

Home School Books – 15 March 2019.

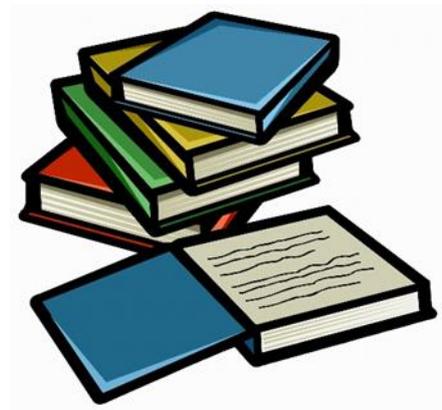
### Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the break I, hope you had a good one despite the cold and windy weather! The children have come back with renewed energy and we have spent this week revisiting the golden rules, especially the one that includes listening to others, particularly the teacher!

Our new topic for these weeks leading up to the Easter break is ‘Gardens’ and all the wonderful plant and animal life that we find there. We have a variety of mini projects planned and the children will be garden experts when they have finished!

However this week has been all about BOOKS and we love them in nursery! The whole school, including nursery, has participated in a number of Book Week activities. This included listening to the teacher read a set of five very different books and then everyone voted on which one they liked the most. Next each child drew their own face on a circle and this was added to the pictogram on the staircase wall. The same books were read from Reception to Year two and when they have added their faces, we will see which book was the most popular overall, so take a look next time you walk through the library and see which book won the day!



If you look opposite, you will see your little ones very own book cover design, along with their team of illustrators, each child drew a picture using the magic art pen on the interactive white board. The use of the interactive board is part of the ‘understanding of the world’ area of the Early Years Foundation Stage, curriculum. Learning how to access and use digital materials in an educational setting is a part of an ongoing process that is scaffolded and built upon throughout each year group in school.

Thank you to everyone who supported the book fair, the children who bought a book were very excited that they got to take it home forever! We had a magnificent book week enjoyed by all!

Until next week, have a lovely weekend and **don’t forget to discuss our talk topic, ‘What was your favourite story this week and why?’**

Thank you

Alison Davies and Inés van Wassenhove

[nurseryteacher@telenet.be](mailto:nurseryteacher@telenet.be)

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

### Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to come back from our wee holiday and everyone was very excited to be in school again. This week we have had a Book Week which has included some very exciting activities. The whole school has been reading the same five books and on Monday and on Thursday the children had a group activity where children from all ages came together to make great big collage story boards! The Reception children were the youngest ones in the groups and despite being the youngest ones they collaborated beautifully with the older children.

In maths this week we continued to practise our counting and the children practised their teen numbers (13-19) by reciting the numbers, singing the numbers and counting different things! They also practised counting, reciting and singing to one hundred in tens, i.e. 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100.

In phonics this week we focused on the stories we have been reading for Book Week. We learned some new interesting words and concepts! We also used the opportunity and learned a bit more about forests and why animals need the forest from the book Tidy. We learned about the value of sharing and being nice to each other from the book Oh me, oh my, a pie! We learned about different dinosaurs from the book 'Am I yours?' and we learned about living things, from teeny tiny organisms to great big animals in the beautifully illustrated book Lots. And last but not least we learned about the importance of imagination from the amazing book 'There's a tiger in the garden'.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have resumed our wolf stories topic and sang "Promenons-nous dans les bois" again which also gave us the opportunity to quickly revise the vocabulary related to the clothes we wear. We also found out some interesting facts and figures about wolves and made beautiful wolf pictures with our hands.

**The talk topic this week is: What was your favourite book in Book Week? And why?**

Finally, the stars of the week go to:-  
Shriyans for doing a great job with his story-board-group this week and for his positive attitude! And to Hari for great improvement in reading and for always trying her best! Congratulations Hari and Shriyans 😊

We hope you have a lovely weekend!

Elín Hafstein and Ivana Julaton

[receptionteacher@telenet.be](mailto:receptionteacher@telenet.be)

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

## Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

A busy programme of Book Week activities has meant some adjustments to our normal routine, but I can assure you we have been busy!

The week started with a whole-school story-telling activity: children worked in small groups made up of one or two children from each year group in the school. The groups used their creative writing and drawing skills to compile an adventure story, in the form of a very large story board. Also, throughout the week, we have been reading, discussing and working on a set of five completely new books - one per day. There was a mixture of fiction, non-fiction, rhyming and non-rhyming, and, after reading all of them, the children voted for their favourite. In combination with all the other classes, and once all results have been collected, we will be able to see which of the five books was voted the Infant Department's most popular.

In between all our Book Week work, we have managed to fit in our usual Maths lessons - this week has been mainly about telling the time. As well as revising the basics of o'clock times and the meaning of the 'long hand' and the 'short hand', we learnt about how to write the time as seen on digital clocks (e.g. 2:00), and did some practical activities involving both types of clock display. We then moved on to 'half-past' times, where, as well as learning that the 'long hand' points straight down, the positioning of the 'short hand' (half-way between two hour numbers) is particularly important. We had lots of practice at drawing hands on blank clocks, writing times in digital format and matching analogue and digital times - you can see an example in your child's Home School Book. We finished the week with a session on measuring - revising the use of rulers and metre sticks, and measuring some shorter objects and lines using interlocking cubes.



In Art, we took a break from our collaborative projects, and made individual 'dragonflies the size of birds', one of the creatures in our Book Week book 'There's a Tiger in the Garden'. Hopefully, our large and colourful dragonflies will soon be on display on the main staircase.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have started drawing our own house related to our story "Une maison de musiciens". It is a big project and will take a few lessons but the children are all gifted architects and their houses will look splendid. We have started with the kitchen (la cuisine) and the living room / dining room (le salon / salle à manger).

**The Talk Topic for next week will be "What are you looking forward to seeing or hearing, as Spring begins?"**

Maths homework will be 'Starfish Strike 1.19' - subtracting 1-digit numbers from 2-digit numbers.

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru

[Year1teacher@telenet.be](mailto:Year1teacher@telenet.be)

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

## Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

There was great excitement on Monday morning as we came back to school straight into Book Week. The fun started with everyone being divided into mixed groups with children from across the school. For some children this meant setting out for the Junior Department and discovering a new building, new teachers and new classrooms, and for others it meant revisiting classrooms and teachers in the Infant department or welcoming other children to Year 2.

Once everyone had successfully found their new home for the morning, each group opened their ‘Story Bags’ and set to work to create their own adventure story using the photos, art material, pictures and ideas from the bag. Each group had a leader from year 5 or 6, but creating a successful story meant that everyone had to contribute their ideas and help the group to work well together. It was a fascinating morning with lots of discussion and weird and wonderful story ideas flying around. It was great to see the Year 2s participating enthusiastically and making a real difference to their groups.

The morning flew past and it was fun playing outside with new-found friends at playtime. Later in the week we got back together to finish our story boards by completing the stories and adding extra illustrations to make them even more interesting.

The theme of Book Week this year is ‘Every Picture Tells a Story’. In the Infant Department each class has had 5 beautiful new picture books to read and discover. These have been read several times throughout the week and, as each book has a different style of illustration and a different type of story, everyone should find at least one book that they really enjoy. At the end of the week we will vote to choose our favourite, and then see if the other classes make the same choices. We made a giant pictogram on the stairs to show the overall results and will also be making bar charts to show the results of each individual class. We think the winner might be a very close race! We talked a lot about each book, looking at the way the stories are told, the way the illustrations tell an extra story, and the way the author chooses which vocabulary to use and how to set it out on the page.

EVERY  
*picture*  
TELLS A STORY...

In Art we recreated Grandma’s garden in ‘There’s a Tiger in the garden’, using bright paints to create giant flowers, leaves and giraffe-eating plants. These are winding their way up the staircase wall, so be very careful if you walk by, as you never know what might be lurking behind them! At first, we found it quite difficult to paint on a large scale, but the more we painted, the better the plants became.



Thank you for sending in money for the Book Fair for the children to buy a book – there was lots of enthusiasm as the children chose their book and used their own money to pay for it. This is a really important way of learning how to choose and how to make decisions, as well as to appreciate the value of money in an envelope. It also reinforced our maths work on giving money and receiving change.

In Maths we also worked on periods of time – days, weeks, months, years, hours, minutes and seconds, and revised 2D shapes to make sure we know exactly what each one is called. In Literacy we looked at different conjunctions that can be used to link sentences, such as but, or, and, so and because. We also read lots of poems to identify rhyming words and to see how they work. We made lists of rhyming words and identified different spelling patterns that produce the same sounds, which make words rhyme. Hearing and understanding rhyme is quite difficult, so if you want to play a good game and practice finding rhymes, have a go at inventing silly rhyming sentences! It would also be useful to practise the months of the year, as there are still children who are unsure of the order.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we celebrated Book Week by working on our project ‘l’épicerie bizarre’, creating and talking to fun and eccentric food characters, just like ‘le chou-fleur ronfleur’ (the snoring cauliflower), ‘le céleri qui rit’ (the laughing celery), ‘le potiron qui tourne en rond’ (the swirling pumpkin) etc.

**Our talk topic is “Do you think it is true that ‘Every picture tells a story?’ Why are illustrations so important?”**

Have a lovely weekend and do take a look at the Book Week photos on the website – Mrs Tolentino has been busy again! <http://www.bisb.org/project/book-week-2/> and <http://www.bisb.org/project/the-excitement-of-book-week-2019>

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

[year2teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year2teacher@telenet.be)

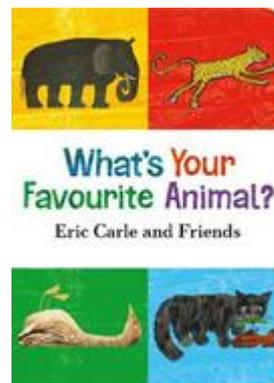
Please click [here](#) for our Year 2 webpage

### Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

We’ve had so much fun celebrating Book Week! Most of our activities this week have been book related. We enjoyed doing a collaborative project to create our own storyboards with children from Reception to Year 6. The children had to decide on a title for their story, who the main characters were and what should happen in the story. There was lots of discussion and many interesting and thoughtful ideas!

This week in literacy we explored three books for book week ‘Arthur and the Golden Rope’ by Joe Todd Stanton, ‘What’s



your favourite animal?’ by Eric Carle and ‘Journey’ by Aaron Becker. We enjoyed discussing all the beautiful artwork and imaginary worlds in the wordless book ‘Journey.’ We then drew our own imaginary worlds where we would go on our own journeys. We then read ‘What’s your favourite animal?’ and looked at all the different ways that the author’s shared their experiences. Some presented their writing as a comic strip, some wrote a recount while others wrote a poem. We then chose our own favourite animals and chose how we wanted to represent them – using paint, collage materials, drawing, pastels. Then the children added a piece of writing about their animal to their work.

In maths we focused on telling the time on both analogue and digital clocks. First we revised telling the time to 5 minutes past the hour and then we told the time to the nearest minute. We ordered analogue clock faces showing a variety of different times from the earliest time to the latest time. We also talked about how many seconds were in a minute and estimated how long a minute would take. Then we timed how long it took to write our names ten times using a stopwatch and we discussed situations when timing to the nearest second is useful such as timing sporting events.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked about the weather, we listened to a song to help us remember the vocabulary and then acted as weather men / women and described the weather using expressions like “il fait froid, il fait chaud, il pleut, etc”. The whole Year 3 group also played a game asking questions to find out a hidden word.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we only met with year 3. We didn’t meet with Year 4 due to scheduled outings. We played ‘Qui suis-je’? a fun and interactive game that encourages everyone to ask questions and cover all sorts of vocabulary related to fruit, vegetables, clothing, animals, furniture etc..

In gymnastics the children practised using hand apparatus such as balls and hoops to their floor routines and the tennis children had a successful session. Next week will be the last lesson for the tennis players.

**Our Talk Topic for the week is What’s your favourite type of plant, and why?**

Have a lovely weekend.

Camilla Rutayisire

[year3teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year3teacher@telenet.be)

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

This week was definitely a tale of two trips: our trips to the Museum of Comic-strip figurines (MOOF) and the Food Museum whilst, of course, still being Book Week,.

We enjoyed our trip to MOOF and our guide, Etienne, at the museum was speaking in French and also in English. His enthusiasm and knowledge were fantastic and this was only matched by Hithaishi's own which he was mightily impressed by (us too!!!). I know the children were very excited by the exhibition, that they read the descriptions on the displays and many stayed close to absorb what was being told. We shall see how much was absorbed with this week's homework questionnaire about the trip!!

Many thanks to Akhil's mummy for helping out and to Srija's who also helped out the day after at the Windmill Museum too.

The Mill of Evere is an annual visit which combines a tour of the expo and a cooking workshop that we always enjoy. This year was great. Our guide spoke in French very slowly and clearly and aimed it right at the children's level. The exhibits were very accessible and the making of Speculoos was just heaven for all the children. I was very impressed by the gingerbread people they made: I just hope you had some left to try!!



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we talked about the weather, we listened to a song to help us remember the vocabulary and then acted as weather men / women and described the weather using expressions like "il fait froid, il fait chaud, il pleut, etc". The whole Year 3 group also played a game asking questions to find out a hidden word.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we only met with year 3. We didn't meet with Year 4 due to scheduled outings. We played 'Qui suis-je'? a fun and interactive game that encourages everyone to ask questions and cover all sorts of vocabulary related to fruit, vegetables, clothing, animals, furniture etc..

For Book Week, we initially split up across the entire school and joined mixed age groups to produce enormous storyboards. Given a goodie bag of magazine cuttings, glitter, wallpapers and stickers, the children were set the task of creating a pictorial narrative with or without text. The groups I had made fantastic posters. Do ask your child what they got up to!

We also worked on set books for the week including in particular Eric Carle's What's Your Favourite Animal? Through this, we wrote limericks, odes and creative nomenclature for animals.

And that was our week.

**Our Talk Topic for this week is: Which superhero or comic strip character are you most like and why?**

Best wishes

Tim Stedman and Naomi Irakoze

[year4teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year4teacher@telenet.be)

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

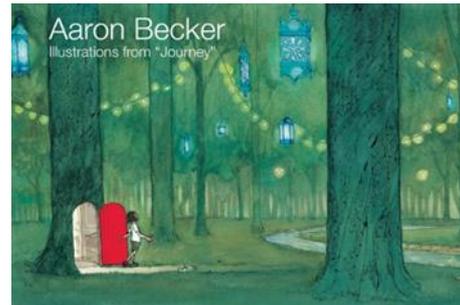
## Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

We have had to deal with some really wet and variable weather this week but we live to tell the tale of it all!

Being Book Week we have concentrated on 3 specific books. The first book we read was called Arthur and the Golden Rope. We really enjoyed this book and really appreciated the illustrations. Arthur was a character we could all relate to.

Next we read a book called Journey. This book has no words and we read it by using our imaginations. It was about a lonely little girl with a magic crayon. We chose this story to write about and, using pages on the iPads, we told our own version of the story. As much as the first book appealed to us, so too did the second one. On Friday we read the final story with Mrs Irakoze. In assembly we had to



choose our favourite story - a very difficult decision indeed. We also split into cross-department groups to create a story. This involved children moving from department to department and the older children took on a leadership role. They planned and created their stories using the items they had been given. I must say that each group created a very different original story. All children enjoyed this exercise.

In Numeracy we spoke about quadrilaterals and characteristics of 2D shapes. We specifically concentrated on interior angles and even found a formula to work out the angles of a shape <https://www.mathsisfun.com/geometry/interior-angles-polygons.html>. We also had more practice in drawing circles and discussing lines of symmetry before working out interior angles

Our computing this week was working in pages to write the story of Journey. We also chose our fonts and added pictures which we had found on the internet.

In PE we enjoyed our swimming lesson and had a lovely walk in the rain.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we revised “le mode impératif” so that we could write a recipe. The whole Year 6 played a few vocabulary games and we finished the week with listening comprehension.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had shorter sessions due to scheduled outings. But we still managed to review different action verbs and play ‘Qui suis-je’? a fun and interactive game that encourages everyone to ask questions and cover all sorts of vocabulary related to fruit, vegetables, clothing, animals, furniture etc..

Our long awaited trip to the Mill of Evere finally took place on Wednesday. We really enjoyed the chance to make Speculoos biscuits. We measured amounts out, got our hands dirty making the dough, rolled it out and finally used cookie cutters and our imaginations to do the rest. My thanks to Mrs Guggilla and Mr Cioponea for accompanying us. Without your help, these outings would not be possible.

**The talk topic is: Why do you think a book like Journey was so interesting considering it has only pictures?**

Have a lovely restful weekend.

Best wishes,

Valeria Vetter and Ena Tolentino

[year6teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year6teacher@telenet.be)

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

### Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

What an exciting start to Book Week! All pupils in the school were organised into mixed-age groups and then given a challenge... to create their own story. In groups, pupils had to decide on characters, setting and plot: using a selection of pictures, maps and photos to create a picture which tells a story. On Wednesday, the students enjoyed browsing and purchasing books at the Book Fair. We have analysed three picture story books and focused on one - Arthur and the Golden Rope. This book is about Norse Gods – which we used as inspiration for our artwork

We are now revising for the KS2 end-of year examinations. In preparation for the reading examination, we studied a text– Three Wishes – and worked through a range of SAT style questions. Content domain 2G – identifying and explaining how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases (these questions carry the maximum marks) proved to be the most challenging, but we carefully unpicked the question and model answer, so that we can improve our answers, for when we next encounter 2G questions.

On Monday we revised solving word problems involving: the relative sizes of two quantities where missing values can be found by using integer multiplication and division facts; similar shapes where the scale factor is known or can be found and unequal sharing and grouping, using knowledge of fractions and multiples. On Thursday, each student had to develop a business idea for a stall to be run at an Easter Fayre. This activity involved understanding ten confusing and complicated word problems, working with decimals up to 3 decimal point and calculating profit and loss.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we revised “le mode impératif” so that we could write a recipe. The whole Year 6 played a few vocabulary games and we finished the week with listening comprehension.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had shorter sessions due to scheduled outings. But we still managed to review different action verbs and play ‘Qui suis-je?’ a fun and interactive game that encourages everyone to ask questions and cover all sorts of vocabulary related to fruit, vegetables, clothing, animals, furniture etc..

On Tuesday morning, we visited the Jewish Museum of Brussels. We met our guide, who was born in a refugee camp in Switzerland after his parents fled from Poland during WWII. He explained Jewish beliefs, festivals and ceremonies, then we sat in a replica of a synagogue, where he read to us in Hebrew. After our guided tour of the museum, we returned to school. Thank you to Mrs Carp-Bilde for accompanying us on this trip.



**Talk Topic: Why are we (in Year 6) able to discuss and debate controversial issues? Why can't grown-ups?**

Enjoy your weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

[year6teacher@telenet.be](mailto:year6teacher@telenet.be)

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

### English as an Additional Language

Dear Parents,

We have all very much enjoyed the special activities of Book Week.

The whole school story-writing activity involved the students in using their English to interact with older and younger children, making suggestions, discussing ideas, sharing out jobs, and encouraging each other, and was a stimulating and confidence-boosting experience. "We had so much fun over there" was a comment from one of the Reception children who worked with a group in the Junior Department.



The five storybooks selected for the Infant Department were the basis for our small group EAL sessions, in Reception and Years 1 and 2.

Reading the book Tidy, the Year 1 and 2 children had discussions about what we can see and hear in a forest, how a trees and other plants are important for humans and animals, whether we always need to tidy up. These discussions gave us the chance to practise phrases including: I agree with ..., I don't think so, What do you think?

The children also enjoyed expressing their views on the different books, using words and explaining their preferences and their responses to the stories. We noted that some of the books made us laugh, some made us think, and some gave us new ideas for play or stories or making things.

In the Junior Department small group sessions, we read an interesting non-fiction book about the Titanic (selected by the children), and discussed the historical, geographical and social context of the terrible event. We also talked this week about rhyming words, finding rhyming words in a poem, and noting that rhyming words do not always have the same spelling patterns. We reviewed connective words, prepositions and pronouns.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read

ealteacher@telenet.be