

Home School Books – 24 May 2019.

Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Another planting week for us this week and the children are now waiting patiently (or sometimes not so patiently!) for everything to start growing. We planted beans, peas, red onions and lettuce in our nursery vegetable plot. Hopefully we will add some tomatoes next week and when everything is ready we can have a wonderful homemade salad sandwich. We might even attempt to make the bread!



If you look opposite you will see the words to the “I’m a little bean” song and some lovely art work of the beans. Practise the song together at home this weekend and we will have some solo performances on Monday during circle time, to see who has remembered the words. You can also do the actions, as written on the paper or make up some of your own!

The nursery group are looking at and trying to make up rhyming words as part of the phase one phonics session in literacy, for example put the goat in the coat on the boat. When you are out and about try to make up some silly rhymes so that your child gets used to hearing how rhyming words are used. It doesn’t have to make sense, it just needs to rhyme, so go and have some fun in the sun with a bun! is another nonsense example!

Unfortunately we do have some yucky viruses doing the rounds again, including a tummy bug. Please remember nursery is not the place for sick children. If your little one is unwell, they must stay at home until they are fully recovered.

Next week is a short one and Thursday and Friday are holidays, so we are going to use the two and a half days at nursery to go junk modelling crazy! Thank you for all of the empty boxes etc. that you have brought to school. They will hopefully be made into some amazing tractors and farm houses etc. to finish off our farm project. We do have plenty now, so you can go back to recycling them at home, I’m sure your little one will remind you which bag they go into!

Our talk topic for you to chat over with your child at the weekend is “Tell mummy and daddy the names of the colours in the rainbow song that we are practising for our show. When do we see real rainbows?”

Until next week, enjoy the weekend and if you spot a rainbow when you are out and about, sing the song together!

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 we continued to learn about recycling and all the different ways in which we can help save the planet. We learned that it is not enough to recycle, but we also have to reduce our use of things, repair things rather than buy new things and reuse things as much as we can. Early this week we went through all the things that we had collected in our recycling box and we counted every single thing in there.

In our paper recycling box we had 18 items, everything from paper sheets to a small paper bag that had contained some seeds that we planted in the playground recently.

In our metal/aluminium box we had 30 things. We had a lot of aluminium foil from our lunch boxes as well as some juice boxes and lids from yogurt drinks. Finally, in our plastic recycling box we had even more things!

In the plastic box we had 57 items, including yogurt boxes, cans from yogurt drinks, plastic wrappers and juice bags. All in all, in our three recycling boxes we had 105 items that need to be recycled.



Since we have learned that recycling, although extremely important, is not quite as good as reusing, we decided to put some of the things aside and we are going to try to find fun, creative ways of using some of our recyclables.

In phonics this week we practiced reading some tricky words that are spelled differently than we are used to, for example: to, my, you and there. Along with the children's reading books you will see a list of the tricky words that the children have been learning this week. We also practised our tricky digraphs, focusing on /oo/ and /oa/ this week. In maths we continued to practise our doubling and our halving, our teen numbers, and counting in 2's, 5's and 10's.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we are still listening to our story "Lily aux pays des animaux" in which we are discovering a funny country where animals are all different colours. One of the many songs in this story is based on the same tune as the famous nursery rhyme "Sur le Pont d'Avignon" and we learnt it and danced to it.

The talk topic this week is: Can you think of a clever way we can help nature and the mini-beasts?

Finally, the stars of the week go to Aashrita for being really good at practising jumping and skipping rope in PE this week! And to Hem Ruthvik for great progress in his writing and for being a helpful and kind friend! Well done Aashrita and Hem Ruthvik – Congratulations 😊

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,

In Phonics, we learned the last of the Phase 5 sounds - /ir/ as in ‘shirt’, and took the opportunity to recap the similar sounds /er/ and /ur/, as in ‘herd’ and ‘burn’. We did a number of activities to practise differentiating between spellings, which, I’m afraid, have to be memorised - there are no simple rules for whether a word is spelt with /er/, /ir/, or /ur/. We have also been practising our reading of so-called ‘alien words’ or ‘nonsense words’, which test a child’s ability to blend familiar sounds in unfamiliar sequences (similar to reading new words for the first time). Such exercises are a useful indication of how well a child has mastered phases 2-5 of the Phonics

programme. In our writing task this week, we continued to explore descriptive language connected with jungle animals - this week the children were allowed to choose a picture of their favourite animal and then had to write some labels on it, describing its features, where in the forest it lives and what it eats.



In Maths, we have been revising time, fractions and counting in 2s and 5s. We also had our first look at the concept of multiplication, and introduced the ‘x’ symbol for the first time. We started by developing what the children already know - i.e. that 2 lots (or groups) of 5 is 10, then extending that to more lots of 5, showing it as a lengthy addition (e.g. $5+5+5+5=20$), then replacing the words ‘lots of’ and the long addition sum by $4 \times 5=20$ (4 lots of 5 is 20 and $5+5+5+5=20$ become $4 \times 5=20$). I must stress that this is not about ‘times tables’ - at this stage it is important that the children understand the ideas of multiple lots/groups of 2 or 5. To practise this we did some work with cubes, making groups of 2 or 5, counting them in 2s or 5s, then writing the corresponding ‘new’ sum, e.g., $6 \times 2=12$.

Keen to capitalise on our recently improved, accurate and careful colouring technique, as a 'one-off' project this week the children had a go at making their own lift-the-flap picture. We used a jungle scene as the basis, added a selection of animals (in the

correct layer of the forest), then 'camouflaged' them with a lift-up flap. The children really applied themselves to the technique, and the results are most impressive - the pictures will be on display very soon. Whilst on a creative theme, we also made a start on our costumes (or rather, accessories) for the summer show - our Wednesday Art session was a hive of industry, with pirates making their swords and mermaids making their tails - there is a lot more to come!

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. We made a clock and learnt to ask the time : “Qu’elle heure est-il ?” We also started talking about the various means of transportation. We played memory games to help us remember them and drew twelve of them.

Talk Topic for next week will be “Describe all the animals you saw on your walk through the jungle”.

Maths homework will be ‘Marching Madness 1.28’ - telling the time to the quarter-hour. We still need two parent volunteers for our day at the zoo on Wednesday 5th June - please let us know if you can spare the time.

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,

This week has flown past in a whirl of end-of-year tests and science work on our environment theme. We started the week off in true examination style – silent, individual work on unseen texts - with the summer Pira reading test. This assesses how well children understand what they are reading and how well they interpret a text to make predictions and draw conclusions about the content. The children are now all able to settle down to work independently, without help and I was extremely impressed with how well they applied themselves and concentrated on each section.

There is far more to tests than just ticking boxes or ‘knowing the answer’ – those children who are beginning to apply strategies to find the answer, and to work things out using all the clues available, are acquiring important life skills that will help them throughout their education, in addition to having a great feeling of self-confidence and achievement when they see their excellent scores. We also did the Progress Test in English which covers phonics, grammar, spelling and further reading comprehension and is a standardized test designed to assess pupil performance compared to other children of the same age. Everyone enjoyed the spelling and grammar sections (thanks to all those spelling lists!) and tried hard in the reading comprehension, which was challenging due to some complicated vocabulary.

In maths we completed the Abacus summer arithmetic and problem-solving papers, mainly losing marks due to careless mistakes, not reading the question carefully enough, or simply forgetting to answer every question. I think we will be developing a strategy for drawing very large, very red arrows at the bottom of every page and on the back page to make sure that every question is noticed!

We continued our science work on habitats and birds by taking a close look at the school playground. We drew a plan and marked out different habitats where it might be possible to find living creatures. The first habitat to be investigated was one of the big wooden flower boxes full of spring bulbs that are no longer in flower. We dug out the soil and took out the bulbs, which we separated to create a new crop for next year. Then, armed with our identification charts and magnifying glasses, we examined the soil carefully, looking for insects, roots, seeds – anything that indicated some sort of living organism. We were really surprised (and disappointed) to find so few insects – not even one tiny worm! However, we did find lots of baby trees, which we transplanted into pots so that we can monitor their growth and put them into larger pots next year. As we sifted through the soil, we realized that it is extremely dry and powdery, which we think might be one of the reasons for the lack of insects.



Everyone took turns filling the new plant boxes with fresh compost. The nursery children will be planting beans in one section and we will plant more seeds in the others to create a colourful show of flowers, hopefully to attract bees and butterflies into the playground. We are beginning to wonder if the lack of insects and lack of water, or damp places, in the playground are reasons for the birds not coming down onto the ground (although this may well have something to do with very noisy children and lots of running feet!). Next week we will be considering how we can make changes to the environment to make it a more bird-friendly habitat.

WANTED



Have You Seen This Bird?

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had fun working with ‘Être’ (to be), the different personal pronouns and many amusing adjectives. We played a lively game by asking our friends: Comment es-tu? Comment est-il? Comment est-elle?

We had a great time in Art using the iPads to research different species of birds, finding out information on their food and characteristics. We used the information, along with amazingly detailed bird drawings, to create ‘Have you seen this bird?’ posters, which are now on the display wall on the stairs – do come and take a look. **Our talk topic is “What detective skills did I use during my end-of-year tests?”**

Enjoy the sunshine this weekend and get out and about bug and bird watching!

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 finished our environment week workshops, which was great fun. The children learned so much about what they can do to reduce their ‘carbon footprint’ on their planet and how our choices affect other people, animals and the land we live on. We will try to keep in mind what we have learned from the last two weeks as we go about our lives. Also this week we have been working hard on our rehearsals for the summer show. It’s less than one month away now and it promises to be spectacular! The dancing practices are well underway, the props and scenery are starting to take shape and the singing is starting to sound really great.



We have also been busy completing our end of year assessments for literacy and numeracy. The children have shown me what they have learned in terms of spelling, grammar and punctuation as well as their reading comprehension of different types of tests. We did our usual spelling test on Thursday. Please note that because next week is a short week and we are not at school on Thursday or Friday, **next week’s spelling test will be on Wednesday**. This is for one week only.

In maths we have reviewed topics from the entire year including addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, telling the time, fractions, geometry, shapes, measures and problem solving. We have learned so much! We also had a go at a maths investigation which involved adding combinations of numbers to find a total e.g. making exactly 200 with four 2 digit numbers in 5 different ways and using only number that touch on a keypad. The children learned to persist at finding many different possibilities.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we held our French assembly and talked about chocolate. We learnt a lot of facts and figures and we travelled in time and around the world to learn about the history of chocolate, where it is grown and produced and how it is made. We are now ready for our visit to the Belgian Chocolate Village Museum next Tuesday.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had our French assembly. It was about ‘Le chocolat, a fascinating and delicious topic. We went over its history and ties to the ancient civilizations of the Aztecs, and the Mayas, how it reached Europe through Spain. We talked about how we harvest the cacao fruit, known as ‘la cabosse’ and the ecosystem in which it grows, as well as the specific techniques for the production of chocolate by renowned brands like Lindt, Neuhaus etc... The children were brilliant and very motivated. We wrapped up our assembly with a fun quiz to test their impressive knowledge.

In other news we took on Year 5 in the Junior department class cricket final. Year 3 don’t usually make it to the finals as they are the youngest class so we were all impressed to see them playing so well against older children. Year 3 narrowly lost but showed excellent skills and sportsmanship throughout, I was very proud! Next week

on Tuesday we are looking forward to visiting the chocolate museum. This trip is for everyone; even those children who usually do English support instead of French.

Our talk topic is ‘In our Famous Five book the children listen to a campfire story about ghosts. Do you believe that ghosts exist? Why? Why not?’

Thank you to everyone who has returned the money and the permission slip already. If you have not yet sent it in please do so as soon as possible.

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 been a hugely difficult week to choose a Star of the Week, because we’ve had so many great performances and contenders this week.

We started with some Roman Numerals and an algebra-type mental starter activity which created a real buzz in the classroom. This was pure code breaking and logic problem-solving stuff and the children, as in others years, really thrive off it. Many children were completely committed to and adept at cracking both.

To reinforce Roman Numerals, you can play this limited access game once more:

<https://www.ixl.com/math/grade-5/roman-numerals>

In Literacy, many children also cut loose with descriptive language to describe imagined planets. We revisited the areas of simile and personification and all enjoyed the venture.

In the SuperT Challenge Cup, one of the class came so close to reaching the Quarter Finals. We still have a number left in this secondary mental maths competition: we could still win a medal and/or the coveted trophy.

Human Footprint Week came to an end with 2 more sessions. Upstairs in Year 6, the children continued doing ecological experiments in white coats; more bird feeders were made in Year 3; a bottle octopus was created in Year 5; and groups who visited me, finished my ecological threat map with deforestation- and acid rain-affected areas.

In the Environmental Week post, we received replies from the Nursery (one drawing we liked so much, you can see it adjacent) and we also received messages from the EAL group on recycled



paper, processed by their own industrious and creative hands.

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The children were brilliant and very motivated. We wrapped up our assembly with a fun quiz to test their impressive knowledge.

What we also did was play basketball (trying to learn the difficult skill of 'the lay-up') and the not-so-insignificant task of the end-of-year writing assessment thereby cutting the ribbon on a period of exams which will keep us busy for the next two weeks. And that was our week.

Our Talk Topic for this week is: What was the most enjoyable activity during Human Footprint Week and why?

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,

Yet another week has flown by. We have taken full advantage of the sunny weather and have obtained a suitable amount of Vitamin D. It has been very busy and, while it seems like we have not done much, we have actually done a lot.

We got through our last 2 sessions for Environment week. Working with me were the Wildlife Warriors and the Pollution Pack who learnt about carbon footprints. We discovered various ways in which we could minimize our impact on the environment. We learnt about plastics and how they pollute the oceans starting from the rivers. We discovered the Great Pacific Garbage Patch which is a staggering 22 times the size of Belgium! After this, we got stuck into the arty and creative side of plastic and built up very colourful oceanic masterpieces; one being a seahorse and the other an octopus. The other groups worked well with their respective teachers doing similar activities as last week. It is really good to see how the children have responded to this subject and are taking it very seriously.

In Numeracy this week we learnt all about fractions, decimals and percentages. We plotted decimals on a number line and then converted them into percentages and fractions. We were treated to a lovely informative assembly on Chocolate by the French teachers. I must admit to having learnt a lot about this lovely tasty food myself.

On Wednesday morning we had a warmup class cricket match before our final against the Year 3s. The little ones played really well and will be an amazing force in the years to come. Well done to the Year 5s who played efficiently and with great skill. We began our end of the year tests this week and have completed our PIRA test, the first Numeracy paper on Arithmetic as well as the creative writing sample.



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we held our French assembly and talked about chocolate. We learnt a lot of facts and figures and we travelled in time and around the world to learn about the history of chocolate, where it is grown and produced and how it is made. We are now ready for our visit to the Belgian Chocolate Village Museum next Tuesday.

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The children were brilliant and very motivated. We wrapped up our assembly with a fun quiz to test their impressive knowledge.

On Thursday we enjoyed listening to our budding pianists. There is a lot of talent in our school. Singing, dancing and acting are the order of the day as we move into full throttle regarding our play practices.

The talk topic this week is: What did you learn about chocolate this week? Is it actually healthy and should you eat it?

Have a super 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,

Finally, the examinations have begun! This week, the students completed three maths assessments: arithmetic, reasoning papers 1 and 2. Next week, we have the PIRA reading comprehension and GL English tests to look forward to.

On Monday morning and Tuesday afternoon, we continued with our workshops about the environment. This has been an amazing learning journey – thoroughly enjoyed by all the children and teachers. Our final task is to read all the new books which have been purchased to support this project.

Thank you to our French teachers, for organising and delivering a mouth-watering presentation about chocolate, in preparation for our visit to a chocolate factory next week. I have to say, I find it extremely challenging to discuss chocolate (or even think about it) without wanting to track down the nearest supply and devour it.

Congratulation to Mrs Irakoze's group, which was put in charge of the BISB Junior Department Post Office during Environmental week. They have been working hard to keep up with demands for their hand- made stationery which they have been selling to classes. As the different classes came to the Post Office, the children were responsible for the finances; working out the totals and filling in invoices. As postmen and women, they empty the post box on a daily basis and deliver the letters to the correct location. They finished off the week by creating their own recycled paper from scrap paper.

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The children were brilliant and very motivated. We wrapped up our assembly with a fun quiz to test their impressive knowledge.

Thank you to Michel (our piano teacher) and all the pianists in the Junior Department for a magical musical concert on Thursday afternoon. You must have practised very hard to play your pieces so beautifully.

Still with music in mind, the children are singing their hearts out in preparation for our June performance. Actors appear to know their lines – at last! The Year 6 ukulele band is hoping to perform in the summer concert...many thanks to Mr E Prescott for teaching the children.

It's all go in Year 6!

Our Talk Topic this week is 'Are you worried about moving to secondary school?'

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,

As Monday this week was World Bee Day, the Year One and Two EAL small group learned about the important role of bees in pollinating plants, and therefore in keeping our food supply going. This gave us the chance to practise explaining connections, using the words and phrases: if, when, because, so, so that, as well as the scientific words for parts of a plant. We also learned some new vocabulary to describe how different animals move (including: glide, scuttle, leap, waddle, flutter, burrow, slither), and we practised using these, along with adjectives, to make descriptive sentences (e.g. I saw a shiny lizard scuttling.)



The Reception small group also talked about bees, sharing their very interesting knowledge and ideas about how bees are helpful to plants and humans. We read the story *Rosie's Walk*, in which a fox is chased away by a swarm of bees. We also practised using past tenses, talking about two consecutive pictures of a family just before and just after a boy falls off his bike, and acting out the story (saying things like "I was riding too fast and I fell off"). The children loved improvising their parts in the story.

In the Junior EAL small group, we revisited the carbon cycle, finishing off the text for our posters, and practising presenting the posters. We are talking a lot about body language, and how important it is to face the audience directly, to speak slowly and clearly, and to check that the audience have understood. The children know the essential facts that they need to convey, and they know the key vocabulary to use. They will present the posters to Year 6 on Monday.

In our small group EAL sessions this week, the Junior Department children continued with their study of climate change and global warming. During our discussions, they shared many excellent ideas about how we could reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, showing a good understanding of the problem, and reflecting the conversations they have had at home. These discussions helped us practise structures using if, and could, should and would. Next week, we will visit the Junior classes to give a simple explanation of the carbon cycle.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read

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