

Home School Books – 5 May 2019.

Home School Book – Nursery

Another short week but packed with fun and interesting activities! The children have been excited to hear all about our new project on ‘The Farm’.

We looked at a power point story about a little girl who did all sorts of jobs on a farm every day and decided it was jolly hard work, mucking out the pigs, feeding the cows and collecting the eggs from the hens! However our main focus over the next few weeks will be looking at the farm vehicles and agriculture, we have already talked about ploughing the fields ready for planting.

The children were asked to think of what sort of things they would like to grow on a farm and the answers ranged from mangoes to tomatoes and other things such as water melons and pineapples! Very exotic farms! Someone also wanted to grow sweets on their farm but couldn’t decide which ones!

To bring farming back to small scale nursery farm level, we talked about what we would like to plant and grow and what would we need to do to take care of our crops. If you look opposite, you will see a sequencing activity of the steps needed to plant and grow a flower seed. The children have done this as a verbal and visual exercise in small groups. We have left the activity for you to do together at home, to see what they have remembered and if without too much help can get the pictures in the right order. So take some time together to talk through the activity, using English or your mother tongue and then let your little one do it themselves. During our circle time discussion group on Monday we will have a look at how they got on.



This term in preparation for moving into the Reception class in September the children in the nursery age group will complete their phase one work book for phonics. We have done a lot of practical activities leading up to this with the whole group. Now the time has come to find out what knowledge they have retained and where the gaps are. The pre nursery group will do age and development appropriate work sheets to consolidate their learning so far.

Please remember if you are doing any letter and sound work at home with your child, it is always the sound of the letter not the name of the letter that should be used. The following link can be used to reinforce the individual letter sounds: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fSQIrh92s4> This should be used in small snatches of no more than four letter sounds at any one time, making sure your child has heard it and made the sound correctly.

Just a quick reminder, if you are leaving school early this term for vacation, please inform us, as soon as possible of your dates, this is important to know regarding end of term preparations.

Our talk topic this weekend is ‘What do seeds need to grow? Name as many things that will help them grow, as you can.

Until next week and it will be a full one! Enjoy your weekend.

Thank you

Alison Davies and Inés van Wassenhove

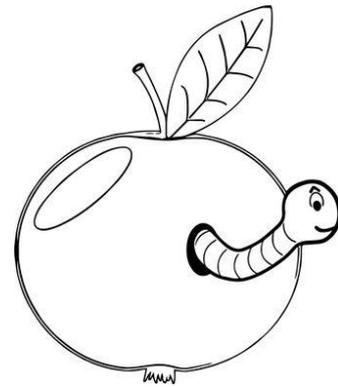
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Please click [here](#) for our Nursery webpage

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

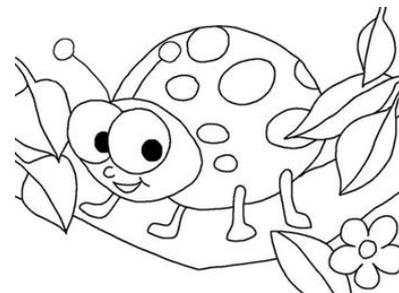
We have continued our topic, learning about plants and mini-beasts. This week we focused on ladybirds and worms and Mr. Tranter brought us lots of worms from his garden in France. We got a big see-through box, filled it with earth, sand and some leaves and finally added all the worms inside. This week we have been watching the worms make tunnels all over the box and luckily, they seem to be enjoying their little worm home. We also made ladybirds to put on one of the walls in the classroom and they are not only pretty but they are also going to help us with our maths!



In phonics we continued to practise our diagraphs! We sang some diagraph songs together and tried writing some of the diagraphs that we could remember. The children also practised their writing, by writing phonetically on their whiteboards the words that we said. Finally, we practised a lot of reading and all the children are progressing very nicely in their reading.

In maths we focused on shapes! Both 2d shapes (flat shapes) and 3d shapes (fat shapes). We learned to recognise the 2d shapes that we can find in some of the 3d shapes and we counted all the sides on the 2d shapes and all the faces on the 3d shapes. We also continued practising our teen numbers, we did number bonds to 7, we played some maths-circle-games, we did lots of counting and we also practised to add one more to numbers 1-9 (i.e. 1+1, 1+2, 1+3... etc.).

The talk topic this week is: Go to a garden or a park over the weekend and see how many mini beasts you can find and tell us all about them!



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still working on creating our very own memory game with lots of animal pictures. We also spoke about “Le muguet du 1er mai”, lily of the valley, a flower we offer on the 1st of May in Belgium and France because it brings good luck. The children made beautiful pictures of it.

Finally, the stars of the week go to Stairya for doing a great job in maths this week and for improving in focusing on her food during snack and lunch time. And to Reyansh for doing a really good job with all of the maths this week and for being really good at practicing his numbers! Congratulations Stairya and Reyansh 😊

We wish you all 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,

The highlight of another busy week was our trip to the park, where we saw close up some very interesting wildlife, including numerous baby ducks and a genuine fight between a number of geese!

In Literacy, our sounds of the week were /aw/ and /au/ as in ‘yawn’ and ‘launch’ - we practised as usual by reading, saying and writing them in a number of activities. In Grammar, we did some more work on the use of adjectives, this time describing a snake. For our main writing session we compared fiction and non-fiction books about snakes, and although the children enjoyed the story I read to them (The Snake Who Said Shhh), they were even more fascinated by the non-fiction books, with lots of facts about different kinds of snake. We also watched a short video of some snakes in a rainforest, then the children had to write a short information sheet, including facts about where snakes live, what they eat and what they look like.

In Maths this week we have been working on adding single-digit numbers. We started off by adding two numbers which made a total between 11 and 16, then moved on to adding three numbers. First we took the total of 10, and chose a number bond (e.g. 6+4), then we took the first of these numbers (6) and then had to break the other (4) in to two separate numbers to make a 3-number sum (e.g. 6+3+1=10). We practised many variations of this, including ‘missing number’ versions, which you can see in their Home School Book. We then progressed to adding any three single-digit numbers, looking for either bonds to 10 or doubles to help us make the sums easier (e.g. in 3+8+7, we would take 3+7=10, then add 8). We also explored the concepts of ‘near doubles’ (we know 6+6=12, so 6+7 would be 1 more than that) and ‘near bonds’ (we know 8+2=10, so 8+3 is 1 more than that).

We have a new jungle display area in the classroom, with lots of greenery and hanging vines, as well as a very long snake! In our main topic session, we talked about the rainforest as a habitat, and looked at how it is made up of ‘layers’, each of which is home to different types of animals. The children did a rainforest layer



labelling activity, which will go in to a rainforest-themed topic booklet, for them to bring home at the end of term.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still listening to our new story “Un coucou dans la pendule” but we also spoke about “Le muguet du 1er mai”, lily of the valley, a flower we offer on the 1st of May in Belgium and France because it brings good luck. The children made beautiful pictures of it.

Our Talk Topic for next week will be “If you were going on a walk through the jungle, what would you take with you, and why?”

Maths homework will be 'Seaside Scuffle 1.24' - comparing numbers using $>$ and $<$.

Enjoy the 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,

Despite our adventures last week, it was lovely to be back in our classroom and we had a very productive week's work. The noise and vibration levels were high due to the road re-surfacing, but it was the ideal way to revise some of the work we did on the changing states of materials last term, and to talk about what streets would have looked like in Brussels when the houses around here were first built.

In Maths we worked on measuring weight using both non-standard measurements and kilograms and grams. It was very interesting estimating the comparative weights of classroom objects - with the pine cone far outweighing the Lego car – yet another opportunity to discuss the properties of materials. We then drew block graphs to record the weight of items and wrote sentences comparing the objects. We practiced measuring food items such as flour and sugar on a set of kitchen scales and checked that we could read the scale correctly to differentiate between kg and grams. We also revised adding 2-digit numbers using 10s and 1s, starting with the largest number, and practiced adding amounts of money to reinforce the importance of units of 10 and 1.

In Literacy we worked on the theme of comparatives and superlatives, with vocabulary such as big, light, heavy etc. to tie in with our maths work. We found lots of adjectives to describe weight and size and studied the spelling rules that help us to change root words correctly. This is complicated and we ended up with lots of double consonants and strange letters swapping places with each other, but given that we managed to remember the possessive apostrophes from last week successfully, I have every faith that ‘big’ will become ‘bigger’ and ‘biggest’ and ‘heavy’ will finally turn into ‘heavier’ and ‘heaviest’ at some point! Our weekly spelling test results are generally excellent, but it was very frustrating to see how many people incorrectly



labelled their plant diagrams, despite having learnt the words (correctly!) last week.

We finished reading 'The Minpins' – which everyone enjoyed, and will chose another book next week. It is impressive to see how well everyone now listens to a full story of continuous text and can follow the events without necessarily needing the picture prompts. We did, however, study the beautiful illustrations, as they are very detailed and gave us ideas for our own flower observation drawings.

In Science we were delighted to see that the tulips had changed colour, even with the colouring gel, and, when we dissected the plant, we were able to see exactly how the stem, leaves and petals had transported the coloured water throughout the plant. We completed our written observations and then chose another variety of flower to draw in detail, once again labelling each part to produce a scientific diagram.

In PE we practised relay games using various ball skills and adding the idea of fast, faster, fastest. We tried sprinting and had fun dribbling a ball around cones – although this definitely did not come into the category of fast!



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we counted and played with numbers up to 100 (cent). We learned 'in action' ten fun verbs which helped us sing and understand the beautiful song 'c'est le printemps'. We also started reading and spelling different words related to 'le printemps'.

Next Tuesday morning we will be taking advantage of the swimming bus and visiting the Warandeborg Park in Wezembeek to study the plant and animal life in a small, but wonderfully diverse environment.

We look forward to seeing you at the Craft morning tomorrow and wish you a peaceful weekend,

Our talk topic is "What are the similarities between plants and humans?"

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

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

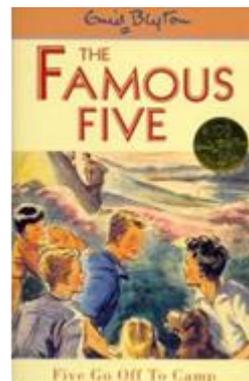
Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

It was a short but busy week in Year 3. We've been working on some special surprises for mother's day in our art lessons which the children will take home next week. The surprises they have made are looking wonderful so I'm sure all our fabulous year 3 mothers will love them! In science our bean plants have continued to be watered and monitored and we're starting to see roots and shoots coming out of the

ones which are most eager to grow. Hopefully by next week they'll all be showing signs of growth.

In literacy we continued with our class text 'The Famous Five: Five Go Off to Camp' by Enid Blyton. We read a character description of Mr Luffy, the children's teacher and then the children had a go at writing a detailed description of one of their own teachers. They used some very interesting words and phrases to describe us! Also in literacy we wrote some wonderful abstract noun poems about our mothers as part of our work for mother's day. These poems concentrate on incorporating our senses into poems, for example colour, smell, taste, sound, feel. In our spelling lesson the children did very well again with learning their list of 20 words. They will be tested on the week 5 word list next week.



In maths we revised using our knowledge of multiples of 10 to solve word problems. For example if one item cost 20c, how much would 4 cost? We also did the grid method of multiplication and gained further confidence and mastery with this technique. We also started to learn a new technique for division called the chunking method and we will continue to practise this next week.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had another short week but we still managed to quickly revise some food vocabulary as well as well the names of all the members of the family and the possessives which go with them: mon papa, ma maman, mes frères, mes sœurs etc.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about the use of 'Pouvoir' (can) and 'Vouloir' (to want) and we reviewed the last action verbs we introduced (before the break). Then we came up with fun and bizarre questions and answers using Pouvoir, Vouloir and these action verbs. We also joined Madame Scharf and her class to watch the beautiful and crafty movie 'Zarafa'.

In PE we moved on to hurdling and the children practise their hurdling technique. We found out that it is slower to hurdle than to sprint but with the right technique it is amazing how fast you can go!

This week our Talk Topic is Have you ever put up a tent? What do you think are the stages of putting up a tent?

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Naomi Irakoze

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

Last week's Botassart trip was a complete success and we colleagues feel that the trip was one of the best the school's done. The Year 4's represented themselves, and as a class, very well; Mrs Tranter and Mrs Vetter were very impressed.

Gosh we did a lot and what amazing experiences we have taken with us.

We've also been pretty tired and if we thought this week might be a gentle return to the classroom we may have been mistaken.

Straight into Science, we tackled two experiments about light and shadow. In Numeracy, we visited negative numbers and re-visited decimals \times and \div by 10, 100 and 1000 and in Topic, we began a new area of study: Journey into space.

And we did just that. We flew across the solar system finding out the distances between the planets and what conditions can be found on them. The children were quick to tell me that one of the planets is composed entirely of diamonds so next time we get a chance to pop out between lessons, that's where we'll be heading. (A bit further than Antwerp, however)



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had another short week but we still managed to quickly revise some food vocabulary as well as well the names of all the members of the family and the possessives which go with them: mon papa, ma maman, mes frères, mes sœurs etc.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about the use of 'Pouvoir' (can) and 'Vouloir' (to want) and we reviewed the last action verbs we introduced (before the break). Then we came up with fun and bizarre questions and answers using Pouvoir, Vouloir and these action verbs. We also joined Madame Scharf and her class to watch the beautiful and crafty movie 'Zarafa'.

Big event of the week was our semi-final match against Y3 in the Fifteen15 cricket championship. Tanvi organised the team well and we were calm and committed; we just played a superior opponent. Year 3 were very, very good!

The Year 4s had to chase a target of 82 and they made it to the PowerPlay but couldn't capitalise and ran out of wickets.

We play again (with 6 player changes to give them a turn) in two weeks in the third place play-off.

And that was our week: pleased (and a bit weary) to be back but with perhaps a bit of nostalgia for the Ardennes.

Our Talk Topic for this week is: Which is the scariest planet and why?

Best wishes

Tim Stedman and Naomi Irakoze

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

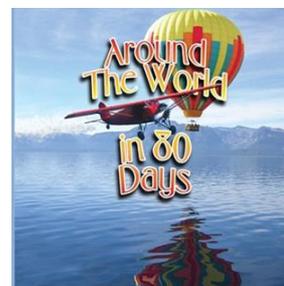
Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

We have literally stepped into this week flying. Our week in Botassart was full, being active and full of new things to see, learn and do.

In Numeracy we have been practising mental addition and subtractions. We have been doing this in the form of money and calculating change. We have used rounding to facilitate this process and have found it much easier that way. We have been solving multi-step addition and subtraction problems and have moved on to word problems.

In Literacy we got stuck into our book for the term. We have read 3 chapters so far and are really interested to see what is going to happen next. We have come across many new words and we will be adding these to our working wall as soon as we get the drawings of Fogg and Passepartout finished. We have spoken about the character of Phileas Fogg and agreed that he is obsessive and compulsive but also kind and generous. He let his valet go because the temperature of his shaving water was 2 degrees too cold but, on the other hand, he gave away the 20 guineas he won at whist to a beggar woman at the station. A very interesting man indeed. He is mysterious and does not seem to work. I have set the class 2 chapters to read for homework at the weekend and there are questions to answer relating to these chapters to do as well. Our grammar focus this week has been about the use of commas in sentences to add detail and to avoid ambiguity.



In PE we finalised our class cricket team and practised a bit. Our first match is against Year 6 and should be a good one. We, luckily, had some good sunny warm weather for our practice matches.

It has been a short week and we have been learning words for our songs and practising lines for our play. We keep calm and carry on.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on the regular and irregular verbs in the present Indicative, and we followed up with an energetic ‘domino’ game, where they had to think and use strategically these action verbs in order to win. We also finished watching ‘Boule et Bill’ with Madame Scharf and her class.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we started studying the passé composé, a tense we use a lot to talk about past events. We revised être et avoir, two auxiliary verbs used to form the passé composé.

This term I have decided to give the children a piece of homework every day and it seems to be working well for all of us.

The talk topic for this week is: Discuss the character of Jean Passepartout.

Have a super weekend and don’t forget the summer crafts social on Saturday.
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,

I think that we have all now recovered from our fantastic week in the Ardennes! I felt quite sad, as I suddenly realised that the Year 6 students didn't need me anymore... they were so organised, responsible, mature and enthusiastic throughout the entire four days! That the boys kept me awake until the early hours of the morning is forgivable – they kept their dorm tidy and were 'on parade' on time in the morning! We, the teachers, hope that you enjoyed looking at the photos both on the website and Edmodo.

We are now preparing for the final tests, which will take place between 20th – 29th May. Tests will include: Abacus - three maths papers: arithmetic, reasoning 1 and reasoning 2; PIRA, reading comprehension; unaided writing task, GL English (including SPaG). The students will be told precise dates for each examination closer to the time. This week, the children have completed an Abacus test and will be completing a range of mock tests up until the 20th.

At the moment, we are finishing our reading of *Auslander* and have begun our new topic, Titanic. Our first task is to try to find out who was really responsible for this disaster. Why did it happen and how can we stop this from ever happening again? The pupils will be investigating primary and secondary sources and preparing for the Year 6 Titanic Court Case, which will take place at the end of the module. So far, we have discovered a catalogue of errors: many due to arrogance and ego. The students are producing a 3D model of the Titanic using a computer graphics programme.



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on the regular and irregular verbs in the present Indicative, and we followed up with an energetic 'domino' game, where they had to think and use strategically these action verbs in order to win. We also finished watching 'Boule et Bill' with Madame Scharf and her class.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we started studying the passé composé, a tense we use a lot to talk about past events. We revised être et avoir, two auxiliary verbs used to form the passé composé.

Rehearsal for the summer production begins this afternoon and this will be last day of using scripts – we have a lot of work to do!

Our Talk Topic for this week is: How could we improve our residential trips?

Wishing you a peaceful and relaxing 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,

We have enjoyed the second week of term. The children are taking a great interest in their new topics in class, and are beginning to use some of the related new vocabulary.

In the EAL small group sessions, the Reception children have been practising using the names of minibeasts, notably: bee, wasp, ant, fly, dragonfly, spider, caterpillar, butterfly, worm, slug, and snail. (We will come across more minibeasts during the topic.) We also practised listening skills, identifying a minibeast by listening to a simple description of it. The children are working on describing a minibeast, using phrases like it has..., it can..., it eats...

The Year One and two EAL small group talked about adjectives, noticing playing an adjectives game and adding adjectives into sentences. We also learned some facts about snakes, in connection with Year One's topic on the rainforest. We noticed that facts about animals are usually written in the present simple tense (Snakes live..., they eat..., they need...)



In the Junior Department EAL group, we were pleased to hear the reports about last week's trip to Botassart. We used this to learn a lot of new vocabulary, and to see the importance of adjectives in creating a vivid mental image of a scene. In the Juniors particularly, but in all the year groups, we are working on seeing shades of meaning: subtle differences in the meanings of similar words. Some examples this week have included: pull, tear, rip and peel; wet, soggy and damp. Using a thesaurus helped us with this.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read

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