in finding adverbs including, for example, threateningly, dangerously, worriedly. We also talked about how to use time and place phrases to show where and when something is happening. In connection with Year 3's study of World War Two, we spent some time talking about continents, countries and cities in the world, and had a very interesting discussion about the problems faced by people during any war. This involved high order thinking skills, and some complex language to explain our thoughts.

In the Year One and Two EAL small group this week, we talked about toys, in connection with Year One's topic. We also reread the story We're Going on a Bear Hunt. Together we put the parts of the story in sequence, and the children practised saying the repeated lines from the story aloud, with clarity and expression. They also had a chance to read (with a partner) the book Run, Cat, Run, and to write a short paragraph about their holiday.

The Reception EAL small group this week enjoyed reading the story of the Three Little Pigs, in connection with their class work. They improvised their own spoken lines very well when we dramatized the story after reading it. We also worked on the ordinal numbers first, second, third.

I wish you a very happy weekend, and I am available to discuss your child's progress in English: if you would like to make an appointment to see me, please use the email address below.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read

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