

Home School Books – 21 June 2019.

### Home School Book – Nursery

This is our last home school book letter of this academic year and what a fantastic year we have all had in Nursery!



This week we have finished off our project on the Rainbow Fish; next time you are in please take a look at all of our rainbow fish drawings and paintings. They are on the big display wall where the carpet area is. We have also looked at other underwater creatures and plant life, such as Octopi, crabs, plankton and shells. Weather permitting next week we will finish off with water activities and we will go on a shark hunt! instead of a bear hunt! Our story will be 'There's a Shark in the Park' by Nick Sharratt: <https://youtu.be/Ketu-SWDyD0>

We will also have the nursery sports day next Thursday and play some fun sport activities and maybe win a medal or two! Or a medal and an ice lolly, even better, as running and jumping is thirsty work!

Of course the most important event next Monday 24th at 11.30am is the nursery show, an extravaganza you won't want to miss! So please come along to the Infant department and listen to your little one perform all of those wonderful songs you may have heard them practising over the last few weeks!

You should have received your little one's home school book this week with some extra bits and pieces to take home. You do not need to return this now; it is yours to keep as a lovely reminder of the year they have spent in nursery. We hope you liked their end of the year photograph, our sparkly Rainbow Fish hats, helped remind us that life is much better when you are kind to others.

Don't forget school ends at 12.15pm for everyone in the Infant department next Friday 28th June. There will be no garderie on that day.

Some of you will be back in September and others will move into Reception class and of course one or two of you will leave for pastures new. All of you we hope will have a fabulous Summer Break, enjoying this precious time with your little one. Enjoy whatever you are doing wherever you maybe. Remember to laugh a lot and have fun!

HAVE A SUPER SIZZLING SUMMER!

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,

This week we have been hard at work, practising our songs and finishing our costumes for the summer show. It looks like the weather will be lovely next Monday so we should be able to have our show outside in the playground. The show starts at 11.30 on Monday the 24th and remember, the children should all be wearing shorts and a t-shirt. You are of course welcome to take your child home with you after the show if you wish. The children are all super excited about the show and we hope you can all come and see it.

Our artwork continues to revolve around mini-beasts as the children never seem to tire of this topic. We made some super cool snail pictures and surrounded the snails with sticks and leaves to imitate the snails natural habitat. We have also started to use some of the things that we have recycled to make some cool arts-and-crafts things. This week we made little instruments out of yogurt drink boxes and next week we will be using straws to make flying bees, so next week the children will take home a fun flying surprise!

In phonics this week we continued to practise our reading and writing, as well as our diagraphs and some high frequency words. We also played some fun word games to practise the high frequency words, which are many and complicated, but the children are slowly starting to recognise them, even if they are often spelled in a funny way.

This week in maths we continued to practise our counting. We counted backwards and forwards and we counted in 2s, 5s and 10s and everyone is getting really good at counting in all of these different and fun ways. We also focused a lot on doubling and halving. Doubling is a lot easier for the children than halving is, although doubling can still get confusing for them sometimes. Halving numbers is even more complicated and confusing, but the children still did a great job with halving! Well done everyone!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we continue singing all songs and are decorating a booklet containing most of the songs we learnt this year. We also learnt a new song about food and learnt a few names of fruit and vegetables.

**The talk topic this week is: If you were a mini-beast, what kind of mini-beast would you be? What habitat would you live in and what kinds of things would you like to eat?!**

This week's stars of the week go to Adrian for learning valuable lessons from doing mistakes and for doing great in maths this week! And to Shanvika for brilliant improvement in her reading and for always trying her very best with all her work! Well done Shanvika and Adrian, Congratulations! 😊

Next week will be our final week of school after a very fun and eventful year in Reception. Time has flown by and we are so pleased to see how much the children have matured, how much they have learned, and how much they have accomplished this year! They have all done so well this year and we are sure they will continue to do even better in Year 1 and have lots of fun! We thank you for a brilliant year and wish you all the best!



Have a wonderful summer!

Elín Hafstein and Ivana Julaton

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

### Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

We have been working on two major projects this week - finalising our costumes, props and backdrop pictures for the show and adding to our collection of safari animals for our outdoor display next week.

In Literacy, we have continued with our 'alternative pronunciations' of the short vowels - this week we looked at /o/ and /u/, which the children would usually sound out as in 'orange' and 'under'. But in words such as 'oval' and 'uniform', the sounds are long (as in /oa/ and /ew/). We practised differentiating between sounds in lists of words containing both variations, and made lists of words containing each sound.

As well as revising the last 5 weeks' work, this week we also did some work on data handling. The children had already learnt how to make and interpret basic block charts, but this week we looked at a method of recording data (tally charts) and another method of presenting it (pictograms). With tally charts, the children have learnt how to record individual items (we practised with a bag of shapes, either red, blue or yellow) using a vertical mark for 1-4, and closing the group of five with a horizontal or diagonal mark. Then, at the end, we practised counting the totals by counting in 5s, and answered questions about the data, such as 'how many more red shapes were there than blue shapes?' You can see an example in this week's home school book.

The children have also been busy practising their coding this week - we have had two sessions in which they have progressed through the second of the two Year 1 units. In

addition to being able to programme objects or characters to move around, the children can now make them change direction, stop or disappear. There is one session left, when the children will be presented with some basic code which doesn't work, and they will have to read it carefully to work out why, and then correct it.

Our topic work this week has been mainly Art-based, in preparation for our safari

park display - the elephant is complete, the crocodile is making good progress after a slow start to life, and the giraffe and zebra are beginning to look healthy. We felt we needed a fifth animal to make the park seem more full, so we conducted a democratic exercise (using our new tally chart skills) to decide what else to make - the cheetah won, closely followed by the flamingo - we will see how much time we have next week... Please remember that next Wednesday (26th June), parents are welcome to come and visit our safari park after school, from 15.30-16.15. Your child will give you a guided tour of the park, and will explain to you about the animals living there.

Animals	Tally Marks
 Tiger	
 Giraffe	
 Elephant	

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 are now in Monsieur Oribilis’ house (chez Monsieur Oribilis) and are following Lucie and the other children who are trying to escape.

**Talk Topic for next week will be “What have you enjoyed most in Year 1?”**

By the time you read this, 'Pirates vs. Mermaids' will be over - we hope you enjoyed it! All we have to do now is to reconcile the two factions...!

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru

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

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

With the show at the end of this week, we have been saving the best of the preparations to the last minute and have spent the whole week making props and scenery; painting, sticking, cutting... as well as trying to transform a very large cardboard box into a mermaid cave. Although this might sound chaotic (and might have appeared to be at times), it was, in fact, a military operation with children choosing their projects and sorting themselves into teams.

We started the week with a (rather long) master list, which included pirate costume accessories – hooks, swords and eye-patches, full mermaid regalia, a set of parrot wings and then rather a lot of cardboard painting to transform the boat (engineered

and painted by Year 1) and the cave, as well as the usual items such as a weevil biscuit, a plank and a carrot!

There was some great teamwork and some very impressive organizational skills on show as everyone took turns in the tiny paint room to find their different materials. At times it looked more like Santa's workshop than a classroom and we had to spread across the hall and into the music room to find enough floor space to lay everything out. However, by playtime this morning when we got the list back out to check progress, we had successfully completed everything ("Phew!" as the pirates would say), and everyone was able to prepare their costume bags ready for the big day tomorrow. There is far more to putting on a show than the 40-minute performance that you see on the day, and all of this preparation is an important part. Everyone makes a big effort to learn their lines, whether they have a few or a lot, and we have been really impressed this term with how well everyone has done – and some children really can recite the entire show! However, the 'background' work - making costumes, scenery and programmes, is a really valuable learning experience.

After one particularly catastrophic practice this week, during which lots of people were half asleep and others just forgot their lines, we decided to try out a new way of working on it in class, and of making sure that everyone came in at the right time without leaving a big silent gap. We all sat on chairs in a big circle and acted out our parts in turn. In this way it was easier for everyone to follow the story and to remember exactly where they fitted in. It also gave us the chance to practice saying the lines with different expressions, working out which words were the most important and trying to make sure that the story line could be understood by the audience. It was a fun exercise and certainly made a big difference to everyone's concentration. Let's hope it pays off during the performance!



Check out the website for photos and video clips of the last rehearsal – Mrs Tolentino has done it again and got them up in record time:

<http://www.bisb.org/project/mermaids-pirates-at-work/>

As for the rest of the week, we did the very long, but very last problem-solving maths test of the year, which we enjoyed and decided that it felt more like doing a book of puzzles. The good old detective skills and 'draw it if you don't get it' strategies worked wonders and we finished the year on a high. Well done to everyone, particularly to those whose determination means that they never give up! We also managed to read the entire book of "Fantastic Mr Fox", which gave rise to lots of interesting discussion, on, for example, how humans destroy animal habitats without thinking of the consequences and a lengthy debate on the rights and wrongs of the Foxes stealing food to survive.

This discussion gives children the opportunity to consider and evaluate different points of view, both within the story and from hearing other people's opinions, and reading a whole chapter book brings storytelling alive, as the characters and adventures are so much more exciting and dramatic when the book is longer. Roald Dahl has written lots of books for children of all ages – make the most of the summer holidays to discover some more of them!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started “Les Aventures de Mademoiselle Alexa et Monsieur Sam” (the adventures of Ms. and Mr) it’s a project where they will create, draw, describe and talk about their own imaginary character. The objective of this project is to consolidate, review and include everything we have covered.

**Our talk topic is “What do you think went well in the show, and what could we have done differently?”**

Have a wonderful weekend out and about, enjoying the amazing summer weather.

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

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

### Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

Wow what a fabulous show it was on Monday, I was very proud of all the children in the class for their super dancing, singing, acting and charisma! They did a great job and all of their hard work at home and school paid off. The songs have been in our minds all week and the children can’t stop singing them! Thank you for all of your support with helping to find costumes and helping the children to learn their lines.



In maths this week we have focused on completing our mental arithmetic work. I have been starting to send the children’s class work home each day this week as it is rather a lot to carry in one go! Please note that any exercise books or sheets of children’s can now stay at home. In literacy we did our last spelling test of the year on the topic of silent letters. The children did well and I’ve been pleased with their work in spelling this year. We also discussed our memories of the school year and the children wrote and drew their favourite things that they have done this year. They took time to reflect on what they have learned, their favourite books that they have read and activities they have done. We also talked a bit more about the famous five and looked at another one of their adventures.

Thank you for all of you who have brought back library books already. If you still have books at home please can you bring them in as we need to organise the books so they are ready for children to borrow in the new academic year. Also next week all class reading books need to be returned.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are now furnishing our houses and apartments and are learning new vocabulary. We also made chocolate truffles and keep on singing. In French with Mrs Halvorsen, as a follow-up to our chocolate assembly, we introduced a fun recipe to learn how to make dark chocolate truffles in French. We discussed the specifics and the vocabulary of the recipe. We also learned a very special and beautiful French song.

Next week, the last week of the school year promises to be great fun. We have orienteering on Monday so please make sure your child is on time to school and suitably dressed for the weather. The current forecast is that it's going to be very hot so it might be a good idea to bring a sun hat. Next week we will also have an end of year quiz and sports to do, along with the final assembly. Lots to look forward to!

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,

The Show kicked off the week and we had all been excited for the off. From what I gathered from some of you, it was a cracking performance and both moved and amused in parts. From the teachers' point of view, it was fantastic: the children peaked at the right moment and they always seem to go up to the next level when curtain time comes. The children are already asking what the next Christmas and Summer Shows will be and we are already exploring the possibilities!!!!

On Tuesday, the BISB Football and Netball Teams went to BEPS international school for a tri-school 'sportsmeet' and three of our Year 4's received their first 'cap'. Good experience and a good time were had, fitting in a nice lunch in the Bois de la Cambre park.



On Wednesday, some children finished their Space Story script and were able to record their radio programme. We hope that everyone will be able to make their recording before time runs out given just four days of term left to go! We also had a look at our Abacus tests to see where we had gone wrong and what to do next time.

On Thursday, the popular event of the 'moon machine' DT project began and at the time of writing, the Y4 classroom does indeed look like a workshop. As usual, this designing and inventing is creating a lot of enthusiasm, energy and buzz which is great to watch.

And that was our week.

I have had a great year and a class which I saw had so much potential has gone a long way to deliver on that potential promise. We have concentrated a lot on reading and maths (saturating the timetable with guided reading, pair practice and speed testing (in both Literacy and Numeracy)); did weekly sessions of Think Tank logic problem-

solving; used the iPads a lot for a variety of purposes; been really active and got fit; and talked much. The children look to Year 5 with enthusiasm and readiness. Thank you for your support for them and for me.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are now furnishing our houses and apartments and are learning new vocabulary. We also made chocolate truffles and keep on singing. In French with Mrs Halvorsen, as a follow-up to our chocolate assembly, we introduced a fun recipe to learn how to make dark chocolate truffles in French. We discussed the specifics and the vocabulary of the recipe. We also learned a very special and beautiful French song.

Today, we say goodbye to Netra and we wish her all the very heart-felt best for her new start home. Au revoir, Netra.

### **Our Talk Topic for this week is: What 6 things will you remember most about Y4?**

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,

The weather has mostly been hot again this week with some severe rain and thunderstorms in between.

Wow! What a show! Monday night's play was one of the best I have seen. The children were amazing. The acting was incredible especially by those who had to fill in at the last moment for children who didn't come. The dancing was outstanding! The music and singing was marvellous. It always

amazes me as to how the children up their game when they have their costumes on and are under the lights. The question the next day was: Mrs. Vetter, what are we doing next? That tells me the children absolutely love our shows and give their whole to their roles.



The rest of the week has been quieter. We have been reading our class reader and have come to the part where Fix drugged Passepartout. The children were shocked at this! Fix is a Police detective so how can he do something so dastardly? We will soon find out.

On Wednesday we had a very pleasant cricket match against the year 6's and then again on Thursday where we joined the year 4's and played a friendly game. At the moment, cricket is very popular, probably due to the current World Cup.

In the classroom we are busy tidying up and enjoying various activities found around the room. Inventing marble runs has been particularly enjoyable.

In French with Mrs. Scharf & Mrs Halvorsen, as a follow-up to our chocolate assembly, we introduced a fun recipe to learn how to make dark chocolate truffles in French. We discussed the specifics and the vocabulary of the recipe. We also learned a very special and beautiful French song.

Please do not forget that Monday is our final orienteering for the year. The children will need their snack and water as it promises to be a rather warm day. I am sure we will all have loads of fun out in the forest air.

**The talk topic this week is: Detective Fix has drugged Passepartout. Discuss the reasons why he did this.**

Have a very happy, peaceful pre-final week weekend.

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,

Thank you for all the wonderful comments about our summer production ‘Treachery and Traitors’ Quay’. Mr Prescott was accurate in his description about the show being the ‘tip of the iceberg’, we have been working on this play for several weeks! Whilst not wishing to dampen the afterglow of success, I would like to mention a few things that have caused teachers and other actors angst: children not learning their lines or the songs, children being taken on holiday during the weeks prior to the show, children not being in school for other reasons other than sickness and children not turning up on the day of the production. We are already thinking about the Christmas production and have made a note of those children, the majority, who were responsible, reliable and conscientious – thank you.

Everyone was tired on Tuesday, so whilst the netball and football teams went off to play an away match, the rest of us stayed at school and played cricket, football and played in the glorious sunshine.

There was court room drama in Year 6 on Thursday, in fact, the case had to be adjourned until Friday due to the complexity of the case – The People v White Star Line. So far, the lawyers (Mr Bhargy and Mr Shuby) have focused on there being insufficient lifeboats, the use of lower grade rivets, the decision to lower the bulkheads and the order of ‘only women and children’ first, given by Captain Smith.

Mr Bruce Ismay and Mr Clarke of the Board of Trade were found in contempt of court. The White Star engineer, Mr Eashan, has repeatedly stated that he followed White Star construction rules; Molly 'Sandra' Brown, told the packed court room, that her pleas for the lifeboats to return to save drowning passengers were refused. The Marconi telegraph engineer argued that he had delivered all the ice-warnings to the bridge. All witnesses were required to give evidence under oath by swearing on the Year 6 Excuse Book!!



In French with Mrs. Scharf & Mrs Halvorsen, as a follow-up to our chocolate assembly, we introduced a fun recipe to learn how to make dark chocolate truffles in French. We discussed the specifics and the vocabulary of the recipe. We also learned a very special and beautiful French song.

### **Talk Topic: Is it ever acceptable to steal?**

Wishing sunshine and laughter at the 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,

The excitement about the school shows has given rise to a lot of interesting conversation in the EAL sessions. In both the junior and infant departments, we talked about the meanings of some of the more unusual words and phrases in the scripts, found suitable nouns and adjectives to write descriptive phrases about the characters, and discussed our favourite moments in the shows.

In the Junior department, we also looked again at questions. We changed statements into yes/no questions, by changing the word order, and sometimes adding *do/does/did*, and then into *where, when* and *why* (eg. *He runs to school; does he run to school? why does he run to school?*)

In the Year 1 and 2 EAL sessions, we made a survey of favourite fruits, asking children in the other language groups to choose one from a selection (*If you choose mango, put your hand up*). We then represented our data on pictograms, in preparation for Year 1's class work on this topic, and we practised sentences



and questions such as: *How many people chose coconut?* and *8 people chose apples.*

In the Reception EAL sessions, we re-read some simple sentences that we created last week when talking about our news, and then we changed one word in each sentence (eg. *We went cycling to the shop* changed to *We went cycling to the park*). We also read a non-fiction book about why different animals need different types of feet.

I wish you all a happy weekend.

Kate Read  
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