

Home School Books – 18 January 2019.

## Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents

It has been a very quiet week indeed; many of the children in nursery were away with the dreaded flu or tummy bug that is doing the rounds. The plus side of this is of course that the small number of children that did make it in got extra activity time with the teacher!



We have flown into space and gone planet crazy with our topic work on ‘space rockets, aliens and other things’. We get to do it all again next week when other children return, so don’t worry, no one will miss out on anything important.

If you look opposite you will see one of our rockets zooming off to the moon and on the other side of the paper we have asked your little one to draw a rocket of their very own to blast off into space. Then bring it back to show everyone during our circle time discussion on Monday. The children who are away sick will get a paper in their folder to take home when they return.

We also made rockets from different shapes to go on our space display, which you can see on the large wall next to the carpet area in nursery, so take a look next time you are in. This activity was great for shape recognition and counting down from 5, plus we learned some new space vocabulary like, astronaut, alien, moon landing, space shuttle and control panel.

We also practised a new song called, 5 little men in a flying saucer, ask your child if they can sing it to you with the actions, especially the flying around the world action which everyone thinks is very funny!

**Our talk topic for discussion next week is ‘If you could visit a different planet where would you go?’**

Last but not least, the length of time some children are taking to eat their snack or lunch is far too long. This could be for a number of reasons. If they are not feeding themselves independently at home, we don’t mind encouraging your child to eat but we should not be feeding them. So please encourage your child to feed themselves. The other reasons are they are bringing too much snack/lunch or they don’t like what you have provided for them that day and become anxious if they don’t eat it and worry they will be in trouble at home.

Whatever the reasons, we cannot continue to let children sit for such a long period to finish food, as this is now disrupting the nursery activity programme. Therefore snack time will be limited to no more than 25 minutes, which is ample time for any 3 and 4 year old to eat what should be a small healthy snack and 45 minutes for lunch, boxes will then be packed away, if too much food is coming home, check and re-adjust portion sizes. Thank you for your understanding.

Let's hope next week is a germ free one! We need some snow to get rid of all these horrible viruses and of course to get outside and build a snowman!

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,

This week was a bit unusual as we had a lot of the students, and teachers, staying at home with a nasty flu virus. We hope that those who are still feeling under the weather will recover soon and we welcome the other ones back to school. Please remind your children to wash their hands after going to the toilet and before meals as this helps to fight against the spread of germs. Also remind them to sneeze or cough into the crease of the elbow and not into the hands, as this helps too.

This week the Reception children continued to work on their class topic: Fairy Tales. They listened to the story of Little Red Riding Hood, and they spotted some similarities with last week's story (the Three Little Pigs), notably animals that can talk, and a wolf as the bad character. In phonics this week we learned the new digraph oa, as in boat, coat, goat. We also revised all the single letter sounds, and we practised listening out for the individual sounds in words, and blending sounds together to read 3-letter *consonant – vowel – consonant* (cvc) words, e.g. cat, dog, pig, fox.



The children continued to develop their numeracy skills, reciting the numbers up to twenty, comparing numbers to say which is bigger. We practised using the words more, less, fewer, bigger, smaller. We also learnt the word estimate, and practised estimating how many objects were in a group, using expressions such as “*I think there are more than 15*”. We found that we could make teen numbers (11 to 20), by using a tower of 10 cubes, and adding individual cubes (in other words, we began to see that ‘14’ is made up of 10+4 etc.)

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have reviewed the weather but we have also started a very exciting new topic: animals. We have been discovering familiar animals, farm animals and wild animals. We have been singing songs and playing games all pertaining to animals of course.

**The talk topic this week is: If my life was a fairy tale, what kind of fairy tale would it be?**

Finally, the stars of the week go to Havish, for being really good at practising reading and for being a kind and caring friend! And Aadya for excellent drawing and colouring and for being really good at practising her writing! Well done Havish and Aadya!

Have a lovely weekend,

Elín Hafstein and Ivana Julaton

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

### Home School Book – Year 1

Dear Parents,

This week in Literacy, we had our first 'Big Writing' session of the term: we took the well-known tale 'The Three Little Pigs', broke it down into individual events, then re-built it using a story map, which we then used to re-tell the story. The children were then given a sequence of pictures from the story, and had to write one or two sentences about each stage. We went on to talk about different versions of the story (we have four so far) - and how they vary (sometimes the pigs are 'consumed', sometimes they run away, sometimes the wolf escapes with a singed bottom, and sometimes he meets a grim end...).



In Phonics, we continued with our Phase 4 'consonant clusters' - this week we looked at pairs of consonants found at the end of words, such as 'best', 'desk', 'shelf', 'slept' and so on. We practised as usual by saying, reading and writing some example words, and this week we did an additional Phonics writing exercise, which you can see in your child's Home School Book. In Grammar, we had our first look at nouns (a person, place or thing), learnt a song about them, and practised adding some noun labels to a picture.

In Maths, we have been working on the next stage of number bonds and doubles: converting the usual addition sums (e.g.  $6+4=10$ ) to a corresponding subtraction sum ( $10-4=6$ ). We did this repeatedly, for number bonds to 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10, using a combination of classroom games, practical exercises and written work - the objective is for the children, who are already quite familiar with the addition number pairs, to recognise quickly the matching subtraction fact(s), and thus reduce the time they spend on 'simple' operations.

We combined our topic work with Science this week, and looked at the different materials toys can be made from, concentrating on wood, metal, plastic and fabric. We examined some toys and some samples of materials, and went on a 'materials

search' around the school, looking for other things made from these four materials. The children also drew and described their favourite toy. In Art, we made our own toy spaceships, using paper plates and large quantities of stickers! Finally, and in preparation for our museum trip next week, we looked at the eight different species of bears in the world - the children knew far more of them than I did!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been discovering the vocabulary related to the human body. We have been singing, playing games and reading stories all of them pertaining to the human body. We also learnt a poem.

**Talk Topic for next week will be "What sort of toys did your parents and grandparents have?"**

Maths homework will be 'Balloon Pop 1.13' - adding 1-digit to 2-digit numbers. Please note that because of the museum trip next Wednesday, the weekly spelling test will take place on Thursday instead.

Wishing you a pleasant 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,

Well done everyone, we avoided the coughs and colds and managed a full class nearly every day. Well done too for being on time – there is a race against the clock in the morning to have everyone sitting on the carpet quickly, and we are definitely getting better at removing all the layers and organising folders, bottles and bags efficiently. This makes a big difference to the start of the morning's work and gives us time for mental maths games, sharing book recommendations and quick news items.

In literacy we continued to tackle the essentials of grammar – identifying and analysing verbs and finding them in various texts. We used present and past tenses from last week and practised different verbs to make sure that we don't just add 'ed' to everything. We decided that we generally get them right if we say them out loud in a sentence first. We wrote a



description of our Old Bear pictures, making sure that someone looking at our picture would have a better understanding of the story by reading the description. Having enjoyed 'Old Bear', we chose another story to watch and discovered a real treat in 'The Winter Picnic', which was very funny. Each story gives us more information on the animals, so we are drawing up character descriptions by looking at how they each behave and the words and expressions they use. Thank you very much for your help with the spellings this week – the results were excellent. Although I thought they would be difficult, I was proved wrong!

In maths we worked on adding and subtracting 1 and 2-digit numbers by using known number bonds. We revised multiples of 2, 5 and 10 and used number lines and bead

strings to count on to the next ten. We played speed card games looking for number bond partners and created a class loop using all the bonds to 20. Everyone is quick at solving problems mentally, but it is more of a challenge to solve the problems on paper when missing numbers have to be put into boxes or the instructions seem too complicated. Our maths challenge involved collecting data on class bed times, sorting it into a chart and creating a pictogram to show the information. We also collected data on our favourite colours using a tally chart. We turned this data into a bar chart.

As a follow up to the visit from the Polar scientists, we have been invited to participate, along with other schools, in the preparation of a short film to be made in Antarctica over the next month. We had to draw up a list of questions that will be put to one of the scientists, which will enable her to explain a 'Day in the life of a Polar researcher'. We watched an interesting video on an Australian research station and came up with some great questions – let's hope ours are selected. We also had time for a quick look at our new science topic by exploring the classroom to see how many different materials we could identify.



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we did "comptons ensemble" (let's count up to 70), we learned words about 'le corps humain', and we sang a song about "mon corps". Also, we gave brief presentations about ourselves using the words and expressions we've already learned.

In PE we had an exciting lesson emptying the games shed and trying out lots of different equipment. This led to scoop ball competitions, hoop rolling challenges, impressive stilt demonstrations and lots of lost balls over the wall – we obviously need more practice with the bats before the cricket season starts!

**Our talk topic is "When we look around our environment, what are the most common materials?"**

Have a lovely weekend,

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 really gotten into the history part of our topic, exploring aspects of World War 2. We discussed rationing during the war, what this means, why it happened and what it must have been like to have one egg only every two weeks! We had a go at making a World War Two recipe, cheese and potato dumplings, which we all decided were surprisingly nice. The children took the recipe home so you are welcome to make them if you wish. We also discussed 'the blitz' through listening to some accounts of older people who lived through that time. We learned about how

people went to underground shelters to stay safe and how it must have been a difficult and frightening time, but also how people worked together to help one another. We made collages to represent the city of London during the time of the blitz.



This week in literacy we continued to read our class book 'Bon Appetit, the delicious life of Julia Child.' We read about Julia's early jobs before she became a chef. We found out that one of her jobs was to make adverts for a furniture store so we had a go at writing our own adverts for a product of our choice. We talked about the features of persuasive writing such as using slogans and catchy headlines, bright colours and different styles of text. Also in our grammar lesson we talked about prepositions to show place such as behind, inside, under, beneath, across, above, up and down.

In maths we returned to using partitioning but this time we used the method to add two three digit numbers together such as  $235 + 361$ . We practised adding the hundreds, then the tens and then the ones and then adding it all together to get the overall total. We also practised the 8 times table and explored how it is double the 4 times table.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we learned how to use "Il y a" (there is/ there are) and we played 'the qu'est-ce que c'est?' game in order to review the vocabulary words, and use properly the definite and indefinite articles. We reviewed the days of the week and we counted up to 100.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished watching the film "Les trois brigands" which the children like very much. We also started conjugating verbs ending in -ER like "jouer, danser, sauter ...". It is a rather difficult subject but the children did really well.

**Our talk topic for this week is 'What do you think children who were evacuated to the countryside in World War 2 would have packed in their suitcase.'**

In art we have been exploring the work of Andy Warhol and his pop art images to do with food. We have had a go at doing our own Any Warhol style food images where we used bright and unrealistic colours and repeated designs to create his style.

Have a lovely weekend.

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,

## Y4 HOME SCHOOL LETTER

This week's newsletter is co-written by Anjali with a dash of Hithaishi.

On Monday, we learnt about rainforests and how to save them.

On Tuesday, we learnt how to do long form subtraction.

For a big portion of the week, we set about making beautiful, and very persuasive 'Save the Rainforest!' posters. These needed eye-catching titles, sub-sections and illustrations but equally as cool, they had to include an artistic collage element to emulate the book style of Jeannie Baker. The examples produced by the children have been excellent and show a great eye for detail and a great deal of hard work researching the topic.

In Topic, we investigated our first environmental issue: water. We looked at a case study on the Uru Chipaya Indians of the Bolivian altiplano. The river that their livelihoods, their culture and, it seems, their native language depends on, is drying up. We explored the reasons why the water course is disappearing; the same reasons which we both add to and suffer from.

We also looked at how humans use water in so many ways and we learned to detect if it [the water use] is harmful or not harmful.



On Wednesday, we learnt about Marvel and DC superheroes (it was quite fun), and we used watercolours to paint the superheroes we like. In Numeracy, we aimed to master the seven times table till fifteen and played some fun seven times table games.

On Thursday, we had wet play, and a nice and fun swimming session.

On Friday, we wrote about the rainforest and danced to superhero themes!!! In the Big Write, the children had to 'sell' the forest, and life living in it, to the reader. In the gym, meanwhile, the class span webs, flew fist out and sprang into action whilst trying to maintain gymnastic grace and balance.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we learned how to use "Il y a" (there is/ there are) and we played ' the qu'est-ce que c'est'? game in order to review the vocabulary words, and use properly the definite and indefinite articles. We reviewed the days of the week and we counted up to 100.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished watching the film "Les trois brigands" which the children like very much. We also started conjugating verbs ending in -ER like "jouer, danser, sauter ...". It is a rather difficult subject but the children did really well.

**Our Talk Topic for this week is: How could the problem of the Uru Chipaya Indians be improved? Suggest 5 ideas?**

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 weather has not been very pleasant this week but the atmosphere and excitement in the classroom really has!

In Literacy we read yet more of Harry Miller's Run and discussed the differences between our childhoods and that of a young Harry in the 1920's and 1930's. We concluded that Harry had way more freedom than we do and was not at all afraid of talking to strangers to the point of asking for water. Today our children are more protected and wary of strangers. In grammar we looked at determiners and expanded noun phrases. We had fun experimenting with the noun phrases and understand now how these clarify the subject being written about. Our word of the day focused on words beginning with n, such as nostalgia and neglectful. Linking to topic work we created fact books about Margaret Hamilton.

In Numeracy we adding and subtracting to two decimal places mentally. This is not easy especially when adding whole numbers and decimals but after initial difficulties, we all managed to grasp this. We have also been subtracting four digit numbers using the 'frog' method. Basically, this is subtraction by adding up. If this is not enough, we have also been working on multi-step word problems.

We managed to go outside and play a game of football. The teams were evenly matched and we thoroughly enjoyed being in the fresh, if a little cold, air. A little heads up about our swimming rota. We will be starting swimming on the 14th February.

In Topic we took a look at Margaret Hamilton. I am suitably impressed by the amount of research the children do at home. This helps a lot when we discuss these famous scientists. We added to that research on Tuesday afternoon and made little fact books about her life. Our next exciting figure is Leonardo Da Vinci.

In Science we revised the parts of a flower and spoke about sexual and asexual reproduction in plants. We then moved on to dispersal and spoke of how the wind and other animals assist in this regard.



In Art we began looking at birds and discussed feathers in some detail. After this we sketched some examples of bird feathers.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had a dictée of mots invariables and I was pleased to see that everybody had studied really well. We also worked on possessives and had a small test and there again it was pleasing to see that everybody understood the subject. We also resumed the delicate subject of conjugaison ....

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we learned how to use "Il y a" (there is/ there are) and we played ' the qu'est-ce que c'est?' game. That helped us review the vocabulary words and use properly the definite and indefinite articles. Also, we reviewed the

action verbs and had to come up with four different questions in order to interview other members of the class.

Thank you for sending in the money for our French trip next week. We will be out in the afternoon so no special snacks or lunch is required.

We did a little music appreciation in the classroom this week, looking at opera and pop. We spoke and listened to the likes of Pavarotti, Elvis, Bryan Adams and Freddy Mercury. Barcelona was a favourite song and the children asked to listen to it again. Congratulations go to Arjun who was chosen as our new school council representative.

**The talk topic is: Would you have preferred to grow up in the 1930's or are you happy with growing up today?**

Warm regards,

Valeria Vetter and Ena Tolentino

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

### Home School Book – Year 6

Dear Parents,

We suffered sickness in Year 6 this week...with four students at home battling with this nasty flu bug. Let's hope that everyone has recovered for next week.



In literacy, with the help of Summarising Sheba, Vocabulary Victor and Arlo the Author, we revised types of questions that these three 'paw pals' might ask of a comprehension text. Each student, then worked through a set of comprehensions, which covered these skills. In SPaG, we revisited coordinating and subordinate conjunctions, the colon, semi-colon and the dash. Each day, the pupils have to work through a variety of warm-up skills. Our first dictation of the term went well – spellings and punctuation were nearly accurate in all cases.

The students have produced some sensitive and powerful art work reflecting the scene from Bruno's window. You should be very proud of the mature way in which your child is approaching this difficult topic. They are now creating a display of their work. I am arranging a Skype call with the granddaughter, Sir Benjamin Drage, who helped organise and provided accommodation for refugee children during and after the war.

<https://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/themes/subjects/refugees/weircourtney/>

In maths, we have 'ploughed' through a mountain of revision about decimals, fractions and percentages, as well as working at greater depth with percentage increase and decrease. As to be expected, it is the wording of multi-step problems

and not taking the time to write down more 'code -red' calculations, that result in incorrect answers; the students have the necessary skills and 'quick-fix' answers are rarely correct!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had a dictée of mots invariables and I was pleased to see that everybody had studied really well. We also worked on possessives and had a small test and there again it was pleasing to see that everybody understood the subject. We also resumed the delicate subject of conjugaison ....

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we learned how to use "Il y a" (there is/ there are) and we played ' the qu'est-ce que c'est'? game. That helped us review the vocabulary words and use properly the definite and indefinite articles. Also, we reviewed the action verbs and had to come up with four different questions in order to interview other members of the class.

Teachers have also been ill this week, so sadly, the children were unable to have their music lesson, they did however have some 'chill' time playing their ukuleles with Mr Edward Prescott. Please note that Wednesday is our new ukulele day.

Next week, we shall be going to La Montagne Magique on Tuesday, which we are looking forward to.

### **Our Talk Topic this week is: What is philosophy?**

Stay warm and relax this 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,

One focus for this week in the Junior Department EAL small group was on using adverbs of place, time and frequency (there, here, nearby, far away, later, earlier, soon, sometimes, usually, often, never, always). The children are skilled in spotting these in texts, and we are working on using them in speaking and writing.

In connection with Year 3's topic on World War 2, we looked again at cities, countries and continents of the world, and discussed how countries across the world became involved in the war.

The Year 1 and 2 EAL small group had a reduced number of sessions this week. A focus was on the language needed to talk about different materials (in connection with Year 1's science work this week). The children learned the names of common materials, and used expressions such as You can bend it; It can break to talk about materials and their uses. We also read and dramatized the story of the Three Little

Pigs, making sure that we used appropriate language to describe the materials used in the house building in the story.



The Reception EAL small group was reduced in number as several children were absent due to sickness. In our sessions this week, we practised counting up to 20 objects (following the Reception class numeracy work). We played animal guessing games, requiring the children to ask questions such as Does it have 4 legs? Can it fly? We also spent some time in free conversation, giving the children the opportunity to use English to talk about their experiences at home, and to try to share their opinions.

I wish you all a very happy weekend, and I look forward to seeing all the children next week.

Kate Read  
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