

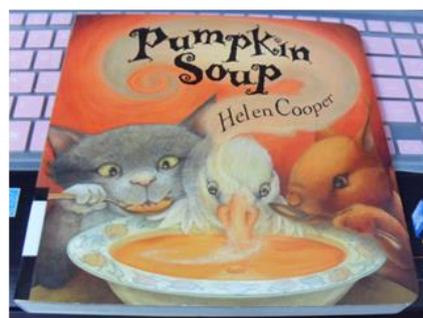
Home School Books – 26 October 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

We cannot believe it is the half term holiday already, the last few weeks have flown by! Which is of course what happens when we are having so much fun in nursery! This week has been very busy indeed, as it was our Pumpkin week throughout the whole school. The children have as we said earlier looked at and learned some amazing pumpkin facts, sang a couple of pumpkin songs, tasted soup and bread made from pumpkin but our best pumpkin experience was making pumpkin muffins on Thursday. We asked the children what ingredients they thought would be needed to make the muffins. There weren't many ideas apart from sweets and chocolate! So we sat down at the table and looked at all of the ingredients, even then it was a tad tricky to recognise packages and the contents inside for some children. Someone thought that the butter was ice cream and the flour was sand! Yummy! After thinking about it carefully we all decided the sand was actually flour and it definitely wouldn't be a good idea to put ice cream into the oven!

Then the weighing and the mixing began, great excitement and lots of trying to eat the mixture before it made it to the cake cases. Thankfully, at last the cakes made it to the oven and the smell while they were baking made everyone hungry. We hope they tasted as delicious as the smell they made and you enjoyed a little crumb, as we also talked about sharing it with mummy and daddy! It was a fantastic activity and covered nearly all of the foundation stage curriculum areas but most of all it was just fun! Although the teachers did deserve their coffee break after it!



Of course dressing up day was also very exciting and a great success, thank you for making the effort to dress your little one in autumn colours or orange pumpkin outfits. This is why we have pumpkin week instead of Halloween, as witches and ghosts are just too scary for some! The pumpkin display was also beautiful this year with the many shapes and sizes and colours of a variety of pumpkins, please look out for our photographs on the school website.

We are looking forward to seeing you all after the half term break, if you will be coming back later because of an extended vacation please send us a quick e mail to say when.

Until then, enjoy your week off doing whatever you are doing and have fun doing it!

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, as you have probably noticed, has been all about pumpkins! The children brought pumpkins to school and displayed them on a big orange table in the library, on Wednesday the children wore autumn-pumpkin costumes to school, and we had some pumpkin soup and bread with pumpkin seeds. We have also done pumpkin drawings, pumpkin worksheets, pumpkin artwork and played some pumpkin games. Our talk topic this week was “What are all the things you can do with a pumpkin” and we got some very fun and creative ideas from the children as to what one can do with a pumpkin.



In phonics this week we practiced l and ll and we talked about how some letters, such as l and ll, f and ff, s and ss, all make the same sound, regardless of whether they stand alone or two together. We sang some phonics songs and did some phonics exercises, practicing beginning sounds and blending of simple CVC words.

In Maths, we continued looking at how the clock works. The children are getting really good at telling time and remembering that it's the long hand that points to 12 and the short hand points to the number that tells us what time it is. We also went over the different times of the day, focusing on which meal we eat at different times of day. Breakfast in the morning, lunch in the afternoon, dinner in the evening – And in the night we eat nothing at all because we are all fast asleep. We also did lots of worksheets on how to tell time and coloured some clock pictures as well. We also continued working with the days of the week and the date of the day.

In French with Madame Scharf, we had a fun week with pumpkins (citrouilles) and other autumnal symbols. We talked about mushrooms (champignons) the good ones and the bad ones, we sang a song on the same subject and made beautiful pictures.

Last but not least we did a pumpkin-life-cycle-worksheet where the children coloured the different stages of pumpkin growth, cut them out, and glued them in the right order on the life-cycle-sheet. They all did really good on this assignment, as you can see in your child's folder this week!

Finally, our talk topic for the first week after the brake is: Tell us about your autumn brake and the most fun things that you did during your week off from school!

We hope you have a wonderful time during the coming week and we can't wait to see everyone after the brake. Thank you all for a great pumpkin week!

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 had another pumpkin-packed week this week: last week we cooked them and wrote about them, and this week we have measured, compared, touched, sniffed, described, sunk, floated and even exploded them! There were also some strange goings-on in our classroom: our giant pumpkin changed into a beautiful horse-drawn carriage, the Fairy Godmother brought us some chocolate pumpkins, and some small pumpkin characters appeared in unusual places...

Before all the pumpkin fun started, though, we had to learn our sounds of the week: two more long vowel sounds, /igh/ as in 'night' and /oa/ as in 'boat', which we practised through reading, writing and speaking (and watching our favourite 'phoneme queen', Geraldine the Giraffe). In our text session, we combined the pumpkin theme with a look at rhyming words, by reading 'The Legend of Spookley the Square Pumpkin', about a misfit pumpkin who becomes a hero - all in rhyming verse. We then discussed the rhymes, practised making up our own rhymes, and began to think of some suitable verses for a future class poem. Finally, taking advantage of the pumpkins available, we cut one up, dug out its insides and had a session thinking of adjectives ('describing words') to describe both the inside and outside of our pumpkin.



Our pumpkins were also put to good use in Maths this week, when we used them as the object of our measuring practice, using our 'special method' of holding a ruler horizontally across the top of the pumpkin, to ensure we get an accurate measurement of height. As well as measuring, we practised comparing size, and the children had to make sentences using 'taller than/shorter than', 'the tallest/shortest' etc. We also played a new 'secret number' game, where the children have to use deduction to work out someone's secret number - this is great practice for the use of the terms 'more than/less than'.

On Thursday, we did some pumpkin science: a session on the pumpkin life-cycle, a sink or float experiment with various shapes and sizes of pumpkin, and finally a pumpkin-cano experiment, to see whether we could make a 'volcanic' eruption lift the top off our pumpkin. You can see some photos of this session at <http://www.bisb.org/project/pumpkin-science/>.

In French with Madame Scharf, we had a fun week talking about autumn and all the fruit and vegetables that are found in this season. We read stories and sang songs on this same theme.

Our Talk Topic for Monday 5th November will be "what is your favourite smell?" Please remember that on Tuesday 6th November, weather permitting, we will be going to the park, to look for signs of Autumn.

We wish you an enjoyable half-term break

Patrick Tranter and Smita Bandaru

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

Home School Book – Year 2

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of the first half term – the time has flown by and the children have worked and played hard and made excellent progress.

Pumpkin week has been great fun, with lots of contributions to the weird and wonderful range of pumpkins on display and everybody dressing up in some very creative pumpkin costumes. Mrs Tolentino took some lovely photos of everyone, with their pumpkins – take a look at the class photos on the website:

<http://www.bisb.org/project/making-pumpkin-soup/>

We had our first go at cooking and made some excellent pumpkin soup with lots of secret spices. Everyone chopped and stirred, and the classroom soon filled with the delicious smell of buttery onions. We used butternut squash and ordinary orange pumpkins and discovered that the butternut squash has far more flesh than seeds, which makes it much easier to cut up for soup. It also has a sweeter, smoother taste. Most people were enthusiastic to sample the soup once we had blended it, and we compared it to Mrs Prescott's version later in the day.



In literacy we discussed the importance of sequencing events so that they make sense, and worked out how to write the recipe, going over the process step by step to work out each instruction. I was very impressed to see how well everyone remembered what we had done, and what ingredients we had used. I think we will be experimenting with some more cooking next term! In art we did some detailed drawings of the pumpkins, observing the shapes and textures and trying to draw what we could really see, rather than just an orange oval. We also did some written descriptions.

We rounded off our term of Whale stories by listening to each of the five books again and voting for the one we liked best. The first vote resulted in a tie between two titles, so we re-voted to find our top favourite. It was interesting to discover that lots of people made their choice because of the illustrations – we decided that the pictures play a very important part in a story.

In maths we learnt how to draw bar charts to represent the results of the first vote, we will be using a different chart to show the final results. We also finished the problem-solving tests for this term and had a go at our first maths mystery, solving all sorts of number clues to find the culprit in a mystery challenge. This is a fun way to use all of the new work we have covered in a practical way, to solve problems. Working in pairs leads to lots of discussion on how to carry out each task and allows children to compare different ways of tackling questions.

The children have all come home with a new reading book for the holiday – I'm looking forward to reading their homework reviews and to hearing them share their reading with everyone else. We will also have a 'Super Spelling Team Challenge' during the first week back, covering all the words from this term (which are in their literacy books in their folders), so if the weather is miserable, get out the books and have a practice!

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we sang and acted all the words and the vocabulary of our new song: Salut, Bonjour L'Automne ! (hello autumn!) And we started talking about and presenting orally and individually our 'autumn project' to the entire class.

Our talk topic for the week is "What can I do to make the most of a whole week's holiday?"

We wish you an enjoyable half term. Let's hope we have some good weather to get out and about.

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

This week was all things pumpkin! We enjoyed looking at the fabulous pumpkin aliens on the junior department display and described them using lots of great adjectives. In art we did some pumpkin paper crafts and practised our observational skills by doing some still life drawings of pumpkins. We looked at a picture of some jack-o-lanterns for our writing lesson and discussed who made them, who found them, and what they looked like. We also finished our astronaut training from space week and the children are definitely ready for a space mission now!

This week in literacy we did our pumpkin spelling test with pumpkin related words and we talked about forming adverbs where the root of the word stays the same e.g. sad+ly=sadly, in preparation for the spelling test on the first week back after the holidays. Also in literacy we read a recipe for pumpkin muffins. We discussed the vocabulary in the recipe and followed the instructions in the method. The



children then got a copy on the recipe with lots of the punctuation missing and they had to go through the recipe adding full stops, capital letters and commas. We enjoyed decorating them and I'm sure the children enjoyed eating them later!

In maths we finished our work on fractions. We practised identifying different fractions including fifths, quarters, thirds, halves, sixths and tenths. We compared fractions and discussed which ones were bigger or smaller and then compared them using the greater than and less than signs. We did a pumpkin pie investigation where the children had to make whole pies using a variety of fractions which each had to add up to a whole.

In French with Madame Scharf, we had a fun week talking about autumn. We made a mind map in our notebooks including all autumnal features. We also listened to and sang a song about mushrooms.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we learned, performed brief scenes and played with twelve regular verbs ending in -er. We used these very useful and fun verbs to interview our classmates, to ask questions and to answer with simple and complete sentences.

Don't forget that after the half term break the group b swimmers will start their lessons at the pool. Therefore the group a swimmers don't need to bring their swimming things anymore. The group a swimmers have done very well in their lessons, well done!

Have a lovely holiday,

Kind regards

Camilla Rutayisire and Fiona King

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

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

Sortilege did and always seems to deliver. It's got everything: teamwork, problem solving, physical challenge, tests of bravery, the great outdoors and fresh air, a bit of French, kinaesthetic learning (physical response), a bit of daylight before the winter comes and above all, a huge amount of magic and imagination. No-one went home disappointed and all went home with life-long memories. When the Belgians do something well, they really do do it well and Sortilege is such a great, great experience. It's also made of the Autumn and perfect for Pumpkin Week.

We spilt into two groups and (with differing fortunes: Group 1 got 30 beans; the more cautious and slightly overly 'chiefed' Group 2 got just 9) we met up once



again just before the end at our final task: the Knight Training ring. See photos of our super day out! <http://www.bisb.org/project/y4-wishful-thinking-sortilege/>

A big thank you to Mrs Tolentino and Mrs Goureea for their help on the trip and I'm sure Mrs Goureea's French will have been a huge advantage!

Back in class we had lots of tests but we also enjoyed making Pumpkin Cookies, drinking and reading 'Pumpkin Soup' and playing various games in a Year 4 Pumpkin Olympics.

In French with Madame Scharf, we had a fun week talking about autumn. We made a mind map in our notebooks including all autumnal features. We also listened to and sang a song about mushrooms.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we learned, performed brief scenes and played with twelve regular verbs ending in -er. We used these very useful and fun verbs to interview our classmates, to ask questions and to answer with simple and complete sentences.

The week had started with calculating time intervals and some Space Station task reconstructions (we had to finish our Astronaut Training programme) but things soon went all orange and round and doing all sorts of things related to the vegetable entertained us greatly. Our class pumpkins were spectacular and it was clear a lot of time had been taken over them. Year 4 was also impressively filled with super fancy dresses and the end of term was a made a thoroughly fun event!

And that was our final week.

Enjoy your weekend and have a restful half term break!

Best wishes

Tim Stedman and Fiona King

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

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

This has been a slightly shorter but very interesting and productive week.

On Monday we completed the last bits of our Astronaut training. We managed to complete some space repairs and do our moon jumps. We are now awaiting confirmation of who has managed to make it through these gruelling trials.

In Numeracy we completed our unit on fractions. We looked at fractions of pizzas and enjoyed virtually eating these. We have been adding fractions with like denominators as well as mixed fractions. We have since moved on to finding common denominators and simplifying our fractions.

In Literacy we concentrated on finishing our class reader. We have thoroughly enjoyed the adventures of Michael and Kensuke and have learnt so much. We have delved into the murky world of pet trafficking and have discussed how cruel this is. We have been amazed at how the world has changed in the years after World War 2. Kensuke did not know about things such as microwaves, mobile telephones and computers. We have experienced a wave of



emotions and finally understood why Kensuke chose to stay on the island. This is testimony to the awesome writing of Michael Morpurgo. We also wrote a story about a small dragon and it is wonderful to see the children using the extensive vocabulary being gained by the daily words as well as the grammar that we have been exposed to. In Art we made things for our board display of Kensuke's Kingdom. The island in particular is very interesting and 3D.

In Computing we explored the wonderful world of Tynker coding and completed the first game on Space Cadets. This was fun and slowly introduced the class to loops and different debugging techniques.

We enjoyed bringing in our pumpkin aliens and loved looking at the different ones on display. We thoroughly enjoyed the soup and bread. Our autumnal costumes were interesting and worn proudly.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we learned how to use the 'Passé Composé (the simple past) of the 'regular' verbs ending in -er. We used those action verbs to talk about ce que j'ai fait 'hier' (what I did yesterday). We also got to talk about fun topics related to l'automne, les citrouilles et les sorcières in celebration of la semaine de la citrouille (pumpkin week).

In French with Madame Scharf, we spoke about the presentations we will make about our chosen country and spoke about the layout and contents. We also started reading a story by a famous French writer for children Pierre Gripari; "La Sorcière du placard à balais".

Sadly it was our last tennis rotation and we said a fond farewell to Michel our coach. We played matches again today and had loads of fun. He is really impressed with the progress of our class.

The class have the words for our songs and need to learn them during the half term break.

Thank you for coming to talk to me about your child's progress on Friday.

Please do not forget to send in the money and permission slips for our outing to the Van Gogh immersive experience on 12th November 2018.

The talk topic for the half term is: Do you think Kensuke was right to remain on the island and not go back to Japan? Discuss.

Have a lovely break and stay safe especially if you are travelling,

Best wishes,

Valeria Vetter and Ena Tolentino
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 6 webpage

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

I hope that you have all had a chance to look at the photographs of our night in the Atomium. This time, the students were super organised with gadgets, goodies and games! After at least three helpings of pizza, it was off to our private cinema to watch Johnny English. As expected, we were 'laughing out loud' throughout the film, which set the mood for the night games! 22.00, 23.00, 24.00, 01.00 - the hours went by as I lay on my sleeping bag, waiting for silence. In one pod, at 01.30 it was time to get up to look out at the night sky and then, yes, silence, but not for long! Accompanying the nocturnal visits to the toilets began at around 0200, as these are on the lower level, this makes going to the toilet even more exciting!! At 0530, armed with a strong cup of coffee, it was time for me to get up, to ensure that I was ready to cope with some very grumpy, tired children, the search for lost items of clothing and general mayhem! As always, this trip was truly unique, being magical and memorable and worth every hour of lost sleep.



On Monday, we revised paragraph cohesion: being able to link ideas across paragraphs using a wide range of cohesive devices.

Despite our best efforts, we still have fifty pages of the book Wonder to finish after half-term and then we can watch the film. After months of searching, I have found a girl, Oliva, in Seattle, who suffers from similar facial deformities to August, who has agreed to Skype with us on November 27th at 2.00 pm. For the holiday talk topic, I would like the students to think about questions that they would like to ask Olivia.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we learned how to use the 'Passé Composé (the simple past) of the 'regular' verbs ending in -er. We used those action verbs to talk about ce que j'ai fait 'hier' (what I did yesterday). We also got to talk about fun topics related to l'automne, les citrouilles et les sorcières in celebration of la semaine de la citrouille (pumpkin week).

In French with Madame Scharf, we spoke about the presentations we will make about our chosen country and spoke about the layout and contents. We also started reading a story by a famous French writer for children Pierre Gripari; "La Sorcière du placard à balais".

We have enjoyed three excellent student presentations this week: the weekly news report and two lessons from our 'Around the World in Eighty Treasures' project. We are all thrilled with progress that we are making with our speaking and listening skills.

Space Week is over for another year; we managed to find time to do the final egg experiment – using birthday candles to ‘suck’ an egg into a bottle!

Homework, which is on Edmodo, is revision of a range of maths topics and reading. Have a wonderful holiday,

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 a great half term. The children have settled well in to their classes, have become familiar with the routines of the school, have made friendships, and have made progress in speaking and listening, and in reading and writing, in English. I am sure that this progress will continue in the coming months.

This week, the Junior EAL group practised their reading comprehension skills, reading together a short text, counting the paragraphs, discussing whether it was fiction or non-fiction, and then asking each other questions. We also practised our writing skills, writing short non-fiction texts and making use of paragraphs.

The Year One and Two EAL small group this week spent a session working on rhyming words in a poem (about pumpkins). We also began to be aware of rhythm in the poem, using home-made shakers (which the children have brought home) to help feel the rhythm.



The Reception EAL group this week enjoyed talking about pumpkins, and especially about their views on the pumpkin soup that they tasted on Wednesday. We also read the story Reds and Blues, from the Oxford Reading Tree collection, and played a game relating to the characters, in which the children used the construction: Dad’s feet, Mum’s head, Floppy’s legs etc.

I wish you all a very happy week’s holiday, and I do encourage you to have as much conversation as possible with your children, in their home language, to ensure that they are confident communicators.

To maintain their English, it is a good idea to spend 15 minutes or so whenever possible listening to a story read aloud in English by a native English speaker. This will help the children to be familiar with the sounds and the structures of English. There are many short stories to be found on YouTube.



These stories are especially suitable for the Infant children cbeebies bedtime stories

and for the Junior children this is one example of several good story-readings to be found by searching: youtube cbbc Jackanory cbbcthelastcowboys

I look forward to seeing you at the meetings this week.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read

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