

Home School Books – 1 February 2019.

Home School Book – Nursery

We are still not back to full numbers yet, so another fairly quiet week in nursery, with the snow on top of that; Mother Nature is not making it easy for us at the moment!

Regardless of the elements, the children have enjoyed a variety of language based activities this week and did particularly well trying to name the planets. If you look opposite, you will see a word mat with the planets and their names and a matching planet and pencil play activity. This is a great game for you to play with your child at home, to consolidate what they have learned so far and to help them remember the names of the planets long term, not just for a moment.



Thank you to everyone who looked at the space word mat with their child last week. A number of the children in circle time were able to use words like Satellite and asteroid, when they were asked to think of something you would find in space.

We have finally finished our flying saucers with the five little men, ready to fly them around the nursery. Ask your little one to sing you the song, which they should know word perfect by now! Mrs Davies even sings it in her sleep!

Just a few quick reminders:- can we please request that you only send your child in gloves with fingers if they are able to put them on independently. Otherwise they should have a pair of mittens with only the thumb to contend with. This is ideal and saves a lot of time when getting ready to go outside to play. We realise that the temperatures are cooler than many people are used to but please do not put more than two layers of clothing on your child. Especially underneath trousers, someone had five layers on this week! This does make it rather difficult for your child to move around and sit crossed legged in circle time, not to mention going to the toilet without it turning into a major operation! We also have central heating, so it does get rather warm for the children when they are too wrapped up. A good quality warm coat and a pair of gloves and a hat and weather proof shoes, is all that is required over our indoor clothes, to keep us all snug outside.

Our talk topic for discussion next week is; Why do we need to take turns and share the toys in nursery?

Have a great weekend

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,

We have had some questions regarding reading books. The children are all reading with us at school every week, but naturally they are at slightly different levels of reading. Once we feel that a child is ready, they will take a book home with them to read with parents. If your child is not bringing a book home yet, there is absolutely nothing to worry about and rest assured that they are reading with us at school.

This week we have focused a lot on our topic work, Fairy Tales! We read the story of The Ugly Duckling and we also revisited some of the stories we have already read, like Jack and the Beanstalk and The Three Little Pigs. We learned that we can divide simple stories into three chapters, beginning, middle and end. The children discussed what happened in the beginning of the story, that the duck hatched a lot of eggs and that out of one of the eggs came a bigger duckling that looked different to the others. In the middle of the story the duckling was teased and ran away from home. Sadly, wherever he goes he is mistreated because everyone thinks he is ugly. Finally, at the end of the story, the duckling learns that he isn't a duckling at all, he is actually a beautiful swan!



In phonics this week we learned two new digraphs. Or as in for, story, forest and corn. And ur, as in purse, nurse, turtle and purple. The children wrote some consonant – vowel – consonant (cvc) words like bat, man, sun and bun. We also learned the new high frequency word are (a high frequency word is a common word that we can't always read phonetically). The children are improving steadily in reading and writing CVC words and they did a great job in phonics this week!

In maths this week we started to learn about doubling. We learned that if you double 1 then you get 2, if you double 2 then you get 4, and if you double 3 you get 6, and so on. The children were also introduced to the vocabulary, and the signs for, plus and equal. i.e. when you double 2 and get 4, you can also say $2+2=4$ (two plus two equals four).

The talk topic this week is: Why was everyone mean to the Ugly Duckling? Has anyone ever been mean to you because you were different? Have you ever been mean to someone because you thought they were strange or different?

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked about the weather again because of the snow but we also went on with our very exciting topic: animals. We played a giant memory game, we sang lots of songs about winter and animals and we dressed a little man with winter clothes: des bottes (boots), un bonnet (a winter hat), une écharpe (a scarf), des gants (gloves), etc ...

Finally, the stars of the week go to Aashrita for doing a fantastic job with CVC words this week and for being so very good at practicing her reading and her writing! And to Magizhvini for doing a great job with doubling this week and for always being so good at practising her numbers! Well done Aashrita and Magizhvini!

Have a lovely weekend

Elín Hafstein and Ivana Julaton

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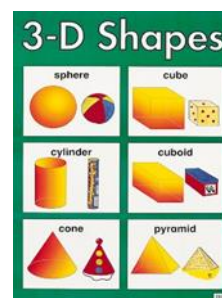
Please click [here](#) for our Reception webpage

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

We completed our work on Phase 4 of the phonics programme this week, by looking at the 14 Phase 4 'tricky words'. We made up sentences containing each word in turn, looked at their spelling and how they differ from 'normal' words, and then practised writing them. As the children's reading progresses, they will come across more and more of these words, so it is important that they learn to recognise them quickly - it would be very helpful if you could practise with them, using their 'tricky word' bookmarks. In Grammar, we looked at the concept of 'plural', and began learning the rules for adding -s or -es to nouns to signify more than one of something. We also finished our work on 'The Three Little Pigs' this week, by each making up a story map for our own version of the tale. There were some imaginative characters, some well-constructed story maps, and some beautifully recounted tales. We will be practising this skill again in a few weeks' time, when we move on to our next main text: Mr Gumpy's Outing. Some of you will already have received a copy of this book on loan - please read it with your child, so that he/she becomes familiar with the story. Then return the book on Monday 4 February, so that the other half of the class may also read it before we start work.

In Maths this week, we spent the first 3 lessons on 3-D shapes - their names, properties and terminology, including the new words 'faces' (not 'sides') and 'edges' (where two faces meet). We played a number of games to reinforce our knowledge, and used the steepest slope possible to test our shapes' ability to slide and/or roll - we learned that certain shapes can have both flat and curved faces (cone and cylinder), and that these shapes will then both roll and slide. We then spent 2 lessons on the concept of time - longer periods such as days and months - and learned how to work out 'the day after tomorrow', 'the day before yesterday', 'the month after next' and so on.



This week's Science investigation was all about floating and sinking: the children were asked to predict whether a series of materials and objects would float or sink, and they then had to test each one to see whether they were correct - apologies for those children who came home with wet sleeves! We also discussed how we could use this information, for example if we wanted to choose a material to make a boat.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still learning the vocabulary related to the human body with the help of songs, games, and stories all of them pertaining to the human body. We also created our very own memory game and wrote down the body parts on it.

In preparation for Chinese New Year next week, we listened to a story about the 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac, then made Chinese lanterns as our Art project. The swimming group is making good progress, and the non-swimming children are working their way quickly through the coding lessons on the iPads, and also enjoying some fun indoor gymnastics moves!

Talk Topic for next week will be "do all children in the world have the same type and number of toys?"

Maths homework will be 'Clam Collector 1.15' - all about counting in 2s and 5s.

Have a good 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,

We have had a messy, but thoroughly creative week enjoying our dragons and castles theme. We started off by reading a beautiful picture book in which each page features a different dragon, with a description of what it looks like and what its habits are. We each voted for our favourite one and explained how we had made our choice. Next, we drew our own dragons, adding details and trying to show its character through the drawing. In order to write a description, we realized that we needed to make our usual short sentences much more interesting, so we turned to the grammar pages and learnt all about adjectives, revising nouns along the way. We had fun making up sentences using interesting and vivid adjectives. Once the ideas were flowing, we set about writing our own dragon descriptions. There were some great sentences and lots of imaginative ideas. Take a look at the photos and our resident artist's dragon (I'm not very good at them!) <http://www.bisb.org/project/using-adjectives-to-describe-our-dragon/>

In topic work we finally started constructing our castles. Working in 3s, each group had to build a medieval castle using the boxes, rolls, bottles and material brought in from home. We found information on how castles were built from books, photos and video clips and drew up a list of essential design elements. These include battlements, a drawbridge, portcullis, arrow slits, towers and turrets. Each group has lolly sticks, scissors, glue, tape and a ruler and can ask for assistance from a 21st century glue gun, but otherwise there is no design guidance and they have to make the portcullis and drawbridge work. The activity links well to our Science work on materials and we quickly discovered some of the different properties of plastic and cardboard when they fell off the models due to being too heavy, too difficult to bend or too difficult to cut accurately. We used maths skills to measure battlements and make conical turrets, and we are working on mechanisms for lifting drawbridges and portcullises. Mrs Tollentino was a great medieval paparazza and managed to get some action shots of the builders at work: <http://www.bisb.org/project/lets-build-a-castle/>

In Science we described the properties of different materials by using adjectives such as ‘absorbent’, ‘rough’, ‘textured’ and ‘dull’. We then classified a range of materials according to these criteria and discussed the materials that would have been used in real medieval castles.

In maths we revised 2D shapes and learnt about 3D shapes, describing them according to their faces, edges and corners. We classified them using Venn and Carroll diagrams. We compared shapes and looked at how 2D shapes can be transformed into their 3D equivalents by creating nets that can be folded and glued together.



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on planning a visit and a fun scene ‘chez le docteur’, and we learned how to tell le docteur what hurts, using the expression ‘Avoir mal’. In addition, they got to apply Avoir mal with the vocabulary related to ‘le corps humain’.

We had a great time in PE with an obstacle course involving running, jumping, throwing and kicking a ball, and had our first go at skipping – both individually and with a large rope. Everyone managed at least 3 jumps and some people definitely have hidden talents! <http://www.bisb.org/project/pe-lesson-learning-to-skip/>
Let’s hope this weekend isn’t quite so cold and that we can enjoy being out and about. There is a ‘Citizen Lights’ festival in the Josaphat park in Schaerbeek on Friday evening from 18h -22h, with magicians, jugglers and lots of special lighting effects. It looks exciting!

Our talk topic is “What would it have been like to build a medieval castle, and which part would you like to have built?”

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

This week we have continued to learn about World War Two. We discussed the meaning of ‘propaganda’ with reference to World War Two posters. We looked at how political posters were used to convey messages during war time to influence people’s behaviour such as ‘make do and mend’ and ‘dig for victory’. The children had a go at designing their own World War Two posters using slogans, bold text and illustrations. We also looked at medals that were awarded to soldiers for their service in World War Two. We learned what the medals were awarded for and we recreated the medals in our art lesson.



This week in literacy we continued to read our class book

‘Bon Appetit, the delicious life of Julia Child.’ We read more about Julia’s time in cookery school and found out her American pen-pal who she wrote to about French cooking. We discussed the meaning of ‘pen-pal’ and we had a go at writing our own letters to a pen-pal using the features of an informal letter – writing our address and the date, a greeting, using a chatty informal style and remembering to conclude the letter. In grammar we explored the past tense paying attention to how regular and irregular verbs are formed. We also explored use of the past progressive tense and learned that it is formed using ‘was/were’ and the +ing form of the verb.

In maths we learned how to find the perimeter of polygons. We learned how to carefully measure the length of each side and to add them together to find the perimeter of the shape. We learned the difference between right angles, obtuse angles and acute angles. We also practised measuring the number of degrees and angle has using a protractor.

In computing we have been learning how to make objects move up, down, left or right in our coding lessons. We learned how to add buttons that make an object move when it is clicked on and how to design a simple game.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we worked very hard on “être” (to be) and “avoir” (to have) in the present tense. We listened to songs in the hope they would help us learn these two verbs, some were funny ... We also learnt a few expressions using these two verbs. On Mondays, we started watching a new film “Ernest et Célestine” a beautiful picture that has won many prizes and describes the unusual but lovely friendship between a bear and a mouse.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started working on our project which is a short story about ‘Le monde de Sophie’. In this short story, they will use and apply everything we have learned to describe pictures and characters using “Il y a” (there is/ there are), action verbs and a wide range of adjectives and words. Also, we got to go to the local library, Thomas Owen where we got to participate and hear different selected stories for the Prix Versele.

Our Talk Topic for this week is “Why do we have a skeleton? What do our bones do for us?”

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,

This week your children have learnt to write lovely poems, comics, and which material to use for different purposes. There has been a lot of useful learning and the week feels quite an important one for it. We had a bit of everything.

On Monday we did a hardness experiment and we also learnt to do fractions of amounts.

Then, we did an acid rain flow diagram following up work we'd done last week on air pollution and the causes! The hardness test was born through a number of ideas that the class came up with and the favourite was the one we set about doing. What size impact would various materials make when dropped from a height into a sandpit? Teamwork, selecting, assessing, weighing, measuring, recording, adapting - so many elements of a good investigation were brought to bear. Judging by the energy, the children really enjoyed it.

On Tuesday, fraction amounts were made bigger with 3-digit numbers. In the afternoon, we read a Spiderman comic which the Year 4's then had to recount in their own writing. We didn't choose the easiest strip on offer – Spiderman had to battle about ten baddies all of whose names we had to try and remember?!?

Soon, we will have to write a play script of such a comic strip which we'll later perform in assembly!!!



On Wednesday, we found equivalent fractions but the day is very much a Literacy day. We started a new unit on poetry and we had marvellous fun with similes and later with noun phrases.

Several of us were away with sickness or homebound due to the ceaseless snow but in the classroom, those left really enjoyed the smaller class and more intimate atmosphere and perhaps the new dynamic - those usually more silent, showed a bit more of themselves.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we worked very hard on “être” (to be) and “avoir” (to have) in the present tense. We listened to songs in the hope they would help us learn these two verbs, some were funny ... We also learnt a few expressions using these two verbs. On Mondays, we started watching a new film “Ernest et Célestine” a beautiful picture that has won many prizes and describes the unusual but lovely friendship between a bear and a mouse.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started working on our project which is a short story about ‘Le monde de Sophie’. In this short story, they will use and apply everything we have learned to describe pictures and characters using “Il y a” (there is/ there are), action verbs and a wide range of adjectives and words. Also, we got to go to the local library, Thomas Owen where we got to participate and hear different selected stories for the Prix Versele. Today, I'm hoping we will have made some ‘stop-motion’ animations using LEGO heroes (think Wallace and Grommit/A Christmas Panic!).

Swimming and Coding on Thursday were great and that was another super week.

Our Talk Topic for this week is: What practical things could you do to improve air pollution?

Best wishes

Tim Stedman and Fiona King

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

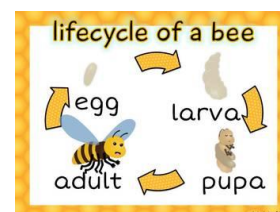
Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

This week in Literacy we have started reading Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in the Willows*. The students have really enjoyed the characters introduced in the first chapter especially that of Toad. They enjoyed writing about an idyllic place or journey in the style of Kenneth Grahame using a bank of adjectives they had gathered working together in groups. We also looked at the use of the semicolon and colon and used our word of the week which was hibernation, to see how many little words we could make from its letters.

In Maths we have discussed different types of triangles and their properties and used Venn diagrams to sort triangles into categories. We have worked out the perimeters and areas of triangles and understood the importance of being accurate with our rulers.

In Art we have created some beautiful diagrams of the life cycle of bees which has helped us in our Science topic "Life Cycles." It was interesting to notice that life cycle diagrams can be drawn in many ways and the students all produced thoughtful, original work.



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed the conjugation of 'avoir and être' followed by interactive activities and exercises. Also, we've just started a play 'je vais m'amuser à la foire' (I'm going to have fun at the fair) where we got to play out a scene between two or three friends using verb 'Aller' in the futur proche (to talk about our plans in the near future).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we went to the library to listen to five stories and voted for our favourite as part of the "Prix Versele". We also went on working on our health topic and revised the body parts and wrote a poem using this vocabulary.

Our Talk Topic for this week is "What did you enjoy most about the weather this week?"

Best wishes,

Valeria Vetter and Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

Snow and sickness visited us again this week, however Spring is just around the corner...

We have finished our reading on the Boy in the Striped Pyjamas and will now watch the film version. Our next topic is the 'Home Front'. As part of this module, the children are writing instructions about how to assemble an Anderson shelter (using the original 1939 Home Office pamphlet for reference). They also need a container for their respirator, so using a diagram, they have each drawn, cut and constructed a box. These are hanging above their desks in case of an emergency.



Picture books are an integral part of our WWII project; so far, I have read two books to the class: *The Whispering Town* (Danish resistance movement) and *The Butterfly* (French resistance movement). Both texts have helped the children hone their predicting and inference skills. These comprehension skills and retrieval of information from the text have been our foci this week.

In maths, we completed our revision of statistics and are now working on calculating and interpreting the mean as an average.

In Spag, we revised synonyms, antonyms, suffixes, formal and informal word choices, standard and non-standard English. The resources for these are in the support folder, Spring Week 4, and I have advised the students to revisit these topics independently.

I have given the students a challenge to design their own experiment about light. As well as being able to use the Year 6 science equipment, they will have access to my secret science store containing: fluorescent bracelets and paint; a UV LED Black Light; mirrors: old CD-ROMs; a double-convex lens, spherical, 50mm and two optical glass triangular prisms. Students are to write all their ideas and notes in their science logbooks; experiments should be submitted on 18th February.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we reviewed the conjugation of 'avoir and être' followed by interactive activities and exercises. Also, we've just started a play 'je vais m'amuser à la foire' (I'm going to have fun at the fair) where we got to play out a scene between two or three friends using verb 'Aller' in the futur proche (to talk about our plans in the near future).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we went to the library to listen to five stories and voted for our favourite as part of the "Prix Versele". We also went on working on our health topic and revised the body parts and wrote a poem using this vocabulary.

We have one more week before the LAMDA examinations begin. As soon as I have information about the date and times, I will post it to Edmodo. Candidates should be

practising their pieces and revising knowledge that they need to know for their examination.

Talk Topic: If you could take one item with you in your Anderson shelter – what would it be?

Enjoy the weekend,
Best wishes,

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

English as an Additional Language

Dear Parents,

This week in each year group, the EAL small group sessions have focused on using curriculum-related vocabulary in discussions, with a view to using, in free conversation, the points of grammar that we have been working on.

In the Reception EAL group, we listened to this week's story: The Ugly Duckling, talking about the sequence of events, and about why the duckling feels sad at different points. We spent a session playing with a selection of farm animals and wild animals. This involved the children listening and responding to each other's play suggestions, which included they need to sleep; she wants her mummy; time for school. I am pleased to hear the children putting words and phrases together to share their ideas.

In the Year One and Two EAL group, we talked about the concept of traditional stories, and the children were able to explain that such stories were very old, were passed on through generations in oral form, and are likely to exist in different versions. This relates very well to Year One's class work. We also looked at the concepts of statements as opposed to questions, adding the matching full stops or question marks.

The Junior Department EAL group discussions (and related writing) revolved around Year Four's study of the environment, and environmental problems. The children were able to make very thoughtful connections between, for example, pollution in cities and flooding, and increasing populations and deforestation, and they practised using the language to talk about these connections.



I wish you a very happy weekend in the snow!
Kate Read

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