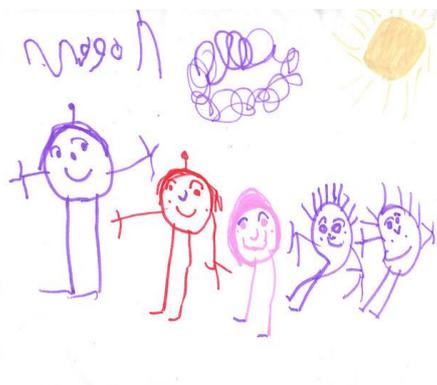


Home School Books – 26 April 2019.

### Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the Easter break, we hope you had a magnificent time, enjoying the wonderful weather and the many trips to the park that the children have told us about. We have heard from a few children that they went to visit the Keukenhof Gardens in the Netherlands to see the fields of tulips, what an adventure when you are only 3 or 4yrs old!



We are using this week as a re -settling back into nursery life, as 2 weeks away feels like a life time for some children, so lots of reminders this week about our golden rules and routines. We have also started chatting about our new topic, which is all about ‘The Farm’ but particularly focusing on planting and growing.

The nursery children are going to attempt to grow some produce of their own and have their very own farm shop, selling all sorts of healthy fruit and vegetables. We will also have a go at growing some Sunflowers and other types of plants, so we have our green fingers and gardening gloves at the ready!

In our home school book this week, your little one was asked to draw a picture of what they did in the Easter break. This was a free hand drawing with no help or guidance from the teacher but afterwards each child discussed their drawing in a small group setting. You can see their effort in the home school book.

Thank you to everyone who attended the parent, teacher meetings before the holiday; it was great to talk to you about your child. They are all so unique and wonderfully made! Child development accelerates at a rate of knots from birth to five years and remember each child will develop in their own individual way, so just keep encouraging them to be the best they can be. Embrace the early years, as you will be wishing them back when they are teenagers!

**Our new talk topic for you to chat over with your little one is ‘What do farmer’s use to dig over all of the soil in their fields?’**

Enjoy the weekend and don’t forget to stop and smell the roses as we say!

Thank you  
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Please click [here](#) for our Nursery webpage

Home School Book – Reception

Dear Parents,

Our first week back after the holidays has been eventful and fun. We have got three new friends in our class who have all been really good at settling into their new routines and getting to know their new friends! In addition our first swimming group went swimming this Tuesday which was a source of great excitement. We already have two volunteers for the next three swimming sessions but we are still a bit short on parent volunteers for the sessions from the 21st of May to the 27th of June. Those of you who would like to join us for the swimming sessions, please contact us and tell us which dates you could join us.

This week we started a new topic, Plants and Mini Beasts! We are going to learn a lot about the plants that we can find all around us, for example in the garden, and all the little creatures that live in nature and in our gardens and parks.



In phonics this week we learned three new tricky words, we, me and be – and even though they are tricky the children did a good job of recognising them and learning how we pronounce them. We also practised our reading and we practised writing digraphs, which is always a bit tricky and needs a lot of practice!

In maths we continued to practise our number bonds and this week we focused on number bonds up to 6. We also practised our teen numbers, counting from 0 - 20 and counting backwards from 20 - 0. We also practised reciting numbers to 100 and the children did some very long and very cool number snakes!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we resumed our animal topic and are currently creating our very own memory game with lots of animal pictures. We sang almost all our animal songs and looked at pictures books to remind ourselves of all the names. Despite the holidays, the children remember many animal names and are always excited to learn about animals.

**The talk topic this week is: What kinds of mini beasts can you find in your garden or in a nearby park? What kind of food do you think the mini beasts eat?**

Finally, the stars of the week go to Aabhir for brilliant progress in English and for always doing a great job at tidying up! And to Jagrav for doing a great job practising his number bonds and his teen numbers! Congratulations Aabhir and Jagrav 😊

We wish you all 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 was a pleasure to welcome everyone back to school this week, bursting with news of their holiday adventures! This term is going to be busy!

We have continued with the Phase 5 phonics programme - this week's sounds were /wh/ and /ph/, as in 'whale' and 'phone' respectively. The /wh/ sound contains a silent 'h', so /wh/ sounds just the same as /w/, making the children's task of learning spellings more difficult. The same is true with the /ph/ and /f/ sounds, so we did a series of activities aimed at familiarising the children with words in which all these different sounds appear. In our formal written work this term, we will be looking to develop our writing by the regular use of 'openers', 'connectives' and descriptive vocabulary. We began this week with a simple exercise, writing about something we did during the holidays, but with the emphasis on sentence structure, rather than on quantity of information. I was very pleased with the way the children responded and were able to produce longer, less repetitive sentences.



In Maths this week we have been working on adding and subtracting 1 and 10 to and from any 2-digit number, and making the connection between these operations and the concept of 1 or 10 more or less than a number. We focused on the use of the 100-square, where it is easy to recognise which digit changes when we add or subtract 1 and which digit changes when we add or subtract 10. This led quite naturally to more work on improving our understanding of 'place value' (10s and 1s). We used bead strings, place value cards, 10c and 1c coins, and sticks of 10 cubes to help familiarise us with the idea of how many 10s and 1s make up, for example, 36.

Our new topic this term is 'Walking through the jungle'. We are planning to make a jungle area in the classroom, so we started off by painting and cutting out some large leaves and a large tree-trunk - once we have created the necessary habitat, then we will be adding some jungle creatures. In our main topic session, we discussed our current ideas about jungles and rainforests - we noted them down, and will add to them over the next few weeks. We looked at a globe, Google Earth and some maps of the world, and learned that rainforests are close to the equator, which is why they are so hot and wet. The children made their own maps showing the seven continents, the equator and the locations of the major rainforests.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we started the new term with a new story "Un coucou dans la pendule" which will also give the children a lot of new and very useful vocabulary. We began with the days of the week and I was impressed to see how easily they all learnt them. We also learnt about the different parts of the day and the greetings. We sang a song "Bonjour, bonsoir, bonne nuit ..." and watched "Muzzy" a BBC cartoon produced years ago to learn French.

**Our jungle-related Talk Topic for next week will be "How would you describe a snake?"**

Maths homework will be 'Balloon Pop 1.22' - adding pairs of larger 1-digit numbers. Please remember that we will be going to the park at Wezembeek on Tuesday 30th April (10.55-12.45) - many thanks to the three parents who have volunteered to accompany us.

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 have had an exciting week in the Junior Department, enjoying sharing a building with the Year 3s and having fun exploring a big building with lots of stairs and doors – we had to send out several search parties to find out where people had got to on the way to the classroom, to the bathroom or to music lessons on the next floor down! We are now well prepared for next year and the year 3 classroom. It was also a real treat to have two picnic lunches outside in the sunshine and to make the most of the blossoms before they all blow away.



The Junior Department playground has been the ideal place to start our new Summer term 'What a Wonderful World' topic, as we have taken advantage of all the different flowers (and weeds!) growing in the garden to study the structure of plants and to look at how they grow in a garden habitat. We each dissected a plant to see what the separate parts look and feel like, and to see how they all connect and work together. We set up an experiment to demonstrate how a plant takes in water by putting white tulips into water with blue food colouring. The colouring turned out to be in gel form, so we are waiting to see if it has dissolved enough for the petals to absorb the colour. Watch this space!

In maths we revised placing numbers on a 1-100 number line and created a 101-200 number square, which we are now working on. We played pair games to generate 3-digit numbers, which we had to locate on the square by looking at tens and units patterns. To help us with our mental maths Mrs Tolentino is running a mini Super-T tournament – excitement is high and there is a definite competitive spirit so it would be good to revise some of the times tables over the next few weeks if you have any spare moments.

A new topic means a new class book, so we started reading 'The Minpins' by Roald Dahl. You never look at a tree in quite the same way once you have read it and there are some beautiful descriptions of woodlands and birds. The art work is fantastic too with plenty of inspiration for some great 'nature' projects.

In literacy we learnt how to write an informal letter and address an envelope and practiced by writing home to tell you about our swimming trip. It was very interesting to talk about writing and receiving letters and about how the postal system works. We will be doing more work on postcards and stamps later in the term, so if you receive any letters with stamps from other countries, please could you



send them in for us to look at? We also revised using apostrophes for contractions of words and started to look at how they are used to show possession.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we started talking about one of our favourite seasons: 'le printemps' (spring) introducing vocabulary we associate with this season. To use these words, we followed up with a game -le printemps, c'est quoi? (what is spring?) where they had to run and use their favourite word once. We also sang a lively song about 'le printemps'.

We had a fantastic time on our special class swimming trip – the water was lovely and warm and everyone thoroughly enjoyed choosing whether to swim with a noodle, armbands or a jacket, or, for the increasing number of confident swimmers – swimming in the deep end and finding out how far they really can swim. A splashing time was had by all and I was very impressed by how well everyone managed to get changed efficiently and independently.

We hope you all enjoyed your Easter break, make the most of a lovely weekend and we will see you back in the Infant Department as usual next week.

**Our talk topic is “Why is it so important for us to understand how plants function and grow?”**

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 was lovely to welcome the children back after the Easter break. The year 3 children have enjoyed being the oldest children in the junior department this week as years 4, 5 and 6 have been on their residential trip to Botassart. We've been busy as always! In science we planted our bean plants ready to observe their growth over the coming weeks. We talked about the 7 life processes for living things and we also set up an experiment to observe plant growth according to different conditions. We put one plant in the dark, one somewhere cold, one will not be watered and one will have too much water. It will be interesting to see what happens.

In literacy we introduced our new book 'The Famous Five: Five Go Off to Camp' by Enid Blyton. We discussed what we would take camping with us and made a glossary of key camping terms. We practised using a dictionary to look up definitions of our words for our glossary. In grammar we talked about using paragraphs when writing fiction. We discussed how writers use paragraphs whenever a new action, new person, new time or new place is introduced. Then we had a go at writing our own paragraphs remembering to start a new line and leave a space between paragraphs.

In our spelling lesson the children did very well with learning their list of 20 words. They will be tested on 20 words (weeks 3 and 4) next week and then after that we will learn 10 words a week until the end of the year.

In maths we added and subtracted fractions with the same denominator. We then practised multiplying and dividing by 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 using function machines. Finally we used our knowledge of multiplication and division to solve some word problems.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on one of the most famous characters in children's tales - 'le loup' (the wolf). We learned and talked about his anatomy and habitat. We sang a clever and a fun song- 'Promenons-nous dans les bois' to review the clothing vocabulary and some verbs.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we joined Mrs. Halvorsen's group and had a special session together as a class whilst the Year 4 children were away. We talked about wolves. We sang a famous French song "Promenons-nous dans les bois, pendant que le loup n'y est pas ..." which gave us the opportunity to revise the vocabulary for clothing, we also read various wolf stories, watched a cartoon and learnt a lot of facts and figures about wolves.

In PE we started our new athletics unit by learning how to sprint and how to improve our technique. Some of the children were very fast indeed! Mrs Tolentino took some photos of our sprinting which are now on the school website.



**This week we will be describing characters. Our Talk Topic for this week is 'What is your favourite story character and how would you describe them?'**

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

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