

Home School Books – 10 May 2019.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

We are going to start our Home school book letter with two quick reminders:

May we please ask you, not to bring back your child's folder without the library book and home-school book being together. If you separate the library book from the folder it often doesn't find its way back to nursery! The odd occasion when you have mislaid a book is fine but please do not do it on a regular basis.

Secondly, may we also please ask, that you teach your child to take care of our library books: many of them are coming back from home with ripped or scribbled on pages. We are always reminding them in nursery how to handle books carefully, as other children do not want tatty books to read. Thank you for your understanding.

At last we have had a full week in nursery meaning more time to have fun and engage in some interesting and fruitful activities. We have continued with our Farm project and the children are starting to get the idea of how the farm role-play shop should operate. It is a very expensive and exclusive shop as Mrs Davies got charged 50 euros for a banana the other day! Money is something the children have no concept about at this age, anything from 5 cents to 50 euros has a similar value, but we have a great time using it in the tills and making up estimations of what something might cost.

Following on we have had a focus on maths this week and Mrs van Wassenhove has worked with children in pairs, looking at the correlation between the written number and the correct number of blocks that need to be counted out and coloured in. Many of the children seem confident with number because they are able to rote count and recognise some written numbers. However there is a lot more to maths ability and competence and one of the most important aspects at this age is value, so as they grow and learn, this can be translated into real life situations with things like money management.

In our home school books this week if you look opposite, you will see a photograph of your little one doing a bit of planting, this is the practical exercise from last week's discussions on planting a seed. Most children remembered the sequence of what went first, second etc. but of course they were having such a good time digging in the compost no one wanted to stop! We now just need to pray that the elements are kind to our tiny sunflower seeds and they actually do sprout! The children will bring their sunflower pots home at the end of term and then it will be up to you to keep nurturing and growing the plant into something beautiful; no pressure of course!



Next week is the start of environment week as a whole school project and everyone is looking at different aspects of the Human Footprint and the impact we can have for good or bad on our planet. So watch this space for more news on our activities for that week.

Our talk topic is ‘Teach your mummy and daddy our new song, digging in the soil and then talk about what you would make with the vegetables that you pulled up.’

Until next week, enjoy whatever you have planned and we will see you on Monday.

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,

Human Footprint Week!

Next week will be our Human Footprint Week where we look at our effect on the environment, looking at how humans impact the environment and what we can do to minimize the negative impact humans have on the environment. We are going to learn about pesticides, which hurt the mini beasts, and we will learn about recycling!

This past week we continued learning about mini-beasts and we focused especially on ants and snails! We found lots of snails in the playground and made sure they had lots of leaves to eat. We even made our very own snails out of salty dough that we are going to paint next week! We haven't found any ants in the playground yet but we learned a lot about them from our books! We have also continued to watch our earthworms digging tunnels in their little worm-home in our classroom and the seeds we planted two weeks ago have already become little plants and will soon be ready to be planted in flowerpots and go outside.



In phonics this week we continued to practise our diagraphs, our writing and our reading. The children did great at writing whole sentences phonetically on their own (that means that they write in accordance with the sounds – we do not focus on correct spelling yet), and they are also all improving steadily in their reading.

This week in maths we learned about halving and doubling. We even got a magic box that helps us to do our halving and doubling, and the children have all gotten a chance to practise their doubling and their halving with the help of our magic box! We also continued to practise our days and our months as well as our teen numbers.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we had another busy week talking about why we love mummy so much. We learnt to say “Maman, je t’aime” (I love you mummy) and we drew wonderful pictures for Mother’s Day this coming Sunday. We also started

listening to a story about Léo and Léa, a brother and a sister who live in a funny country where animals are all different colours.

The talk topic this week is: Is it important to take good care of nature and the mini-beasts? Why do you think that?

Finally, the stars of the week go to Mishka for great colouring and some excellent reading this week! And to Havish for great progress in reading and for brilliant math this week! Congratulations to Mishka and Havish 😊

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,

Another week has flown by in a jungle-themed blur!

Our phonics sounds of the week were /ou/ and /oy/, as in ‘shout’ and ‘toy’, which we compared with the other sounds we know (/ow/ and /oi/), and practised reading and spotting which variation occurs in which words: for example, the children simply have to learn that ‘clown’ has the /ow/ sound and ‘cloud’ has the /ou/ sound - there is no simple or magic rule! In Grammar, we had our first formal look at the use of exclamation marks, and practised using them in appropriate phrases and sentences. For our main Literacy session, we prepared for next week’s ‘Human Footprint’ week by focusing on ‘the environment’, in the context of the rainforests we are learning about. We re-read the non-fiction book ‘Lots’, about diversity on Earth and the damage being done by mankind, discussed the concept of ‘deforestation’, then composed a letter to our older friends in the Junior Department, asking them if they can help us with ideas about how to stop pollution, deforestation etc. Next week, we will hopefully receive some replies, and we will investigate further.

We covered a lot of ground in Maths this week: we started with measuring and comparing weight, using balance scales, to become familiar with the concepts of ‘heavier than’ and ‘lighter than’, then moved on to measuring and comparing capacity, using red and blue water and a whole range of containers, to learn the ideas of full, empty, half-full, half-empty, nearly full and nearly empty. You can see some of the measuring fun at



<http://www.bisb.org/project/year-1-may-2019/>. After all that, we still had time for some doubling and halving practice, some work on money (adding coins and making equivalent amounts), and finally, some work on recognising quarters of shapes.

In our topic and science work this week, we have been looking at animals. We began by learning which types of animals live in the different layers of the rainforest - the children did a cut-and-stick activity, which you can see in their Home School Book. Then on Thursday, we looked at animal classifications - mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, birds and insects, and learnt some of the features which characterise each group. We tried to keep it simple, but when we got a bit stuck on mammals that live in the sea (whales) and birds that can't fly (penguins), the children realised that this can be complicated! Our Art project was jungle-related again: we made a selection of creatures to display in our classroom rainforest - a two-stage process involving painting, then cutting and assembling.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still listening to our story "Un coucou dans la pendule" and are following Lucie in her search for Monsieur Lampion but this week we also spoke about all the reasons we love mummy so much. We made beautiful pictures and learnt to say "Maman, je t'aime" for Mother's Day this coming Sunday.

Talk Topic for next week will be "If we cut down more and more trees in the rainforests, what might happen?"

Maths homework takes a break for revision and Environment Week. Finally, please remember that we will be going to Parc Josaphat next Thursday 16th May from 09.00-13.00 (weather permitting) - we will need two parents to come along to help - please let us know if you are available.

Wishing you a relaxing 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 were very lucky this week and managed to avoid the clouds and downpours on our trip to the park. This is the perfect time of year to find out about how things grow – we saw dandelions in all their states of development, trees sending out new shoots despite having been cut right down, blue and red beetles scurrying in the undergrowth so many things to marvel at in every direction. We explored the overgrown stream, discovering how the water tunnels through the weeds and turns the river banks into muddy slides, then we walked part way around the lake, spotting slugs, pond-skaters, ducks and a family of baby coots with furry bodies and enormous legs, all trying to climb over a fence at the edge of the water. We also saw a heron at very close range as it took off just in front of us and flew away across the water. We could easily have stayed all day, but after a quick play on the playground, we hunted around for interesting samples of plants (taking care not to pick anything that was growing), feathers and twigs and headed back to school with lots of things to study with the magnifying glasses. We spent the afternoon dissecting the samples and making labelled posters. Mrs. Tolentino has done a great job putting all the photos on the

website – do take a look!

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/157096587@N03/sets/72157680307929458/with/47806213151/>

In literacy we spent the week revising spelling and grammar work by completing challenge booklets with quiz style questions. As usual we discovered that we lose the most marks by missing out questions or by not reading them correctly – in fact we know the answers perfectly well! Most children now know all their exception words, but the word sheet is in the reading folders for those last few challenging words that still pose a problem – it would be fantastic if we could end the year with everyone knowing how to spell beautiful and because!

In maths we revised subtraction, using the frog method to count on and using tens and units to count back. We also worked on doubling and halving numbers above 100 and on finding fractions of numbers rather than shapes. We had another look at time, which is still a tricky area, and tried to decide how we could use our detective skills to make the most of all the visual clues that there are on a clock face such as the individual minutes, the two hands each with their separate job, the two sides of the clock showing ‘past’ and ‘to’, the numbers or larger marks that show the hour times. We realized that even if we think we don’t know what time it is, there is always a way to work it out by using the clues carefully.

In Science we followed up our park trip by reading ‘Christopher Nibble’, the story of a dandelion-loving guinea pig on a mission to save the dying dandelion population in his village. We looked at the lifecycle of a dandelion and used this as the inspiration for painting our flowerpots in art. Once the pots were dry, we filled them with soil and planted four different seeds – sunflowers, cornflowers, nasturtiums and sweet-peas. These should germinate over the next few weeks, giving a colourful mixture of beautiful flowers by the summer. We completed our flower art with some delicate dandelion prints using the edge of corrugated cardboard and a limited range of paint colours.



The week ended on a high with the first rehearsal of the summer show. Watch out! The mermaids and pirates are ready to take to the high seas and are already in fine voice. Please help your child to learn their words as we will be practising every week from now on.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we learned more action verbs and we played the game of ‘Le lapin ne peut pas voler’ where they were able to use and have fun with all the action verbs. We sang our beautiful song ‘c’est le printemps’, and we started creating a special card for ‘la Fête des Mères’ (Mother’s Day) linking this special day with ‘le printemps’.

Next week is Human Footprint week at BISB during which we will be looking at the impact we have on our environment. Our trip to Park Josaphat is next Thursday, 16th May, when we will have the chance to compare the habitats and plant and animal life to that in the small park this week.

Our talk topic is “What can I do to make our world a better place?”

Whatever the weather, have a lovely weekend out and 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,

This week we've been as busy as ever in Year 3! We finished off our surprises we've been making for mother's day and the children were excited to take them home today for Belgian mother's day which is this Sunday, 12th May. On the subject of dates, next week is 'human footprint week' in school and the children will be doing lots of interesting and exciting activities on the theme of the environment.



In science we've done a quick review of some of the main topics we've covered this year and did a little assessment to find out what we have learned. The topics included the different parts of a plant and the function of each part, the main stages in the lifecycle of a plant and how seeds are dispersed, the 7 main characteristics of living things, the main food groups and why each group is important for the body and labelling some of the bones on a skeleton.

In literacy we learned about word families in our grammar lesson. The children learned to identify a root word, prefix and suffix. They explored making new words from a root word and learned how words within word families are linked both in spelling and meaning. We continued to read our class text 'The Famous Five: Five Go Off to Camp' and discussed the characters and events that unfolded in the next couple of chapters.

In maths we learned the 'chunky chimp' method of division. His name gave us some laughs in class and we learned how his method of chunking a calculation into smaller steps can be used to make division problems much easier to solve. We learned that our knowledge of times tables is a great help when it comes to solving division problems. We also learned how to make pictograms and tally charts to display information.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on how to ask for permission using verb 'Pouvoir' with other verbs. We played a verbal marathon using 'Pouvoir'. It was fun and efficient. We also talked about 'Le printemps' c'est quoi? and what we associate with spring, then we linked it with our special craft and a beautiful song for 'La Fête des Mères' (Mother's Day) .

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched another chapter of Zarafa and we spoke about all the reasons we love mummy so much. We made beautiful cards in which we

wrote adjectives which best describe our mums to celebrate them this coming Sunday. We also worked in our exercises books.

In PE we moved on to jumping and explored the long jump. We were shocked to find out that Olympic athletes can jump nearly 9 metres! We weren't able to jump quite as far as that but we practised our technique and made progress nonetheless. We've been enjoying learning about a wide variety of sports in our unit on athletics.

Our Talk Topic this week is: What is plastic pollution? How can we try to use less plastic?

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

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

Home School Book – Year 4

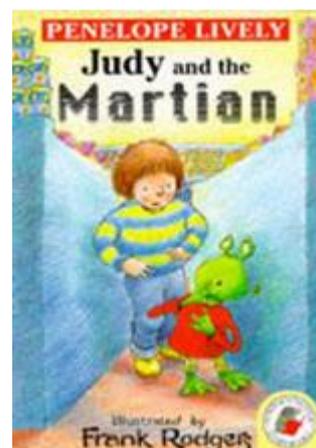
Dear Parents,

It's taken a whole week to get back to feeling 100% after the Botassart trip and that's just me. The children have perhaps recovered quicker. They are certainly working very hard and enjoying our new Topic and everything around it very much.

This week we have read about a lost Martian, used conjunctions in space-themed sentences, located rocket launch bases around the Earth and wrote an ode to the Earth: 'If they visited Earth, people would....'

In Maths, we mastered simple decimals, learnt the x11 and x12 tables and multiplied TU x U using just mental strategies.

In Science, leaden skies prevent our exciting shadows experiment but the sun is just having a break at the moment. What we did do was enjoy exploring the reflectiveness of various materials. This meant lowering the blinds, grabbing some torches and seeing which materials absorbed light and which reflected it.



While the tennis group were enjoying coaching at the Castle Club as those groups always do, the remainers had a terrific PE lesson of cricket. Year 4 have an important 3rd place play-off against Year 6 next week and they were keen to get some practice. Fielding practice then learning to bowl overarm and then some 'net practice' kept the children busy and entertained. They were very concentrated at getting the technique right and everyone had a happy turn at hitting the ball around. We also fitted in a sprint drill at the end and nearly every child has

got one or two seconds faster since February. Over 25 metres this is quite a lot and shows how fit and strong they have become.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on how to ask for permission using verb 'Pouvoir' with other verbs. We played a verbal marathon using 'Pouvoir'. It was fun and efficient. We also talked about 'Le printemps' c'est quoi? and what we associate with spring, then we linked it with our special craft and a beautiful song for 'La Fête des Mères' (Mother's Day) .

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched another chapter of Zarafa and we spoke about all the reasons we love mummy so much. We made beautiful cards in which we wrote adjectives which best describe our mums to celebrate them this coming Sunday. We also worked in our exercises books.

Rehearsals for the Summer Show are beginning to crank up and many Year 4 began learning the dances. It's all very exciting and that was our week.

Our Talk Topic for this week is: What is going to happen in the rest of the book, 'Judy and the Martian' by Penelope Lively?

Best wishes

Tim Stedman and Naomi Irakoze

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

Home School Book – Year 5

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy week and the weather has shown itself to be changeable and unpredictable.

In Numeracy we took a look, once again, at firstly, short multiplication before moving on to long multiplication. In the lessons on short multiplication we were multiplying 2 digit numbers by single digit numbers. We found this easy enough so we moved on to 3 and 4 digit numbers before looking at the grid method for long multiplication. After having done a few examples together, we began working out of our text book. This is an interesting way to multiply numbers and some children find it practical and easy to understand. It takes a while to draw the grids and we are about ready to progress further.

In Literacy we did a comprehension called Respected Relative by Robert Louis Stevenson which he wrote when he was just 15½ years old. We read the letter and discussed it fully. We learnt new words such as elephantine, tempests and physician. We thoroughly enjoyed the tone of the letter and were fairly amused to find out what it was about. In grammar we looked at Adverbial Phrases and how to use these. In our writing focus this week we have tried to incorporate some of these in our writing. In between these 2 activities, we found time to carry on reading our class reader. Phileas Fogg and Passepartout have now left London, visited Suez and sailed on to Bombay.

We discussed the fact that Bombay is in fact now called Mumbai. This led on to discussion about the world and how some countries have also changed names. At the moment Phileas Fogg and Passepartout are on the train en route to Calcutta.

Our long awaited cricket match against Year 6 had to be moved forward a day due to inclement weather. We kept our cool and the match was a hard fought battle between 2 good teams culminating in a nail-biting finish. It was won by us with the very last ball of the over being hit for a four. Well done to both Year 5 and Year 6 who played exceptionally well.



In Art we drew the Mongolia steamer that Mr Fogg sailed on from Suez to Bombay. We also collaborated to create a world map made up of 21 sheets of paper. We are going to plot the journey on this map.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on how to conjugate the regular verbs of the 1st group, and we reinforced our conjugations by doing several written exercises and playing a fun oral activity. We also talked about 'Le printemps' c'est quoi? and what we associate with spring, then we linked it with our special craft and a beautiful song for 'La Fête des Mères' (Mother's Day) .

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we started watching various documentaries about chocolate to prepare our French assembly and our visit to the chocolate museum. We also revised the passé composé, did our dictée of mots invariables and wrote a poem for Mother's Day.

Having a piece of homework every day is working well although I do urge you to make sure your child does this work and that he/she brings it into school the next day.

The talk topic for this week is: What does it mean to be a good sportsman?

Discuss.

Have a very happy, 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

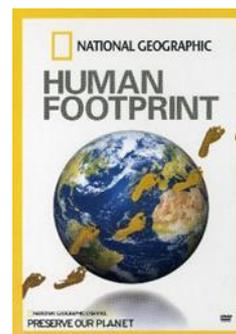
Dear Parents,

Time is passing so quickly... Each morning, the Year 6 'Boot Camp' is in overdrive! We are taking a final look at a selection of mathematical and grammatical topics before the exam season begins. Thank you to students who are posting the daily workout on Edmodo each evening, so that pupils can work on questions and revision

at home. Students have completed a mock SPaG test – questions were reasonably well answered. The children also worked through a comprehension paper. Everything was going well until they had to sequence the story (setting, action, lesson etc.), so we shall revisit this topic next week.

We have now completed our investigations into the construction of the Titanic and social classes of that historical period; they are now ready to board the ship. Students were given the choice of how they wanted to travel – strangely, they all chose to be first-class passengers! Boarding cards are now being completed and processed. Our class reader this term is ‘Spirit of the Titanic’.

Environment Week begins on Monday: our theme is ‘human footprints’. We shall be investigating the damage that we are inflicting on our planet and what we can do, to rectify this. Children will be organised into groups and participate in a range of different activities including: designing bird feeders; a world tour to discover garbage hotspots; plastic pollution, oil spills, carbon and landfills.



The Junior Department Summer of Sport season is ‘talk of the town’! Heated discussions appear to be taking place in classrooms, corridors, on the playground and Edmodo. Emotions are running high! on behalf of the pupils, thank you, Mr Stedman for organising and umpiring all these events.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we worked on how to conjugate the regular verbs of the 1st group, and we reinforced our conjugations by doing several written exercises and playing a fun oral activity. We also talked about ‘Le printemps’ c’est quoi? and what we associate with spring, then we linked it with our special craft and a beautiful song for ‘La Fête des Mères’ (Mother’s Day) .

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we started watching various documentaries about chocolate to prepare our French assembly and our visit to the chocolate museum. We also revised the passé composé, did our dictée of mots invariables and wrote a poem for Mother’s Day.

After I reached ‘orbit’ level on my ‘grumpometer’ on Tuesday because some children had not learnt their lines for the production, things were much improved by Thursday... You will be receiving requests for costumes in the next few days. As always, your efforts in finding the right outfits are much appreciated.



Our Talk Topic this week is Can you describe your cabin on board the Titanic?

Have a great 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,

This week, the children in the Junior EAL group began to prepare for Human Footprint week (next week), by discussing what we need to survive, what would happen if the Earth got hotter, and whether there is any other planet where we could survive. We watched a short video about carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. We then began work on a poster explaining global warming. We plan to present the poster to the Junior classes during Human Footprint week: this will give the EAL students the chance to practise using some difficult scientific vocabulary, and talking about connections and causation.



The Year One and Two EAL small group held similar discussions (to the Juniors), and talked especially about how oxygen is breathed in and then carried around our bodies, to give us energy. We watched a short video to see how our need for oxygen is connected with trees, and the children should be able to explain this to you at home. They were all interested in this topic, and came up with some good thoughts.

In the Reception EAL small group, we talked about a big picture of a family doing different activities in a garden. This gave the children the chance to use longer sentences to explain what the people were doing, and what they thought would happen next. The verbs we used included pick, put, get, reach, help, find, look for. The children revised the vocabulary of minibeasts, as well as prepositions, by sticking minibeasts onto a picture of a garden, and explaining where they had put them.

I wish you all a happy weekend.

Kate Read
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