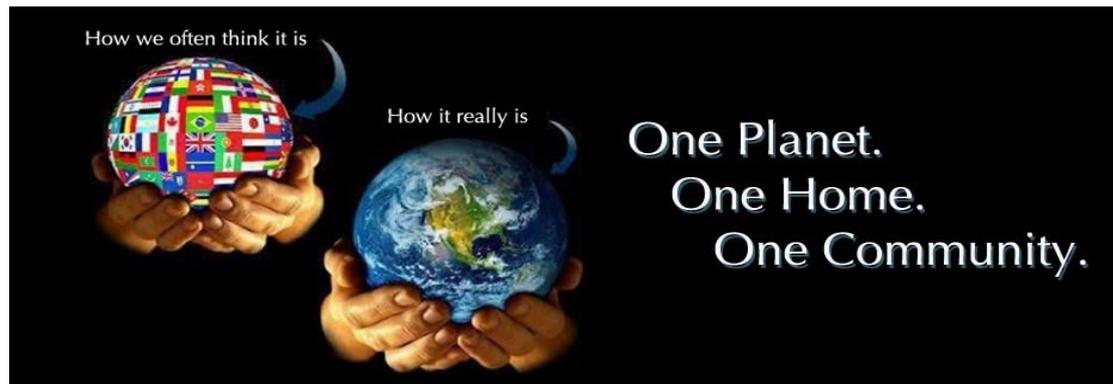


Home School Books – 17 May 2019.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

This week was all about the environment and specifically ‘The Human Footprint’ and how we can make small but significant efforts to reduce it. The effect human activity has on the Earth can be devastating, as we all know by the reports we hear or read about every day in the news.



Nursery are only 3 and 4yrs old now but they are the future generation and in not so many years they will need to take responsibility for taking care of their planet. As we grown-ups are not taking care of it enough, so far! To make it understandable for the little ones, we have, of course, simplified a number of the activities.

The one you can see opposite is all about recycling and rubbish we have used the white, yellow, blue and orange bag system to help the children understand why things go in a particular coloured bag. We have done this as a small group discussion activity and left it for you to complete at home, by cutting out the items and playing the recycling or rubbish game. See how much your child has remembered about which page the items need to be glued onto. We will take a look at everyone’s finished piece of work in circle time next week to see if they got the things in the right place.

The children also coloured in a picture of a recycling superhero! Who makes sure everyone is recycling and not sending everything to the big rubbish dump! Or dumping plastics into the ocean, so the fish and other sea creatures get sick from eating it or tangled up in plastic bags and get hurt. We talked about using reusable containers and bags and not just single plastics that are very bad for the environment. The children did the good choice thumbs up and bad choice thumbs down for the various objects and items we saw in the big book of rubbish, that we looked at.

Our favourite story in nursery for environment week was ‘The last tree in the City’ all about a little boy, his friend the duck and the only tree left in the grey, dreary city he lived in. Take a look at the rest of the story by clicking the following link
<https://youtu.be/JayQXcLzXx4>

We have also included in your child’s folder this week, an energy saving poster, to help us to remember how we can help the environment by taking small but significant

steps by being responsible for when and how we use things. For example don't leave the tap running when you are brushing your teeth, as this wastes water and in some parts of the world many people don't have enough water because of climate change. Therefore we need to respect the resources we have and use them wisely!

Our talk topic for you to discuss with your little one this weekend is, 'Why is it important to be environmentally aware?'

All in all we have really enjoyed our environment week work and we will do a little bit of follow up on it over the coming weeks to see if we are putting into practice what we have talked about!

Until next week, have a great weekend and when you are shopping make sure to take your reusable bags with you!

Thank you

Alison Davies and Inés van Wassenhove

nurseryteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

This week was our Human Footprint Week and we have been focusing on bees and recycling! We started to learn about bees, and how very important bees are for plants, for the nature, and for us humans! There are some bees living in the playground and we have been watching them closely this week. We planted some wild flowers in flowerpots in our playground because we want to make sure that the bees have plenty of food to eat!

We have also learned a lot about recycling! We learned that it is very important to recycle everything that we can possibly recycle. We even created our own recycling station in the classroom and we are learning to divide our recyclables into: plastic, paper and metal. We have also discussed that some materials are less harmful for nature, like glass and wood, and that if we use more harmful materials, like plastic and metal, it is much better to use them many times as opposed to using them only once (like single use containers from yogurts and juices and aluminium or plastic used to wrap food in). The children have been very curious about our recycling station and are getting very good at putting each thing in the correct recycling box!



In phonics this week we practised some tricky words. We learned the /ai/ diagraph (as in snail, pail, sail, tail) and as always we did a lot of reading! In maths we continued to practise our halving, which is very tricky for the children but they are steadily

getting better at it all the same. We also learned to count in 2's! This is a bit complicated so we will be practising that a lot more in the coming weeks!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still listening to our story "Lily aux pays des animaux" in which we are discovering a funny country where animals are all different colours. We love the songs and there is also a robot making strange noises.

The talk topic this week is: Do you recycle at home? Do you think it is important to recycle? Why do you think that?

Finally, the stars of the week go to Akira for doing great at halving this week and for being a kind friend! And to Mihir for brilliant reading and for always trying his very best! Well done Akira and Mihir – Congratulations 😊

Have a lovely weekend!

Elín Hafstein and Ivana Julaton

receptionteacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

We have had a very busy and very interesting 'Human Footprint Week', with lots of different activities which happened to fit very well with our rainforest topic, too.

We took a break from our usual Literacy routine: having written letters about deforestation and pollution to the children in the Junior Department, we were delighted to receive replies, so we spent some time reading and discussing them. Our main writing task was linked to our rainforest theme, using the book 'Monkey Puzzle' as our theme. The children thought about descriptive words for monkeys, then had to use them in a poster asking for help finding a 'lost' monkey.

We further developed our discussions from last week about the damage humans are doing to the environment, concentrating on the ideas of deforestation and pollution of the air, water and ground. This enabled us to explore facts about trees, including how they suck up water from the ground (helping to prevent flooding), how they absorb carbon dioxide (which we produce) and produce oxygen (which we need), so it is not a very good idea to cut so many of them down! These are quite complicated ideas for young children, but they showed great interest and impressive awareness - there could be a few future climate-change warriors amongst us! Whilst on the subject of trees, we set up an observational science experiment to simulate the capillary action of trees by 'planting' some celery and cabbage leaves in coloured water. For good measure, we also suspended some potatoes in water, so that we can watch them grow shoots.

Our topic work this week merged with Science - we looked at the different animals of the rainforest, and learned about simple food chains. The children were introduced to

the terms 'producer' (grass, leaves etc.), 'consumer' (caterpillars, insects, small mammals etc.) and 'predator' (larger animals), and we talked about what the different animals might eat. We extended this idea a little on Thursday, when we went to Parc Josaphat and saw various animals in the process of finding and eating food. We had a super time in the park: we compared the woodland areas to a rainforest, we saw about 20 different types of creature (and heard several more), climbed up rocks and over bridges, had lunch in the sun, and played in the wide-open spaces. The children were very well-behaved on the long walk there and back, so we had a great day all round. There are plenty of photos on the Year 1 web-page. Please see <https://www.bisb.org/project/year-1-may-2019/>



We did do some Maths as well this week, starting with a revision session, followed by a mid-term assessment. We then started the final block, by looking at finding any two 2-digit numbers and then stating numbers which come between them. We also reinforced our understanding of '10s and 1s' by doing some activities with place value cards, and making sums such as '40+6=46'.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still listening to our story "Un coucou dans la pendule" and are following Lucie in her search for Monsieur Lampion. We made a clock and learnt to ask the time: "Qu'elle heure est-il?" We also started talking about the various means of transportation.

Finally, we dedicated our Art session this week to 'Human Footprint Week' - the children were presented with several boxes full of cardboard tubes, plastic tubs, egg-boxes and lots more, and were allowed to create their own 'junk models' - recycling in action! It was fantastic to see them using their own imagination and creativity.

Our Talk Topic for next week will be "Describe your favourite rainforest animal - what does it look like, which layer does it live in, what does it eat?"

Maths homework will be 'Canopy Chaos 1.27' - doubles and halves.

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru

Year1teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

After a busy, exciting Human Footprint week, we are definitely becoming more aware of how humans affect the environment, and of how important it is that we all do our utmost to protect it. We had a great start to the week with Mrs. Read, looking at the Carbon cycle and finding out how greenhouse gases are affecting our planet. We made some big class posters to explain how the environment is changing and

discussed how this affects life around us. It was impressive to see just how much all the children already understand the damage being done and how many excellent ideas they have for changes that could be made to our lifestyle.

As part of Human Footprint week, the Junior Department set up a BISB postal service so that we can send letters and postcards between departments to find out how everyone else is looking at the human impact on our environment. We carried out a bird survey in our playground and discovered that, although we do seem to have a family of blue tits nesting somewhere in the trees, we otherwise only have pigeons and crows. We spread out around the playground, watching and listening very carefully to see which birds flew over and where they landed. We then stood on top of the fire escape and watched the birds across the rooftops – we thought it was very strange not to see any birds landing on walls, roofs or gardens.



We wrote to the Juniors asking if it is the same in their playground, and yesterday received a whole delivery of letters and postcards with lots of information on the bird population around the Junior building. We now need to look at why there are so few species, and at what we can do in our playground to create a habitat that will attract birds. We do have a pair of magpies building a nest in the tree right outside our window, so we hope that we might see some baby birds soon. Mrs. Prescott sent us some fascinating photos of a nest of baby blackbirds in her garden and we saw how quickly these grew into birds that left the nest after only 12 days.

We had a fantastic trip to Park Josaphat with Year 1. The sun shone all morning and the park was beautiful. We walked all around the park, stopping to watch different animals, birds and plants. There were ducks on the pond, along with a family of geese and goslings, we saw a swan curled up asleep and saw a coot diving down into the water to catch food. We also spotted some enormous fish, but it was more difficult to see frogs or toads. We did see a rabbit, which, despite having 20 excited children running towards it, hopped off into the meadow area and sat quite happily in the shade of the bushes! We went out of the park to look at a giant tree that had been blown down in the winter storms and saw just how enormous the roots are and how far they spread. We found another group of different trees to do some bark rubbings and then sat in the shade to eat lunch.

Afterwards we carried out some insect surveys by making observation squares in the grass and sitting very still to observe any insects that came into the area. We were really surprised to see so few signs of life, so carried out an experiment to attract insects to damp ground by making little rivers and ponds with our water bottles. This didn't seem to make much of a difference, and so we are wondering if this lack of insect life is one of the reasons for the small numbers of birds, even in the park. After a quick play on the playground we headed back to school. I have to say that our 'crocodile' was very impressive, with everyone walking in pairs, crossing roads carefully and managing to keep up with the people in front. We only had one lost shoe and one collision with a post and hardly anyone complained about tired legs. Well done to all, and a big thank you to Mohith's dad and Sharvi's mum for coming with us.

In maths we worked on measuring capacity and made sure that we know the different measurements used for weight and height or length. We also revised money and giving change, along with taking another look at different subtraction methods. In science we did some research on different birds and made posters to show the birds we liked best.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had a fun drill using all the action verbs by using the 'Impératif'. We played the game 'Jacques a dit' in order to put to use the way we use 'l'impératif'. We also worked on the use of 'la forme négative' with the action verbs.

Our talk topic is “Why is it important to have parks and green spaces in big cities?”

Mrs Tolentino has done a great job putting the week's photos on the website:

<http://www.bisb.org/project/year-2-human-footprints-in-the-park/>

<http://www.bisb.org/project/year-2-human-footprint-week-our-bird-survey-and-first-postcard-to-the-junior-department/>

Have a lovely weekend,

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

year2teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

This week we've been focusing on the environment as part of our school 'Human footprint week'. The children have been doing the first two of a series of four workshops on this theme across the junior department. In the Year 3 wildlife conservation centre The Pollution Pack and the Wildlife Warriors we talked about bird species in Belgium, found out that some are endangered and discussed ways of helping birds to thrive. We made bird feeders and discussed how humans can reduce their impact on bird populations. We also had a debate about conservation with reference to a wetland that was a major habitat for birds. Builders, farmers and conservationists debated their plans for the land with reference to their own priorities and tried to reach a compromise on how it could be used.



With Mrs Tranter in the Year 6 science lab, the children have been studying: carbon dioxide (positives and negatives) and with Mr Stedman the focus in the Year 4 area was the geography of environmental threats and with Mrs Vetter they learned all about plastic.

In literacy we moved on to the learning the words for the second part of the summer term. These were words ending in the suffix -al. We discussed how the suffix -al means 'of' or 'relating to' and turns a noun into an adjective. Also in literacy we

reviewed word classes. We talked about how some words have more than one meaning and belong to more than one word class and you need to look at the rest of the sentence to work out what the word means and what type of word it is.

In maths we reviewed angles. We discussed the difference between right angles, obtuse angles and acute angles. We practised measuring them with a protractor and identifying them within shapes. We discussed the names of different types of lines – horizontal, vertical, diagonal, parallel and perpendicular. We then identified these different types of line in a photo of the San Francisco skyline. We then moved on to working out the perimeter of different shapes by adding together the length of each of the sides.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we finished watching Zarafa and we started talking about our next week assembly topic: 'Le chocolat'. We talked briefly about the history of chocolate, its origins and ties to the ancient civilizations of Central America, and how it reached Europe. We also talked about how we harvest cacao beans and the ecosystem in which they grow.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished watching the film Zarafa which the children loved. We started talking about chocolate to prepare the next assembly which will be held in French and the visit to the chocolate museum. It is all very exciting.

Our Talk Topic this week is 'What have you learned from our 'human footprint' workshops? What can you do to reduce your 'human footprint'/impact on the environment?'

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Naomi Irakoze

year3teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 4

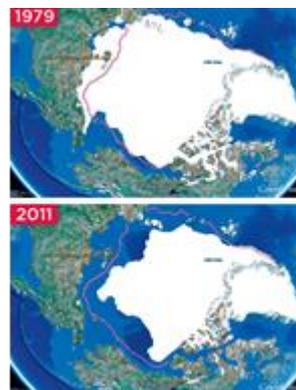
Dear Parents,

Human Footprint Week had the ability to both thrill, fascinate and depress us and it was an impactful week. The children have been doing the first two of a series of four workshops on this theme across the junior department

In the Year 3 wildlife conservation centre we talked about bird species in Belgium with Mrs Rutayisire. With Mrs Tranter in the Year 6 science lab, the children have been studying: carbon dioxide (positives and negatives) and with Mrs Vetter they learned all about plastic.

The two groups who spent time with me focused on the geography of environmental threats. We began by watching parts of the BBC's documentaries, 'Climate Change'

and 'Drowning in Plastic', stopping frequently to discuss and clarify the science. We learnt how we create a carbon footprint in everything we do without even knowing it and how we and nations can take steps. Many of the children were thrilled to find out that being a vegetarian is a one of the greatest steps but disheartened to realise that mass consumption has consequences. All this fascinating research led us to a giant map of the world which we would add plastic and cotton wool to to demonstrate the extent of ocean plastic accumulation and ice cap melting respectively. The children used the iPads to locate key plastic hotspots around the world and diagrams of how much the polar ice has receded. The process and the effect of the map was pretty powerful.



To add to this, the Juniors received 'post' from the Infants with queries about environmental issues. Our Year 4's were well pleased to receive mail from Nursery and even more so to 'buy' the stationery necessary from the Post.bisb Team and respond.

Next week, groups will rotate and complete the activities yet to do.

The children will also rotate in two weeks when the tennis party swap over with the 'stayers'. The stayers and I played volleyball this week, practicing serving and keeping the ball up and, indeed, learning the (confusing) rules of the game.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we finished watching Zarafa and we started talking about our next week assembly topic: 'Le chocolat'. We talked briefly about the history of chocolate, its origins and ties to the ancient civilizations of Central America, and how it reached Europe. We also talked about how we harvest cacao beans and the ecosystem in which they grow.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished watched the film Zarafa which the children loved. We started talking about chocolate to prepare the next assembly which will be held in French and the visit to the chocolate museum. It is all very exciting.

Year 4 also played their Fifteen15 match against the Y6. We set a total of 42 but this didn't prove quite big enough for the mighty Y6. As a result, we received the Wooden Spoon but loved the experience. We're looking forward to the after-school cricket matches in two weeks.

Elsewhere, we have multiplied HTU x U, aliens have stolen our underpants in Literacy and in Topic, we researched and 'timelined' key events in the Space Race. And that was our week.

Our Talk Topic for this week is: How will you make your carbon footprint smaller? 5 smart targets thinking, what? how? when? success?

Best wishes

Tim Stedman and Naomi Irakoze

year4teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

It has been a lovely sunny week which has seen temperatures rise considerably. It might be a good idea to send a light coat with your children rather than a heavy winter one. Also, please make sure your child has the right uniform as jumpers will be removed if it is hot.

In Numeracy this week we have been busy bees. We have revised co-ordinates, translations and Roman numerals. We have also revised our negative numbers; both adding on and subtracting using a temperature gauge. We then moved on to polygons where we identified shapes and spoke at length about their characteristics. We use protractors to measure angles and rulers to draw lines. All in all, there has been a lot of numeracy in this first Environment week, and this is further shown in the daily homework we have had.

In Literacy things have been just as busy. We received letters from the year 2 children which required us to answer and post back. The children enjoyed going down to the Booster group shop run by Mrs Irakoze to buy stationery and envelopes needed to reply to the letters. After this, we did a comprehension on the Wind in the Willows which led to discussions about personification Toad's character. In grammar we worked on Standard English use of adjectives. We had to make sentences using this concept and had a laugh at the funny ones.



In PE we had a cricket match session. I must say the class generally play really good cricket and understand our somewhat different playground rules very well. Our French trip to the Sezame library was fun.

As we split into 4 sessions for Environment week, the children have been doing the first two of a series of four workshops on this theme across the junior department

The Climate Club and Garbage gang learnt all about plastic. We discovered the history behind this worrisome but useful item as well as discovering that the amount of plastic produced is equal to the weight of all the humans on earth. We also took a closer look at trash islands and especially the Great Pacific Garbage Patch which is currently twice the size of Texas which is 22 times larger than Belgium. Out of this came the slogan 'Be part of the solution, not the pollution'. We also looked at our carbon footprints and discussed ways in which we could reduce our impact on the planet. Switching the TV off at its source and not just with the remote was a fact some children did not know. I think we have some budding ecologists amongst our children. The highlight of our sessions was creating a work of art using plastic bottle tops. Currently we have created a dolphin and a whale. The children enjoyed doing this and are very proud of the resulting works of Art.

In the Year 3 wildlife conservation centre we talked about bird species in Belgium with Mrs Rutayisire. With Mrs Tranter in the Year 6 science lab, the children have

been studying: carbon dioxide (positives and negatives) and with Mr Stedman the focus in the Year 4 area was the geography of environmental threats.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished watching all documentaries about chocolate to prepare our French assembly and our visit to the chocolate museum. We also went to la Bibliothèque Sésame always in Schaerbeek where we had a presentation on food based on various films and documentaries extracts.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started talking about our next week assembly topic: 'Le chocolat'. We talked briefly about the history of chocolate, its origins and ties to the ancient civilizations of Central America, and how it reached Europe. We also talked about how we harvest cacao beans and the ecosystem in which they grow, as well as the production of chocolate by some of the world's most renowned brands.

We have been busy with play practices which involve singing, dancing and acting. Thank you to those who have returned the slips and money for our upcoming outings. May I ask that any outstanding slips and money be sent back as soon as possible please? Also, if you are able to assist on one of our outings please could you let the school office know.

Our talk topic is: Be part of the solution, not the pollution. Discuss how you can put this into practice with your family.

After this very full week, have a super relaxing weekend.

Best wishes,

Valeria Vetter and Ena Tolentino

year5teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

We are enjoying an educational and exciting Environment Week in the Junior Department. As the children have been working in groups, each teacher has provided a resume of their diverse and inspirational activities i.e. the children have been doing the first two of a series of four workshops on this theme across the junior department

Environment Sessions 1 & 2

In the Year 6 science lab, the Garbage Gang and Climate Club have been studying: carbon dioxide (positives and negatives); environmental devastation caused by oil spills; technological advances that have been made in dealing with these



and how landfill sites work. The junior scientists were thrilled to ‘make’ carbon dioxide gas in the lab, and by ‘pouring’ this gas over a tealight, extinguished the flame. After having learnt about the Exxon Valdez disaster (and clean-up operation) in Alaska, the pupils were then challenged with creating their own oil spill, replicating the effects of oil on wildlife; cleaning it up using dispersants, absorbent material and a boom. Finally, we investigated landfill sites and how these are constructed. With the clock ticking, engineers had to make a landfill site, complete with internal piping for the evacuation of leachate and methane gas.

In the Year 3 wildlife conservation centre we talked about bird species in Belgium with Mrs Rutayisire and with Mr Stedman the focus in the Year 4 area was the geography of environmental threats and with Mrs Vetter they learned all about plastic.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished watching all documentaries about chocolate to prepare our French assembly and our visit to the chocolate museum. We also went to la Bibliothèque Sésame always in Schaerbeek where we had a presentation on food based on various films and documentaries extracts.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started talking about our next week assembly topic: ‘Le chocolat’. We talked briefly about the history of chocolate, its origins and ties to the ancient civilizations of Central America, and how it reached Europe. We also talked about how we harvest cacao beans and the ecosystem in which they grow, as well as the production of chocolate by some of the world’s most renowned brands.

In addition to all the above, we have nearly finished reading Auslander – 30 pages to go! We listened to an excellent presentation about Canada’s role in WWII. On Tuesday, we discussed planning for the writing task about the Titanic. The students enjoyed a ‘SATs surgery’, where they could request help for topics that they still found challenging.

We are ready for the examinations next week.

Our Talk Topic this week is: What are your strategies for dealing with pressure?

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

year6teacher@telenet.be

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

English as an Additional Language

Dear Parents,

In our small group EAL sessions this week, the Junior Department children continued with their study of climate change and global warming. During our discussions, they shared many excellent ideas about how we could reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, showing a good understanding of the problem, and reflecting the conversations they have had at home. These discussions helped us practise structures using if, and could, should and would, Next week, we will visit the Junior classes to give a simple explanation of the carbon cycle.

The Year One and Two EAL group enjoyed talking about their visit to Park Josaphat this week, using both nouns and adjectives to describe the plants, animals and human-made things, and using present simple structures including they need, they have, they eat, there is/are . We also spent some time talking about Year One's study of the rainforest, with the children giving good explanations about why certain animals live in certain layers of the forest. We watched a short film about a rainforest adventure, which stimulated much further discussion.



The Reception EAL children this week shared their reading books with me, and we had conversations using the words in the books, as well as putting the stories into a wider context and developing the vocabulary needed for this. This kind of conversation should support the children's progress in reading with understanding.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read

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