

Home School Books – 30 November 2018.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

We have had a fun week in nursery and have continued with our topic work on ‘people who help us’ by having a look at the job of the Vet. During circle time we discussed what a Vet actually did and used some visuals, so the children could get a better idea of a veterinary surgery. We agreed the Vet was an animal doctor because we couldn’t just take our pets to a hospital for people, when they were sick.

Some of the children talked about the animals that they saw when they visited India and we talked about street dogs that have no one to take care of them. This led onto a conversation about how we should not get a pet if we are not prepared to look after it well and take it to the Vet when it is sick. Mrs Davies showed some photographs of her pet dog and some children were surprised because she doesn’t live in nursery with her! As most children think the teachers never leave the nursery because it is their home!



Mrs van Wassenhove looked at a picture and word mat, with each child individually, to see who knew the names of the different animals that might be taken to a Vet. This is a great way to extend children’s vocabulary in English and to introduce the names of animals they may never see in reality, such as a chinchilla or a chipmunk.

If you look opposite you can see your little ones activity on matching each animal’s shadow to the correct image. This type of activity is great for language, hand eye coordination and cognitive development but remember it is the process and not the end result that is important.

We have had a number of children away this week with coughs & colds and tummy upsets, thank you to the parents who keep their children at home during these periods. Please remember nursery is not a place for sick children, if your child is unwell, even if they insist on coming to school you must say no! It is unfair on them and other children who will then become ill if your child is spreading a virus around through coughing and sneezing everywhere. We try to follow good hygiene rules in nursery but you must appreciate young children spread their germs faster than we can wipe their noses or wash their hands.

Please remember if your child is well enough to come to nursery, they are well enough to play outside during outdoor activities such as playtimes and P.E. and we cannot oblige requests from parents who wish their children to stay indoors because of the perception that the weather is unsuitable and will cause them to be sick. Thank you for your understanding.

The practice for our Christmas show is getting there and the children are picking up the words to the songs very well now. So don't forget to put the date in your diary for the big event on 17th December at 11.30am in the infant department.

Until next week have a great weekend and **please discuss our talk topic with your child for next week which is; 'If you could have any pet what would you have?'** You can talk about this in your home language or in English, as you prefer.

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 want to start by reminding you that our Christmas show is coming up! The show of Reception class will be on the 11th of December at 11.30 and we hope that you will all be able to come and watch! We are already making costumes for our show and the children have decorated the hats they will wear and are practising their songs. In order for their costumes to be complete they will all, boys and girls, have to wear white tights or leggings on the 11th of December. So, if your child doesn't already have white leggings or tights, you have just over a week to go to the shop and find some for them! We ask that they all wear their white tights/leggings under their trousers on the day of the show, so it will be easy to get everyone dressed before the show.

We would also like to remind you that every Friday we have a talk topic. The talk topic always relates to something we are doing at school and the point of the talk topic is that parents discuss that topic over the weekend with their children. Feel free to discuss the talk topic in your mother tongue! We do not expect you to talk in English with your child at home! But, we would be very pleased if you do have a conversation about the talk topic with your child over the weekend.



In phonics this week we learned the new sound y and we did a lot of word games to help us practice what sounds the letters make and to read simple words. We also wrote some short words and practised beginning and ending sounds of CVC words.

In Maths we started learning about money. What we use it for and how it works. For now we are only working with very simple coins and to help us practise we have set up a shop in one corner of the classroom – which has been very popular amongst the children!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been talking about Saint-Nicolas and we are hoping he will come and visit us because we now know lots of things about him. We can sing songs, we made beautiful pictures and we also made a hat (une mitre) like his.

Our talk topic for the weekend is: What are some of the things we can buy with money? What would I like to buy for my mommy and daddy?

And *Stars of the week* go to:

Stairya, for doing a great job in reading and writing words and for brilliant progress in listening and following instructions!

Saimaathmika, for excellent colouring and for playing fun and imaginative games and for always playing nicely with her friends!

We hope you have an excellent weekend!

Elín Hafstein and Ivana Julaton

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

Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

The excitement continues to build as we prepare for our show - the costumes are taking shape, and this week the snowmen, hedgehogs, squirrels, mice and robins made their hats, and the elves painted the sleigh!

This week's 'sounds of the week' were /ear/ as in 'near' and /oi/ as in 'coin'. The latter sound follows the pattern the children learnt for the /ai/ sound a few weeks ago, in that it does not appear at the end of words - when we hear this sound at the end of a word, the /oi/ becomes /oy/ (as in 'boy'). In 'Stick Man' this week, we finished off our class rhyming story, which you can see in this week's home school book, and then we had a 'free writing' session, where the children could re-tell any two scenes from the story they wished. In Grammar, we had our first look at using the word 'and' as a 'connective', to join two ideas or phrases (e.g. he is tall and strong, she went to her table and sat down).

In Maths this week, we have been working on improving our addition and subtraction skills. We started by adding and subtracting small numbers to and from teen numbers, then moved on to adding three small numbers. The focus here was on two concepts: first, that it does not matter in which order we add the three numbers, and second, that we should look for quick ways to add the numbers, such as doubles or bonds to 10, which we should all know by now. For example, in the sum $4+3+4$, we spot double $4=8$, then add 3, and in $3+4+7$, we spot that $3+7=10$, then add 4.

Our Topic session was reduced to fit in a show practice, but we nevertheless managed to fit in a discussion about our heart, check our resting heartbeat, then re-check it after

a burst of activity, running around the playground. We looked at our animated model again, this time showing a beating heart as well as breathing lungs.

Highlight of the week was undoubtedly the first use of the bee-bot programmable toys. Using their knowledge of instructions gained so far, the children had to programme the bee-bot with a complete sequence to move from start to finish, avoiding any obstacles placed in their way. Whilst the children are becoming very good at knowing left and right, it is much harder for them when the bee-bot is not facing forwards, so we had a few cases of wayward bee-bots driving off the mat! You can see some photos of the action here: <http://www.bisb.org/project/year-1-november-2018/>.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been talking about Saint-Nicolas and we are hoping he will come and visit us because we now know lots of things about him including one of his famous legends. We can sing songs, we made beautiful pictures and we also made a hat (une mitre) like his.

Talk Topic for next week will be "What do you expect to see now that winter has started?"

Finally, a heartfelt plea: this week we have had between 9 and 13 children arriving late for registration every day! The children line up at 08.55, and should be in the classroom, ready to start work, at 09.00. It is very disruptive to our schedule to have to wait for all the late arrivals to take coats off and unpack bags - please, please bring your child to school before 08.55, so that we do not lose any lesson time. Thank you.

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,

The highlight of our week was undoubtedly the visit from the four Polar scientists. They arrived equipped with rucksacks and expedition gear and quickly set up a mini-science lab, complete with microscopes, scientific equipment and lots of excellent visual material on screen. The children took part in two workshops – one based on the animal life in Antarctica and the climatic conditions, and the other on exploration and scientific research. They played games, identified penguins according to their specific calls, learnt about how to identify plants around the world according to their DNA, discovered how scientists live and work at the Poles, watched some amazing ‘live’ footage of survival tactics in Antarctica and had the chance to ask lots of questions. The scientists were really impressed with the children’s extensive knowledge of animals and decided that they probably knew more about penguins than the scientists

themselves! We had a fun quiz at the end of the morning and scored almost full marks.

The day finished perfectly with a very special delivery for Year 2 – a parcel with two very appealing (toy!) penguins – one of which is a Rockhopper, much to our delight, and the other a baby Emperor. Reggie and Pedro join the ranks of our own penguins and have been adopted as class mascots. We are not entirely sure how they made the trip from Antarctica, but they came with their own joke book so clearly have a sense of humour. Do you know what you call fifty penguins at the North Pole? Ask the children – they will tell you!



In Maths we continued our work on time, practising moving clock hands through quarter, half and three-quarter turns and reading the time - not as easy as it might seem. We also did more work on measuring in centimetres, comparing different lines and working out the differences between them. We used a metre rule to calculate how much space a Tyrannosaurus Rex would take up in the classroom and found out that a Rockhopper penguin can hop 1.5m high with both feet together – we tried it too but failed miserably. We also did some revision of money, using coins to make different amounts.

In Topic and Literacy, we read several stories about polar animals and discussed how the illustrations can be used to great effect for conveying real information to add to the written story. We used the globe and the atlases to study where penguins can be found and to look at how the world map looks when Antarctica is positioned at the centre. The scientists talked about several of the journey routes they take to reach the Poles and we tracked these on the globe, estimating how long it would take for each stage of the journey.

Our expedition photographer, Mrs Tolentino, took lots of photos this week; catch up with the latest event at <http://www.bisb.org/project/workshops-with-polar-scientish/>

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had a short week. We worked on the vocabulary related to St Nicolas and we also went over les vêtements (clothing) to talk about what St Nicolas wears - 'il porte des gants' etc.. then we described what we wear on different days of the week- le lundi, je porte un chapeau vert. We also sang and practised our song for the Christmas show: Le Père Noël est enrhumé.

Many thanks to those who have already sent in the play costumes and for your help with learning the lines – the rehearsals are going well, and it is beginning to resemble a real play!

Our talk topic for the week is “If you were a scientist or an explorer, what would you like to find out 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,

We had a great time at Flagey on Wednesday with the Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra. Their performance was wonderful and we enjoyed getting to participate in the performance with Mrs Mayeur. After it finished we even had a chance to talk to the conductor and ask him about his work. Also on the theme of performances we've started to put the whole performance together in our rehearsals for the Winter show. The children are all getting more confident at singing, acting and dancing and I'm sure the show will be great. They have also continued to help with making the considerable number of props needed.



In our grammar lesson this week revised topics covered in term 1 so far. We revisited using capital letters and full stops accurately, using apostrophes, using adjectives and writing verbs in the correct tense. Also in literacy we finished our fact files on the Great North Run, a race which is linked to our work on Harry Miller's Run. The children learned to set out their work using headings, subheadings and paragraphs.

In maths this week we started to revise topics covered in the second half of the Autumn term. In particular this week we revisited the times tables we've covered so far – the 2 times table, 3 times table, 4 times table, 5 times table and 10 times table. We also explored how you can use your knowledge of the 3 times table and doubling to work out facts for the 6 times table.

In our topic lesson we did our second lesson on the Shang Dynasty. We learned about the discovery of Fu Hao's tomb in the 1970s and discussed how the objects found there can tell us about life during the Shang Dynasty in China 3500 years ago. Using the clues from the objects found we were able to infer that Fu Hao had been a very rich and important woman as her tomb contained 6900 cowry shells, the money of the time. Also she must have cared about her appearance as she was buried with no less than 500 hairpins!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have started watching a new film on Monday afternoon : "Les trois brigands" a famous children story by Tomi Ungerer. We also talked about Saint-Nicolas and his famous legends and we went to the local library Thomas Owen where we had a "kamishibai" presentation which is form of Japanese street theatre and storytelling using a combination of picture and text to convey a story.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen we had a short week due to the Flagey outing. We talked about St Nicolas and the vocabulary related to this Belgian tradition. We sang the beautiful song Grand St Nicolas and we worked on our Christmas project "Une lettre Spéciale pour St Nicolas"(a letter for St Nicolas).

Our talk topic for next week will be ‘What information can you find in a newspaper?’

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,

Things are starting to hot up again in Year 4 and not only did we have a spectacular ‘spectacular’ at Flagey Concert Hall but Christmas is now in the air and, although yet to be opened, the class online Advent Calendar is ready for action.

Monday started with a buzz(er) as the class set about trying to construct various types of switch for their circuit. The task was simple: build an alarm for the Troll’s 3 Billy Goats Gruff bridge. Needless to say, the children were thrilled with this and they loved building, testing and making a great deal of buzzing!!

In Numeracy, meanwhile, we were introduced to decimals but what happens after .9 was a problem which regularly puzzles Year 4’s. Is it .10 and then .11? or is it something else??? See <http://www.ictgames.com/equivalence.html>

In Literacy, we looked at ways to start sentences using adverbials and practice was had trying to come up with a clever plan to kill a dragon. Our set-book-hero, Hiccup, is faced by two gigantic dragons intent on eating the tribe. What he would do next was the children’s job to imagine...

The big day of Wednesday saw us go to a fully interactive and participative classical music concert. This is the fourth time that we have done one of these Encore! Concerts and this was, in my opinion, the best. The children were spellbound, entranced by the physical involvement, the actor’s interpretation on stage, the playing of the musicians and the breath-taking music of the master himself, Ludwig Van Beethoven.



We had already learnt a lot about Beethoven in our Topic but on this day we had a history lesson, we sang, we moved and were moved. And on top of this, we were in the front 4 rows and gifted with an exclusive Show and Tell, question-and-answer session by the conductor. In short, it was perfect - a great trip!

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/145142186@N02/sets/72157698227355590/with/44277513420/>

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talked about Saint-Nicolas and his famous legends and we went to the local library Thomas Owen where we had a “kamishibai” presentation which is form of Japanese street theatre and storytelling using a combination of picture and text to convey a story.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen we had a very short week due to the Flagey outing. We talked about St Nicolas and the vocabulary related to this Belgian tradition. We sang the beautiful song Grand St Nicolas and we worked on our Christmas project “Une lettre Spéciale pour St Nicolas”(a letter for St Nicolas).

The children also really enjoyed playing football in PE: dribbling, shooting and passing with accuracy and having a great time playing ‘Gladiator’. Who could skilfully move the ball past the gladiator without getting it stolen away?

Our Talk Topic for this week is “Think of 5 ways you could defeat an opponent or overcome a disability?”

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,

The weeks are flying by, even the children have commented on this. We have been so busy with academic work, cultural activities and drama.

In Literacy we continue to build up our vocabulary by learning new words daily. This week the words have begun with a j and have included words like jetsam and jaded. Continuing with our book theme, we researched the Great North Run. We took notes and wrote a short non-fiction passage about this. Preparing for this we did an activity where the children had to gather information by running to a designated sentence, memorising as much as they could before returning to their partners who wrote it down. This proved to be a most popular activity with the children begging to repeat it. We will, next week, as it teaches them to retrieve the main points in a sentence and is helpful in note taking.

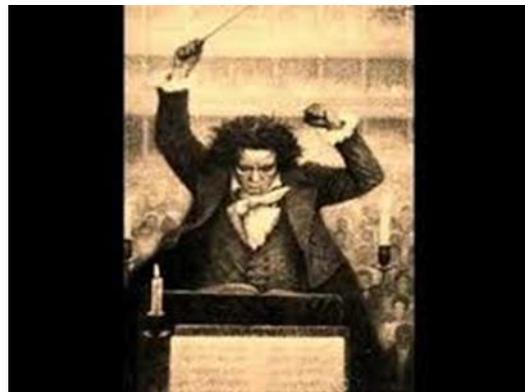
In Numeracy we began the week by finishing off our geometry unit. We practised drawing circles with a pair of compasses, identifying the radius and diameter before working out the circumference. This we did by multiplying the diameter by 3 and adding 1 more. This gives us an average circumference and an understanding of this concept. We then moved on to our new unit. We began by placing numbers to 100 000 on a line, and then rounding them to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. We then began our look at decimals. We placed these on to a numberline and marked the nearest whole number.

In Art we made paper chains decorated with Christmassy objects. These are making our classroom look bright, festive and cheery.

We did manage to do some computing and enjoyed a variety of coding exercises on the hour of code found at www.code.org

Please make sure your child practises their lines for the play and is able to recite them with expression and enthusiasm.

On Wednesday we went off to Flagey for our very exciting cultural musical workshop. This was based on Beethoven's fifth symphony. We all managed to get to school on time and dressed very smartly. Getting public transport was a breeze and we went about it in a very orderly fashion. Of course, the weather was not on our side, but it certainly didn't dampen our spirits. We literally had front row seats and were prepared to be in awe. We were not disappointed in the least. We had a really spectacular time, gaining an insight into how Beethoven thought and how he composed his music. The Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra was stunning and Mrs Mayeur kept the children engaged and interested. The music was awesome and we got to spend 20 minutes talking to the conductor after the show. How special was that? We got to ask questions and discuss the music with him. I know we are all eagerly looking forward to the next workshop. The photos of this outing can be found on <http://www.bisb.org/project/bisb-beethoven-experience/> I would also like to thank Mrs Tiwari for accompanying us on this outing.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we corrected our first "fiche de lecture" which gave all the children the opportunity to read out loud. These fiches are an excellent comprehension tool and they also allow the children to learn new vocabulary and different cultural subjects. We talked about Saint-Nicolas and his famous legends. On Friday, the children had French with Mrs. Halvorsen.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had a short week due to the Flagey outing. We started getting ready for St Nicolas' visit by writing him "Une lettre Spéciale pour St Nicolas" (a letter for St Nicolas) while singing and exploring the vocabulary of the beautiful song Grand St Nicolas.

**The talk topic is: Beethoven's fifth symphony was the focus of our workshop.
What was the most interesting thing you learnt from this experience?**

Have a wonderful 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,

Last Friday, we received a visit from two polar scientists from the APECS organisation: <https://www.apecs.is/> . What an experience having ‘real ‘scientists in the classroom. They each gave a presentation about their own area of expertise, then, we enjoyed two workshops – studying Polar ecosystems and identifying actual specimens using books and catalogues. Finally, we set up an experiment about solargraphy: <http://udoprinsen.com/antarctica-day/> .



In the previous week, we spent some time with the author Alex Marchant, who really brought history to life with her talk about her journey and passion for Richard III. You can find details here: <https://alexmarchantblog.wordpress.com/2018/10/24/competition-time-bookreviews-childrensbooks/> We are hoping that Alex will visit us again in 2019.

We were back to fractions on Monday. We began with using common factors to simplify fractions; using common multiples to express fractions in the same denomination. Then, comparing and ordering fractions and generating and describing linear number sequences with fractions. Finally, we added and subtracted fractions with different denominations and mixed numbers using the concept of equivalent fractions.

Armed with their first attempts at writing a balanced argument, we set about reorganising the content into the conventional structure for this form of essay writing. Tracking down a DVD of The Lion King proved to be somewhat of a challenge, however, on Tuesday the film arrived and with our Hamlet hats on, we watched the story unfold. Pupils were only allowed to refer to the film characters using their Shakespearean names; which they managed easily. Of course, this was an ideal opportunity for a sing-a-long, so we raised the roof singing Hakuna Matata!

People dream of talking to the conductor of a national orchestra... our pupils spent twenty minutes chatting with Stéphane Deneuve - what a privilege and once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The workshop about Beethoven (who was there in person!) enthralled the pupils; we had front seats - what a magical, memorable moment. <https://www.brusselsphilharmonic.be/en/music-director>

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What better way to end the week, than enjoying a 'pasta party' followed by a trip to the theatre? As expected, our pupils were the youngest people in the audience (and school group section), but in our meeting with the producer; they asked the most questions, displaying an excellent understanding of the play, Hamlet. The students' theatre etiquette was impressive – there was just one moment – when Mr Edward Prescott appeared – that I thought they would not be able to contain their excitement! What an unforgettable, academically and culturally rich week!

Our talk topic for this weekend is; are computers better for you than books?

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,

This week, the Reception EAL group practised the language needed for using money to buy things in a shop (in preparation for their class work on money). We set up a toy shop, a book shop and a food shop, and the children repeated simple phrases (I would like..., Can I have..., How much is it? etc.), as well as improvising some conversations of their own. We also talked about next week's visit from Saint Nicolas. I am pleased to hear the children who were new to English early in September developing the vocabulary and the confidence they need to express themselves.

The Year 1 and 2 EAL group practised listening to rhyming sounds in English, in the context of the Year 1 class's study of the book Stick Man. It is very useful for the children to be able to pick out rhymes, as it helps their pronunciation, and also helps them to see the structure in a song, poem, or rhyming story. The group also wrote their own favourite part of the Stick Man story, using their phonics to sound out the words (an essential skill, which allows them to write fluently, and therefore more, rather than waiting to be given the correct spelling of a word). Like the Reception group, we talked about Saint Nicolas's planned visit next week.

The Junior EAL group spend one session revising prepositions, and using them in sentences, as well as talking about the weekend activities, and planned activities for the coming months. These free conversations give the children the opportunity to use the vocabulary and grammar we have been practising. We spent another session preparing for



Wednesday's trip to Flagey Concert Hall, and this gave rise to interesting conversation about musical instrumental ensembles, musical composition and notation, and the life of Beethoven.

In a third session, as well as working with the vocabulary related to the upcoming show, we looked at some of the difficult lines in the show. We also looked at a calendar, and noted the dates of some important events in the coming weeks.

I wish you all a happy weekend.

Kate Read
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