

Home School Books – 23 November 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

This week has started with a lot of visits to the hospital! - thankfully only the nursery hospital that we have in our role play area. To keep in line with our topic of ‘people who help us’ during circle time we looked at a variety of visuals, to help us understand who actually works in a hospital and to our amazement it isn’t only doctors. Then we looked at all the different instruments and objects that you might find in the hospital and we learned new words like, stethoscope, syringe, blood pressure monitor and X-ray.



The role play area then became our nursery hospital for broken toys and poorly teachers! We have already been bandaged, injected and had to take nasty tasting medicine! There are a lot of budding doctors but unfortunately not very gentle ones, so the teachers are not quite sure if they want to pay another visit! If you look opposite you will see your little ones wonderful artwork of their X-rayed hand, we looked at some real X-ray images and talked about how the special photographs taken by the X-ray machine can look inside of your body and see your bones. Ask your child what they can remember about our discussions and find out just how much they know.

The children have started to practise the songs we will be singing in our Christmas show, which will take place on Monday 17 December at 11.30am in the infant department. Please put the date in your diary now, as you are all invited to come and see this wonderful performance; well it will be wonderful after a little more practice! We are singing about all things snowy and some of our little ones have not experienced real snow yet, so let’s hope we see some before the show!

Talking about cold weather, we would like to say thank you to everyone who has bought mittens instead of gloves with fingers. This saves such a lot of time when we are getting ready to go outside, as most little ones cannot put on their own gloves yet. **Can we please ask that you continue at home to help your child progress with their independence skills by showing and allowing them to put on their own coat, gloves and scarf. We know it takes more time but it really is worth it in the long run.**

Don’t forget to come along to our annual walk in the woods this Sunday, look out for further information in Mr Prescott’s newsletter.

Our talk topic for discussion next week is ‘When do we need to have an X-ray?’ Have you ever had one and why?’

Have a great 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 would like to start the letter this week by asking you to send your children to school with mittens rather than gloves. We simply do not have the time to make sure that all 240 fingers, of all our students, go to the right place every time we go outside. Therefore, unless the child can put on a glove without any assistance, we ask you to send them to school with mittens! In addition we would like to remind you to label all of your child's belongings i.e. their scarves, hats, mittens, clothes, etc.



In phonics this week we learned about z and zz and how it makes the same sound when there is one z or two zz together. We also learned the diagraph qu, which makes the k and the w sound put together. The children did a lot of work surrounding qu, and although it's a really difficult grapheme to learn and a difficult sound to make, they all did a great job with it!

In Maths we focused on the days of the week, 2d shapes, and the seasons! As usual we practised the days in the morning time while sitting on the carpet and the children are steadily getting better at grasping the idea of today, yesterday and tomorrow, as well as remembering that Saturdays and Sundays are called the weekend – the days when we stay home and play with mommy and daddy! This week we worked with all kinds of 2d shapes, focusing mostly on circle, square, rectangle and triangle. They also learned about sides, how squares and rectangles have four sides, while triangle has three sides, and a circle only has one side! Finally, we have been talking about the seasons and connecting that to our current topic, 'Animals that hibernate'. We have talked a lot about hibernating animals and the seasons! We have read many books on the topic, done worksheets, drawn pictures and seen some videos about the animals that go into hibernation in the fall and hibernate in the winter until spring!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have started talking about the most exciting topic of the year: Saint-Nicolas! We have looked at his clothes, we have spoken about all the goodies he brings and we have learnt a song on the same theme. We also drew pictures of him.

Our talk topic for the weekend is: Why do animals hibernate in winter?

And Stars of the week go to: Aabhir for working hard on his hibernation worksheet! and to Preetisha for really good work with shapes this week!

We hope you have a great weekend!

Elín Hafstein and Ivana Julaton
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Please click [here](#) for our Reception webpage

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

We are well into our show rehearsals now - we try to fit in a few lines or a song at suitable points during the day. We have also made a start on our costumes - the excitement will only increase from now on!

Normal work, of course, goes on. This week's 'sounds of the week' were /ur/ as in 'burn' and /ow/ as in 'town'. The latter sound is an example of where phonics becomes a bit tricky in Year 1, as the /ow/ digraph also appears in words such as 'snow', which the children learnt in Reception. Nevertheless, we practised as usual, and also used our handwriting session to reinforce this week's sounds. In our work on 'Stick Man' this week, we looked at the rhythm and rhyme used in the story, identified and noted the rhyming words, then had a go at making up our own rhythmic, rhyming story, entitled 'One night after dark, I went to the park'. In Grammar, we continued working on making sure that sentences have the correct features and punctuation, and that they make sense.

In Maths this week, we have been learning about position and direction, which is part of the geometry syllabus. We did some practical activities involving placing objects (and children) in various places, and describing the locations using words such as between, above, under, beside and so on. In addition, we looked at quarter- and half-turns to the left and right, which coincided neatly with our basic programming practice in Computing, and also with our Art project, which involved painting different patterns on quarter-circles, to form a display panel for the classroom. Finally, we did some measuring of length, revised the descriptions shorter than, shortest etc., and took our first steps at measuring with metre-sticks and rulers.

Our Topic session focused on breathing and the lungs: we had some interesting and knowledgeable contributions to our Talk Topic discussion, and looked at an animated model of the lungs inside the ribcage. Then, using drinking straws and plastic bags, we each made a set of model lungs, which were immediately subjected to some serious lung-capacity testing!



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have started talking about the most exciting topic of the year: Saint-Nicolas! We have looked at his clothes, we have spoken about all the goodies he brings and we have learnt a song on the same theme. We also drew pictures of him.

Talk Topic for next week will be "What is your favourite part of the 'Stick Man' story, and can you remember the rhyming words for that part?" Next week's Maths

homework is called 'Sea-shack Smash 1.9', and will be added to the children's ActiveLearn accounts on Sunday.

With the Christmas season fast approaching, the school day becomes very busy, with show practice and numerous other extra activities to fit in - so please be aware that we may make some minor timetable changes to enable us to accommodate everything.

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,

We've enjoyed a week of practical maths, looking at position and direction, measuring and telling the time. We programmed a robot to move around the carpet, trying to navigate a specific route and not collide with the toy dinosaurs and teddies placed at strategic points! Then we practised following the instructions ourselves, turning clockwise and anti-clockwise, working out quarter, half and full turns and moving forwards and backwards. We also did this at speed in PE, playing cat and mouse and Treasure Island games, where we had to navigate to specific places. We moved different objects around to practice concepts such as 'inside, under, between, next to, behind, in front and over' and enjoyed plotting movements on maze diagrams. We also revised telling the time, using the same ideas of turning and clock hand direction. In measuring we compared the differences between using a decimetre, a metre rule and a normal 30cm ruler, deciding which was the best for measuring different objects. We compared the size of our feet and had fun estimating (and checking) how far a toy car would travel when launched down a slope. We also practised some mental maths using the bar tool method, which gives a visual image of how numbers can be split into different parts.

We were really lucky in Literacy this week as Mrs Read's friend, who is the real, live author Alex Marchant, was visiting BISB and had a spare afternoon to come and talk to us about her books. The children were fascinated about



the writing process and asked some extremely intelligent questions about where her ideas come from, how and when she writes, how the books are actually made... there were enough questions to last a week. It was great to see such enthusiasm – let's hope they are inspired to get writing too!

We managed to read all through the Christmas play, with everyone taking their own role and the 'audience' adding great feedback, with star ratings and suggestions for actions and movement around the stage. I am amazed at the speed with which the lines are being learnt and at the confidence shown by everyone – it's no easy task to stand up and pretend to be Santa Claus or a reindeer in front of your peers. We are now creating the programme, deciding what to include in the synopsis so that the

story can be understood in a few lines, and how best to illustrate it to include all the different scenes. Once everyone has finished their original draft, we will edit them together and create one synopsis from the best ideas. Work in progress...

In Topic we looked at the differences between the Arctic and the Antarctic habitats and identified which animals live where, studying how they have adapted to the climate and the environment. Everyone is very much looking forward to the visit from the Polar researchers next week. We also finished our fact files for each of the penguin species.

Thank you for practicing the play lines at home and for the costumes that have already been sent in. Please send me a mail if you are unsure about the costume letter.



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started preparing for the Christmas show with our new song: Le Père Noël est enrhumé. We also reviewed 'les jours de la semaine, les numéros, les animaux et les métiers' (professions).

Our talk topic for the week is "If you wrote a book, what would it be about, and would it be fiction or non-fiction?"

Enjoy your weekend, let's hope the weather keeps fine for Sunday's walk. We'll see you there!

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 we have been busy Elves in Year 3 preparing props and scenery for the BISB Christmas production. Our classroom has been full of activity and Christmas cheer! They have worked very hard and I'm sure the stage will look great on the day. In our topic work we did some history linked to the work we did on China. We talked about the Shang Dynasty, a very famous family that ruled China during the bronze age. We talked about what an 'artefact' was and how we can use them to find out about how people lived in the past, many hundreds or even thousands of years before we were born.



This week in literacy we returned to conjunctions to show time and cause in our grammar lesson and mastered how to identify them in example sentences and

practised using them in our own sentences. In our spelling lesson we discussed forming adverbs where the root word ends in 'ic' or 'al'. We also continued with our class text, 'Harry Miller's Run'. We read up to the section where Harry talks about the 'Great North Run' that he went on with his friends in 1938. We then had a class debate where half the class argued that childhood was better during 1938 and half argued that it was better now in 2018. The children came up with some very interesting points about the good and bad aspects of technology in our lives, safety and rules with playing outside now vs then.

In maths we investigated the capacity of different containers and practised measuring in millilitres and litres. We also found out how to measure the capacity of a container with no markings. We practised drawing number lines and marking numbers on an empty number line by finding the middle number first and placing the other numbers around it using our mathematical knowledge.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we worked really hard in our TipTop exercises books on all the revisions we made. We also revised some grammatical points and conjugated "avoir" (to have) in the present tense with the pronouns "Je, tu, il, elle, on". In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on 'où as-tu mal? (where does it hurt?) in order to introduce the concept of 'Avoir mal' to talk about pain or ailment to 'le docteur'. We reviewed the use of 'Avoir' (to have) and then we role-played a doctor-patient scene à la Clinique.

Don't forget that next week we will be going to Flagey on Wednesday morning as part of our music curriculum and the children need to be in school by 8.45 on that day.

Have a lovely weekend.

Camilla Rutayisire and Fiona King
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 3 webpage

Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

It was a relatively quiet week after last week's excitement.

In Literacy, we continued through 'How to Train your Dragon', the children enjoying the exciting climax and writing about the key characters in doing so.

In Numeracy, fractions provided the excitement – ordering, comparing and simplifying them - while we also did a bit of halving of HTU numbers.

Comparing fractions without a fraction wall as an aide was tricky,

<https://pbskids.org/cyberchase/games/melvins-make-match>

https://www.mathplayground.com/puzzle_pics_2/tilesmath_fractions.htm,

as was halving odd hundreds and tens before even calculating the answer, e.g. halve 756,

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

(This website may also help with this week's homework:

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/getresource/66/game>)

Topic took us back to the 'Year Without a Summer' in 1816 whose leaden skies (but epic sunsets, too) made an impact on the paintings that J.M.W Turner produced.

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/73585/15-facts-about-year-without-summer>

The children enjoyed painting his wild natural portraits. It also saw us visit Copenhagen and Hans Christian Andersen's Denmark and fairy tales.

Meanwhile, we started a new unit of work in Science – Circuits and Conductors – and the class got very busy making circuits and checking which key elements are necessary to make them work. What kept the bulb on in the Witch's cottage (which they had built out of multilink cubes)?



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we worked really hard in our TipTop exercises books on all the revisions we made. We also revised some grammatical points and conjugated "avoir" (to have) in the present tense with the pronouns "Je, tu, il, elle, on".

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on 'où as-tu mal? (where does it hurt?) in order to introduce the concept of 'Avoir mal' to talk about pain or ailment to 'le docteur'. We reviewed the use of 'Avoir' (to have) and then we role-played a doctor-patient scene à la Clinique.

Along with ongoing rehearsals, PE also filled our time with some handball. This is the second time the children have played this very European sport and their proficient display proved they are improving in team games enormously.

And that was our week.

Best wishes

Tim Stedman and Fiona King

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

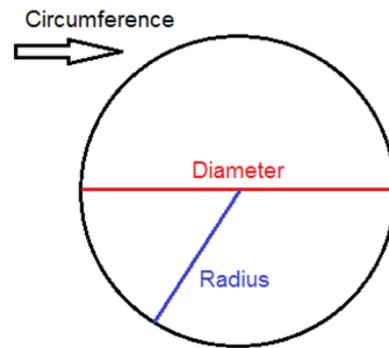
Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

Another week has simply flown by. We have had to deal with much colder weather but this has not stopped us from taking advantage of the sunshine.

In Numeracy we began to explore the world of geometry by studying angles. We spoke about the different angles; acute, obtuse and reflex. We then practised measuring these with the help of a protractor and some basic knowledge. Measuring a

reflex angle with a semi-circle protractor involved prior knowledge that a circle is 360° and a semi-circle is 180° . We then used a protractor to measure and draw angles in degrees. Having done this we moved on to circles where we began to identify and name parts of a circle including diameter, radius and circumference. After identifying these parts we began the task of measuring them using a piece of wool and a ruler. We briefly spoke about π (pi).



In Literacy we enjoyed our customary 5 new and interesting words such as indolent and ignoramus. Our grammar focus this week has been on those verbs which need other verbs to lean on: modal verbs. We had a good time discussing these and identifying them in sentences. We then re-read the first 2 pages of our class reader. We spoke about the relationship between Liam and his mum and of how Liam felt having to go to Harry's house. Using our knowledge of this relationship we wrote diary entries for both Liam and his mum. We spoke about how diary entries are written in the first person and deal a lot about emotions and feelings. We read these out to the class and spoke about the grammatical errors and how we might have said things in different ways. Then we moved on to the next few pages of our book. We read about Harry and found out that he is in fact 88 years old. This led to discussions about ageism and we watched some videos dealing with this sensitive issue. For some interesting videos about old people and young children working together produced by Channel 4 please follow this link

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=channel4.com%2Fprogrammes%2Ffold-peoples-home-for-4-year-old . To finish off our week we had a visit from an author, Carol, whose pen name is Alex Marchant, who has written historical fiction books based on Richard III. We thoroughly enjoyed her visit and we are eager to read her books and find out more about this period of English history.

In Art we created group chains, where we drew items belonging to a group and hung them on a string.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we introduced the 'possessive pronouns' through role-playing and going over short and fun dialogues. We also reviewed the possessive adjectives and we did several interactive group activities to work with the possessive pronouns and adjectives.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, after counting and talking about money, we "went shopping" and revised the different small shops we can find in the neighbourhood of our houses. In grammar, this gave us the opportunity to revise "Je vais au, à la, à l', chez" as well as the féminin of all the different professions we described.

In PE we had a football match on Wednesday afternoon. This was a hard fought game with the final score 8:4. On Thursday we had some handball practice with Year 4. We learnt how to take a step, bounce the ball and then pass it along. An opposition player was then brought into the game and the children had to think of ways to get past this player in order to pass the ball to their partner.

We are still hard at work practising the songs and lines for the play. When not involved we have been involved in art, coding and sport activities.

On Wednesday 28th November, we are off to Place Flagey for our Beethoven concert. I would very much appreciate having a parent volunteer to help on this day.

The talk topic for this week is: What does the term ageism mean? Discuss this.

Have a very relaxing weekend.

Valeria Vetter and Ena Tolentino

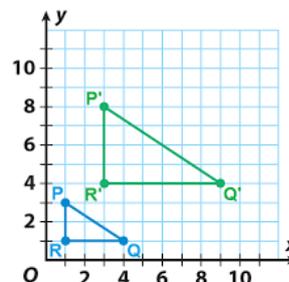
year6teacher@telenet.be

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

Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

This week in maths we revised and extended our understanding of ratio: solving problems involving the relative sizes of two quantities, where missing values can be found by using integer multiplication and division facts. Pupils investigated drawing 2D shapes on a grid given a scale factor; enlarging and reducing these by a variety of scale factors.



We have finished reading an abridged version of Hamlet and watching a selection of video clips; the students now have an understanding of the plot and knowledge of the key characters. The Lion King is our next focus; we will compare the narrative elements and characters for commonalities. We hope to create our Hamlet infographic next week.

It was fun and technical games in our classroom preparing for our skype call with Olivia. After much plugging and unplugging of wires, rebooting and troubleshooting, we managed to set everything up so that our Skype call would be as clear as possible. I think that we were all more nervous than Olivia – it was such a relief to see her smiling face and ‘feel’ her positive, open and cheery disposition - she put us all at ease. She had made a presentation for us (which is on Edmodo) where you can see her journey from birth to 5th Grader, after 26 operations and over 2000 stitches.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we introduced the ‘possessive pronouns’ through role-playing and going over short and fun dialogues. We also reviewed the possessive adjectives and we did several interactive group activities to work with the possessive pronouns and adjectives.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, after counting and talking about money, we “went shopping” and revised the different small shops we can find in the neighbourhood of our houses. In grammar, this gave us the opportunity to revise “Je vais au, à la, à l’, chez” as well as the féminin of all the different professions we described.

In SPaG, we revisited: footnotes, glossaries and referencing. At least one example of each should be included in the essay about the Kohinoor diamond.

We have a very busy week ahead of us. It would be very helpful if you could make sure that your child arrives by 0845 next Wednesday, as we shall be departing at 0900 for the concert at Flagey, thank you. You have all the information for our evening trip to the theatre on Thursday night; students will stay at school, change into their home clothes, enjoy a pasta party and then we shall leave.

Enjoy your weekend.

Best wishes,

Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino

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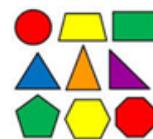
Please click [here](#) for our Year 6 webpage

English as an Additional Language

In the Junior EAL small group this week, we have been working again with common verbs, this time looking at the imperative form, used in instructions. We followed a recipe, picking out the instruction verbs, and then made a report of what we did, changing the verbs to the simple past tense. The children complete formal grammar exercises like these well, and they are beginning to make use of the grammar we have worked on in their own conversations.

In the Year 1 and 2 EAL group, we worked on the vocabulary of position and direction, in connection with the class mathematics activities. They used the key words in sentences to explain where they were putting toy animals in a practical activity, and to follow and give instructions for dance moves inside, and for an exercise routine outside. We followed up the Year 1 work on the human body and breathing, by talking about how and why we breathe.

The Reception EAL group this week studied 2D shape, practising the names of shapes, and using the words corner, side, straight, curved, to describe the shapes. We also talked again about the different seasons, and about what animals do in the winter season, including hibernation.



I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read

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