

Home School Books – 22 March 2019.

### Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Our new theme all about gardens has started very well and the children have painted some beautiful and colourful flowers this week to go along the long nursery corridor wall, in combination with some other super art work on gardens.. This has also been a good opportunity to talk about primary and secondary colours, while mixing the paint. Everyone was amazed that red and yellow could make orange but it didn't matter how we tried red could not be made using any other colours mixed together and neither could blue or yellow!

This week was all about numbers and if you look opposite, you will see your child's counting, number recognition and ordering activity. Many of the children are still helped by the teacher to order numbers at this stage, as ordering from looking at the numbers in a random fashion is not the same as counting by rote. Transference from ordering solid objects to putting things in order on paper is quite tricky for some. Please help your child at home by playing a variety of number games to help with number recognition and ordering. Most importantly make maths activities interesting and fun and don't scold your child if they get it wrong, as this just makes them afraid to try new things in case they fail! In nursery we try and help the children have a growth mindset not a fixed one; you can listen to some great information on mindsets by following this link

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUWn\\_TJTrnU&feature=share](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUWn_TJTrnU&feature=share)

Just to remind you that the next individual parent teacher meetings are on Friday 5 April 2019. The school will be closed on that day and you will be given a specific appointment time to come and speak with your child's teacher, about the progress they have made since joining the nursery. One or both parents are invited to the meeting but your child is not invited, so please arrange for a babysitter if you need to, while you attend your appointment. There will be no garderie or childcare arrangements provided in school.

If you are leaving school before 5 April to go on holiday early, please let Mrs Davies know and your appointment will be re-arranged for after the Easter break.

Happy holi to all those involved in celebrations this weekend, thank you for our little taster of the Hindu festival of colour, heralding in the season of Spring. Which leads us nicely into our talk topic this weekend which is

**'What signs of Spring can you see as you walk around your neighbourhood?'**



Until next week, have a weekend full of fun!

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,

I would like to start by reminding everyone that we are going to the City Farm next Friday. We need you to sign the permission slip and give it back to us along with the 20 euros for the trip. We already have one volunteer offering to come with us but we still need three more! Please let us know if you can join us on our City Farm Trip next Friday, March 29th.

This week we started a new topic, The Jungle Topic! The children have made all kinds of different leaves to decorate the classroom, which is rapidly turning into one big jungle. We have also learned a bit about the animals that live in the jungle and that a jungle is a type of forest.

In maths this week we continued to practise our numbers, both our teen numbers and we even counted to one hundred! We also started to learn the months of the year and what order the months come in, both by talking about the months and by singing a song that helps us remember the name for each month.

In phonics this week we learned two new high frequency words, words that we do not read or write phonetically: the words 'like' and 'to'. The children practise using these words in sentences and they practised writing them, both on the interactive whiteboard and also in their assignments!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are reading, watching and having great fun with our wolf stories topic. We created a little book about a wolf getting dressed and we coloured a beautiful wolf that looks like the 'on' we drew with the outline of our hands. We watched and listened to the story of "Le petit gentil loup".

**The talk topic this week is: If you were in a jungle, what kind of animals do you think you could see? What would you do in the jungle?**

Finally, the stars of the week go to Preetishaa for doing a great job with writing this week and for always trying her best to follow instructions! And to Vaibhav for being really good at remembering his numbers and for always playing nicely with his friends! Congratulations Preetishaa and Vaibhav 😊



We hope you 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,

It's been great to see the sunshine this week, and we have definitely caught spring fever in Year 1!

Our main Literacy focus this week was on poetry. Although to date we have written only recounts, instructions, stories and information texts, the children are already aware of, and can recognise rhyme. We discussed how poetry differs from the other types of writing, and looked at the construction of acrostic poems: these are a simple form of poetry, where the emphasis is on the beginning letter of each line, rather than on more complicated elements such as rhythm and rhyme. Having gathered some ideas, the children then wrote an acrostic poem using the letters in 'SPRING'. We were delighted with the results - everyone understood the concept and wrote a line for each letter. The original poems are already on display in the classroom, and we have made a photocopy for you to look at in this week's Home School Book. Also in Literacy, we resumed our phonics work, with /ew/, /ue/ and /u-e/ (as in flew, glue and rule) as our sounds of the week, and in Grammar, we had our first look at verb endings (play, plays, played, playing, player).



Maths this week has been about addition and subtraction of 1-digit numbers to and from 2-digit numbers, initially without crossing the 10s numbers (such as 56-4), then later on using more adventurous sums such as 73-6. We use a variety of strategies to help us, one of which is counting back on a 100-square - this requires some concentration to ensure that when counting back 6 from 73, the children know that when they reach 71, to find the next number they have to go back to the end of the line above to continue. We played a number of games to reinforce these skills, and also had a game of 'reverse snakes and ladders' to focus on subtraction.

Our focus in Art this week was spring, and we made some bright pink blossom to go on our tree in the window - that way, we hope to blend in with our surroundings when the Emile Max trees turn pink. We also managed to finish our sit-in box-car, which will hopefully be as big a hit in Golden Time as the dolls' house has been.

For our latest home-made toy project, the children had to summon all their patience - we made spinners using old CDs, bottle tops and marbles. The 3-step process (first the marble, then the bottle top, then the decoration) took until Thursday, by which time the children were almost beside themselves with excitement! We were able to

give the spinners a thorough test run, both inside and outside the classroom (please see <http://www.bisb.org/project/year-1-march-2019/> ). Whilst using up our old CDs, we also made a spectroscope, and were able to see the colours of the rainbow reflected through a small hole in a cardboard tube.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have almost finished drawing our own house related to our story “Une maison de musiciens” and they are starting to look amazing. They all consist of four rooms: “la cuisine, le salon/salle à manger, la chambre et la salle de bains” and “le grenier” (the attic) of course.

**Talk Topic for next week will be "Do you prefer new toys or our home-made ones? Why?"**

Maths homework will be ‘Marching Madness 1.20’ - working out the total of a number of coins.

Wishing you a pleasant spring 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 have continued our work on our Dragons and Castles topic this week by taking a closer look at the life of children in a medieval castle, finding out how they would have spent their days and what they would have learnt. We discovered that boys would have started to train to be knights at our age, and that it would have taken them 14 years to become a ‘real’ knight! We also discovered that girls led very different lives and would not have been able to train as knights. We did lots of research on armour, looking at how it developed through the ages to give the knights more protection in battle, and found out about jousting and the importance of strong horses and easily identifiable shields. Noble families had their own coats of arms by which they could be identified, and which told a story about the family and its beliefs. We looked at the different animals that were used on shields and found out what they symbolized. We then designed our own shields using the colours that would have been used in medieval times and choosing an animal that reflected our own personality. Some of the animals were real, such as the dog, the stag or the badger, others were mythical creatures such as dragons or griffins. We also added a ‘motto’ using similes to describe our qualities. These included ‘as fast as an eagle’, ‘as fiery as a dragon’ or as ‘daring as a unicorn’. We watched an interesting video showing the rooms inside a castle and the way in which castles changed as extra buildings were added over the years. We tried to imagine what it would have been like to have lived in one and compared it to where we live today.



In Literacy we have been planning a story for this term's writing assessment. We listened to several different types of castle story, from traditional fairy tales to funny stories about incompetent knights, adventure stories about brave feats and mysterious stories with magical characters. Our stories are based around a medieval castle and include ourselves as the hero or heroine, along with several supporting characters such as dragons, knights, Lords and Ladies or other people who would have lived in the castle. Our aim is to write an inspiring story using varied vocabulary, correct punctuation and spelling, legible handwriting and lots of interesting ideas. The story boards are ready, the characters are lined up, the dragons are hovering and the stories are about to begin. I'm sure they will be fantastic!

In grammar we learnt about compound nouns and had fun inventing silly words and also looked at how to use commas in lists. We played memory games using long lists and then decided how the lists could be divided up using commas and 'and'. Everyone did well with their exception words spelling lists, with some children achieving the full 64 without any mistakes – well done and thank you for helping at home!

In maths we concentrated on multiplication using the 2x, 5x, 10x, 3x and 4x tables. Most children now find it reasonably easy to recite the tables by heart, but this does not necessarily mean they fully understand what they are doing. This week we practised the tables again using number lines, repeated addition, bar models and pictorial arrays. By playing with numbers in different ways it is easier to understand what multiplication really means, and therefore to understand what we are doing when we divide numbers.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we acted out fun scenes from our 'épicerie bizarre'. We were happy to see how everyone handled this project so well, and was able to use the different expressions and interactive parts played by 'le client and l'épicier' (the shopkeeper).

In PE we played games based on direction, using clockwise and anti-clockwise, quarter, half and three-quarter turns and adding in the idea of faster and slower. We also practised estimating time by timing different exercises, such as jumping in and out of hoops or throwing and catching a ball, for 30 seconds and 1 minute. We decided that one minute is actually quite a long time when you have to jump without stopping!

**Our talk topic is “How, and why, do you think buildings will change in the future?”**

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

It's been a busy week as always in Year 3! We started a new unit in science on growing plants. In our first lesson we discussed the many different types of plants around us and learned the main parts of a flowering plant. We then discussed the job or function of each part and played a game where we had to match the part of the plant to its function. In geography we began to discuss maps. We then had a go at making our own sketch maps of the local area, including key landmarks for us such as the junior department, Plasky roundabout, Diamant metro station and the infant department. We talked about drawing buildings as shapes and not every detail such as windows and trees and using a 'bird's eye view'.



This week in literacy we finished reading our class book 'Bon Appetit: The Delicious Life of Julia Child'. We then discussed the details of her life and all of her achievements. We read an obituary summing up her personality and achievements and then had a go at writing our own obituary detailing her life. The children remembered to try and make their writing interesting and to use the features of this type of newspaper article correctly. In our grammar lesson we discussed the difference between a clause and a phrase. The children then practised identifying clauses and phrases in sentences and knowing the difference.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished talking about the weather by playing a guessing game and then did some work in our exercises books. We resumed our food topic and revised expressions like "j'aime / je n'aime pas", "j'adore / je déteste" and added a new one: "j'ai envie de ... / je n'ai pas envie de ...".

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, We talked about the les fruits et les légumes de saison. The objective was to get them to talk about their favourite seasonal fruits and vegetables. We also started our new project 'le super héros' combined with different action verbs. We started out by talking about and listing all the things that we can do with verb 'Pouvoir'.

In maths we revised the frog method and used it to subtract one three digit number from another three digit number. We then talked about which subtraction sums are best solved by counting back and which ones are best solved using the frog method to count up. We also started to learn the grid method of multiplication which we will continue to practise next week.

The tennis players do have one more lesson left next week will be their last session so they can bring their rackets if they wish.

**Our Talk Topic for the week is 'What do plants need to grow well?'**

Have a lovely weekend.

Camilla Rutayisire

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

## Home School Book – Year 4

Dear Parents,

This week began with a tricky experiment where the children had to test what factors make the best telephone line. See the photos to see whether long, short, slack or taut wires offered the best conditions:

<http://www.bisb.org/project/y4-science-telephone-experiment/>

Following that, we added money totals (for some, involving shop receipts from the UK).

The literacy opportunities offered by Book Week were too great to miss and we continued where we were not able to last week. We continued the picture book without text, Journey, by drawing the next two pages in the story. What would happen next in the plot and how would the children draw it?

Then came the big event - the forest walk.

The aim of the game was for the children to lead the group in pairings to one of three destinations with the possibility of five fun detours. Each pair could overturn the previous pairs' decisions. Power and headings changed hands, but ultimately the children chose a 'Hard' detour – 'the Owl Trials'. Which proved to be a classic which even I hadn't expected to be such a success. But they took a long time and trying to enforce the pace afterwards wasn't easy.

Many apologies for our late return and your patience having to wait for us. We suffered what I call 'shrinkage' through the day. Many, many thanks to those children who got to school especially early but we were kept waiting for latecomers. Once off, we narrowly missed our tram and once in the forest, I was forced to run back for caps left behind twice.

It was a brilliant trip and is one of those occasions when the school's motto, 'Mighty oaks from little acorns grow...' is nowhere better exemplified. To uphold that motto, sometimes, a lesson does overrun so we are very sorry for the inconvenience caused. Thank you to both the wonderful Mrs Hafstein and Mrs Goureaa for helping us so much on the trip.

<http://www.bisb.org/project/y4-im-a-9-year-old-get-me-out-of-here-forest-trip-19-mrs-goureaa-photos/>



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we finished talking about the weather by playing a guessing game and then did some work in our exercises books. We resumed our food topic and revised expressions like “j’aime / je n’aime pas”, “j’adore / je déteste” and added a new one: “j’ai envie de ... / je n’ai pas envie de ...”.

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Today, the children will have performed the Batman comic strip, 'Panic On The Streets' in front of all their junior colleagues. We did just three practices this week but some of the children have done so well to learn some (if not all) of their parts. All have been very excited about the play! And that was our week.

**Our Talk Topic for this week is: What was the best, funniest and scariest thing that you did on the forest trip?**

Best wishes

Tim Stedman

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

### Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

We had a superb sunny week and really enjoyed our time outside. Spring is definitely here.

To complete Book Week we finished off our Journey stories and poems, then made them ready for our display downstairs. We spent time writing other stories about our own Journey adventures and they are imaginative and interesting to read. We again did 2 comprehensions this week, one a poem called Keepsake Mill by Robert Louis Stevenson and the other The Hippogriff's Tusk by Anthony Buckeridge. The children loved both texts and were able to answer all the questions. A lot of new and unfamiliar words surfaced yet again; for example, bogus and keepsake.

In Numeracy we finished our work on polygons and turned to measures. We spoke about the Metric and Imperial systems of measurement and did some work converting these. We also worked on time, both adding and subtracting from a given point. We have now moved on to improper fractions.

In Computing we finally finished using pages to write our stories and then played a coding game called Lightbot. Our stories are on display in the library so when you come to the next coffee morning, please take a look.

In PE once again we enjoyed our swimming lesson and it is pleasing to see how confident most of the children are in the water. They listen to the coach and really do their best. On Wednesday afternoon we played a very amicable game of football in the sun.

For Science, we had our next excursion into the African wilderness in the form of a live safari in both Kenya and South Africa. We saw elephants, sleeping lions and a leopard's track in the mud. Tristan, a guide, told us this was the track of a young female leopard called Tlalamba. The children asked sensible questions of the guides and these were answered much to the children's delight. It is so good to instil a love of nature into children as, in this way, we can try to save our



future.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we listened to a story about a woodcutter who falls in love with Mozart's music, we worked on grammatical homophones and celebrated la fête de la langue française by playing a fun vocabulary game. We also resumed conjugating irregular verbs.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about 'le printemps' (spring), la garde-robe (clothes) and what we wear . We also started our new project 'le journaliste curieux'; we had to come up with 'interview' questions using 'pouvoir, vouloir and faire'.

This week's assembly was on Freedom and Rights. March 14th was World Freedom Day.

By now, you will have received your parent meeting times. Please contact the office or myself if you need to change your time.

**The talk topic is: What is Freedom? Discuss this with your parents.**

Have a peaceful 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,

Spring has arrived and what a difference sunshine makes!

One of the highlights of this week, was our WWII cookery class led by Mrs Nagy, on the menu was 'wartime menu no 5': macaroni cheese and jam tart. Our kitchen was prepared in the hall, complete with wartime decorations! We had all our rations spread out and ready to use, but after we checked in our ration books, we realised that we did not have enough coupons to buy everything that we needed. Mrs Nagy decided that we had to make a few 'deals' on the 'black-market', so we exchanged some of our clothing rations for extra butter and milk! All the children participated, including Jacob, our evacuee. Lunch was served. The macaroni cheese was devoured; some children had three helpings and the jam tart disappeared in a flash. We really enjoyed ourselves; thank you Mrs Nagy for organising this for Year 6.



This week, we have worked through revision activity books and past test papers for: maths, reading comprehension and SPaG. The basic arithmetic skills questions are being reasonable well answered; arranging improper fractions in order caused a few issues and division of fractions caught a few pupils out. Interestingly, our most able mathematicians suffer when dealing with the mathematic reasoning paper. Why? Because in their 'rush' to do the calculations, they fail to read the question carefully enough – result – errors in the answer(s).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we listened to a story about a woodcutter who falls in love with Mozart's music, we worked on grammatical homophones and celebrated la fête de la langue française by playing a fun vocabulary game. We also resumed conjugating irregular verbs.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we talked about 'le printemps' (spring), la garde-robe (clothes) and what we wear . We also started our new project 'le journaliste curieux'; we had to come up with 'interview' questions using 'pouvoir, vouloir and faire'.

In reading comprehension, we focused on content domain 2B – retrieving and recording information and identifying key details from fiction and non-fiction. We also revised sentences, phrases, clauses, grammatical terms and word classes. We completed two practice examination spelling tests. On Thursday, we continued our reading of Auslander, which is generating some interesting ethical and philosophical discussions.

The students should now be learning their lines and practising playing their ukuleles for our summer production: the enthusiasm and excitement is palpable!

**Our Talk Topic this week is: How do you think the plot in Auslander will develop?**

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

Dear Parents,

During Book Week last week, the children loved the book Am I Yours? , which was about a dinosaur's egg, so this week, the Reception EAL small group found out more about eggs, by watching this short video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swQujfPhXd0>

Through discussion, we worked out that some animals lay eggs, and some animals don't. We also read another dinosaur egg story, Mimi's Eggcellent Adventure.

The Year One and Two EAL small group wrote short reviews about their favourite books from the Book Week selection. We used the words: title, author, character, and setting. Relating to the books Lots and Tidy, we had a discussion about whether (and how) we should protect Planet Earth from being polluted and damaged. This gave the children the chance to use language like I agree, I don't agree, we should, if .... then...

Last week, some wonderful stories were created by all the school children, working in groups across all the classes. This week, the Junior EAL small group took inspiration from one of these stories, and continued it. I am pleased to see the children gaining much confidence in putting their own ideas into writing. We have also been working on reading comprehension, especially on trying to work out word meanings from their context. Among the new vocabulary this week, were: appear, plan, order, grin, boast, chat, prey, and predator.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read

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