

Home School Books – 7 June 2019.

### Home School Book – Nursery

Dear Parents,

Incredibly we are already moving on to our last topic of this academic year! Our new project for the remaining weeks of this term is ‘under the Sea.’

We have started to introduce the theme during circle time and our first whole class activity was all about the fish that live under the water and how they come in all different colours and sizes. If you look opposite you will see a sheet with different sized fish. The children have already done the activity in class and put the fish in order from biggest to smallest!



We have sent the same activity home to see if they can remember how we did it. The instructions are on the sheet, please help your little one to do it but please don't do it for them! We will take a look on Monday and see how they got on; of course there may be a sticker at stake!

We are practising like crazy for our Summer show and have been trying to introduce the concept of singing loudly and tunefully against shouting out the words. Although when Mrs Davies demonstrated the shouting and singing, no one seemed to know the difference! So either she is a very tuneless singer or a tuneful shouter!

**Please put the date of the show in your diary; it takes place on:**

**Monday 24th June at 11.30am, in the infant department building. It will take place in the playground, weather permitting.**

**It will be a Summer themed show, so we ask you to dress your little one in a colourful T-shirt with shorts or leggings for the show, we will do the rest.**

**The afternoon children are invited for the morning session on that day and there will be no afternoon session. However if your child has a full time place, provision will be made if you wish them to stay-on after the show.**

Our talk topic for this week is ‘Describe what you think a mermaid might look like.’

Until next week enjoy the long weekend, remember it is a public holiday on Monday; see you on Tuesday.

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 have continued to recycle everything single-use from the snack and lunch boxes and we are coming up with some clever ways of re-using some of the materials in our recycling bins. For example, we have turned some old yogurt pots into flower pots! We have also maintained our focus on nature and the mini beasts and the children are ever so excited about the growing number of mini-beasts in the playground. Sadly, with all the children running around, accidents are bound to happen and sometimes snails are unlucky and end up with a broken shell. To try to save one such unlucky snail we have made a small snail hospital in the classroom and are hoping that the snail will recover despite the broken shell.

The sunflower seeds we planted two weeks ago have already started to sprout and will soon be ready to go home with the children. And the flowers that we planted in the garden have already become quite big although there are no flowers yet, but plenty of buds so there will be lots of flowers soon for the bees to enjoy!



In phonics this week we continued to practise our diagraphs, our high frequency words and our reading. We have been playing some word Bingo games to help the children remember all those high frequency words, some of which are spelled in a strange and unusual ways, and the children are doing great at recognising them!

This week in maths we practised counting backwards from 20, and we practised counting in 2's, 5's, 10's and 100's! We also did some maths worksheet to practise our numbers and to practise adding. As per usual, the children all did a great job!

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we have been singing all our repertoire of songs we have learnt this year. We danced again “Sur le Pont d’Avignon”. We also spoke about why we love our daddies so much and started making a beautiful card to be on time for fathers’ day.

**The talk topic this week is: Now that it is getting warm outside, what is your favourite thing to do outside?**

Finally, the stars of the week go to Kabir for doing great in maths this week and for being a kind and caring friend! And to Ayesha for great improvement in reading and for always trying her very best! Congratulations to Kabir and Ayesha! Well done 😊

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,

Undaunted by the poor weather on Wednesday, we set off on our multi-stage zoo adventure as planned. First a walk to Meiser station, then a train ride to Mechelen, snack-time in the bike shelter at the station, followed by a bus ride to the zoo.

Fortunately, the rain was light, so we were able to follow our original plan.

Planckendael Zoo is divided into 5 'continents', and a 3-hour visit is not long enough to see them all, so we focused on Africa and Asia, in order to see many of the animals we have been learning about. We started in Africa, visiting a variety of animals, including giraffes, zebras and cheetahs. But we needed to find somewhere dry to eat our lunch, and just at the right time, we came across a large, covered, completely dry tree-house - perfect!

As we finished lunch, the rain stopped, so a brief playtime was possible, before heading off to Asia, to see the elephants. Highlight of the visit was undoubtedly the lion, who, with perfect timing, let out a series of roars just as we arrived - most impressive, and something the children will remember. We finished off in the tropical enclosure, which houses plants, trees, a waterfall, many species of birds, including our favourite toucans and parrots, but also some gibbons, who put on a super display right in front of us. The return trip was just as lively as the outward, and we arrived back at school just as Year 2 were leaving - a great (and very full) day out!



Back at school, we have been finishing off our reading comprehension work, with a story about a boy who was 'crazy for ketchup'. We also completed our Phase 5 phonics work, with a final work-out on 'alien' or 'nonsense' words, to test the children's ability to blend sounds in strange-looking words. Finally, we tackled one of the last grammar points for this year, the use of linking words such as 'then', 'later' or 'next' to connected related narrative sentences.

In Maths, we have been revising 2-D shapes, repeating patterns, and addition and subtraction patterns (such as  $5+3=8$ , so  $15+3=18$ ,  $25+3=28$  etc.). We also looked for the first time at the concept of 'giving change' in money transactions. We practised by using shopkeeper and customer role-play, in which the 'customer' bought items priced 11c-19c, and the shopkeeper had to calculate the correct amount of change to give from 20c. We made the connection between this scenario and 'normal' subtraction (e.g.  $20-17=3$ ), which the children are quite comfortable with, and having hopefully taken the 'mystery' out of the buying/selling scenario, they were quick to complete the follow-up workbook problems.

In our topic work, we have expanded our horizons a little, and are now looking at the savannah area of Africa. We began by looking where, in relation to the rainforests,

the savannah regions are, then looked at some of the animals that live there. We will hopefully be creating our own safari park very soon.

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 whom she has not yet found. As she went to the market, we took the opportunity to learn about fruit and vegetables and now know a lot of new words.

**Talk Topic for next week will be “Now that you have seen inside a zoo, do you think zoos are good places to keep animals from the jungle and the savannah?”**

The final Maths homework of the year will be ‘Tumble-down Den 1.30’ - adding and subtracting 1 and 10 to and from any number up to 100. Finally, please remember to send in your child’s clothing for the summer show, by Friday 14th June, please.

Wishing you a pleasant long 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 has been a week of teamwork and talking! In Literacy we worked in pairs, reading through books of poems and each choosing one that we liked to present to the whole class. This involved lots of discussion on interesting words, on how rhymes often make poetry easier to understand and to read, and on the importance of reading clearly and slowly. We will practice reciting the poems, finding out which ones we all like and deciding what makes a good poem.



We looked back over the year through our class photos on the school website and talked about the events that we remembered. Everyone chose their favourite memory and wrote a short description, excerpts of which will be used in the Yearbook. We talked about the importance of being able to express our ideas clearly when we are speaking and noticed how we often use the same little words, which are usually unnecessary, over and over again. This includes starting sentences with ‘Actually’ or using ‘like’ frequently, instead of taking time to formulate clear sentences in our heads before we speak.

In Maths we had fun with times tables, using quizzes and quick-fire games to test our recall. We also worked on calculations using arrays to help us understand, for example, why  $3 \times 4$  has the same answer as  $4 \times 3$ . We looked at number families to see how division works and played team games, splitting into different sized groups, to check our number facts. We also revised measurement with a maths challenge on measuring snail trails accurately. We continued work on place value by playing with hundreds, tens and units to create different numbers.

In Science we watched a fascinating video clip on animal classification and discussed how, and why, animals are classified into groups. We also thought about how things around us can be classified according to all sorts of different criteria. We checked our understanding of each of the animal groups by sorting different animals according to specific characteristics, such as ‘hot or cold-blooded’, ‘lives in and out of water’ or ‘undergoes metamorphosis’. This led to further discussion on how animals adapt to their environment.

The extreme weather this week has given us plenty of things to observe in our garden areas. The new worms that we introduced all seem to have escaped from our earth tray, which went from a dry-baked volcano type landscape on Monday to a flooded lagoon by today. Quite where the worms have gone remains a mystery... The snails, however, are well and truly on the move around the tree trunks and we have spotted lots of different ladybirds. The sunshine brought out the beetles and we watched a great demonstration of grasshopper gymnastics from a bright green baby grasshopper, who continued to jump several times its own body length. The magpie nest is still under construction in the tree outside and we were thrilled to see as many as five blue tits on the bird feeder, even with us all in the playground!



In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we had fun learning, selecting and acting fun and amusing adjectives. We used those fun adjectives to describe ‘Mon papa’ and to answer the question: Il est comment ton papa? (what is your dad like?). We also prepared a beautiful card and learned a lovely new song for ‘la fête des pères’.

Our team engineering challenge this week was to construct a bird’s nest using string and a special glue mixture. We watched several video clips of different birds constructing nests and talked about how a nest needs to be built to provide shelter and protection. Each team had to cover a bowl with cling film and create a structure out of different types of string soaked in glue. We will see which team has succeeded in making a solid framework next week and will then weave in twigs and grasses to complete the nest. Take a look at the photos and video clips at [www.flickr.com/photos/157096587@N03/albums/72157708955466637/with/48013928961/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/157096587@N03/albums/72157708955466637/with/48013928961/) - with thanks to Mrs Tolentino!

**Our talk topic is “What do you enjoy about poetry and why is it important?”**

Have a lovely weekend out and about, enjoying the flowers everywhere,

Jane Still and Ena Tolentino

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

Home School Book – Year 3

Dear Parents,

Wow what a busy week we've had trying to learn our lines and getting ready for the summer show. We have spent a lot of time on rehearsals this week. We've had to remember to 'keep calm and carry on' with just over a week left until the big day. The children have worked hard and it should be a great evening on Monday the 17th of June. Thank you to everyone who has already brought in their child's costume in a bag with their name marked on it. If you haven't yet brought it in please do so as soon as you can.



For our topic work this week we spent some time discussing our dads as it's father's day in Belgium on Sunday. We found adjectives to describe them and discussed the things they liked to do. The children came up with some lovely ideas. If you want to read what they had to say then don't forget to check their bags this weekend to find out!

In literacy we focused on finishing the grammar curriculum for year 3. The children learned about their last topic – singular and plural forms of nouns including the irregular ones such as sheep, geese and fish. They then did their final grammar writing piece of the year where they tried to put into practice all of the main points from the Year 3 curriculum. It was lovely to read their pieces of work and see the progress they have made. We did our spelling lesson as usual on Thursday and we learned the spelling rule for next week's words 'words ending in a /cher/ sound spelt as 'ture.'

In maths we looked back at our end of year abacus assessments and went through the answers and ways to work them out together. We discussed how to know which method to use and talked about problems that require more than one step (calculation) to complete.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we played a fun game using the irregular verbs that end in -re, we reviewed the regular verbs that end in -er, and we did some exercises to compare the two groups of verbs. Then we reviewed and learned new adjective words, and we got to select which adjectives will be used to describe 'papa, mon héros.' Then, we started working on our fun bricolage for 'la fête des pères' (Father's day).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched a first episode of a film about a boy who wants to save animals in Africa. On Tuesday, we watched a cooking programme for children and learnt how to make chocolate truffles. We also worked in our exercise books and described an imaginary family in writing in our notebooks.

**Our Talk Topic this week is 'Who is your favourite character from the summer show and why?'**

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 very much sunglasses on, sunglasses off, sunglasses on this week and nowhere was this more evident than on Monday when we carried out our Shadows experiment. Or rather half our experiment because by lunchtime, no shadow was to be found on the Junior Department playground. This won't deter us, as we plan to have another go before the end of term – we know that the sun will shine for one day, at least.



The sun did come out, though, just in time for the Phoenix V Unicorn after-school cricket match on Monday. The Year 4s were much in evidence as were lots of you. Thanks to them and to you for making it a very pleasant afternoon. And the result was close like last week - great entertainment!

This week, we have stepped up several gears in preparations for the Summer Show and rehearsals. It's starting to come together – only two Mondays away!

In Maths, we did a lot of data handling involving pictograms and graphs and polished it off with a great and enjoyable lesson on  $TU \times TU$ . The children did a speed test 3 times in a row to begin each lesson. If they can't tell the time by the end of the year, I'll eat my wristwatch. We have but one lesson remaining in Numeracy and then we face the End of Year exams. They are ready.

In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we played a fun game using the irregular verbs that end in -re, we reviewed the regular verbs that end in -er, and we did some exercises to compare the two groups of verbs. Then we reviewed and learned new adjective words, and we got to select which adjectives will be used to describe 'papa, mon héros.' Then, we started working on our fun bricolage for 'la fête des pères' (Father's day).

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we watched a first episode of a film about a boy who wants to save animals in Africa. On Tuesday, we watched a cooking programme for children and learnt how to make chocolate truffles. We also worked in our exercise books and described an imaginary family in writing in our notebooks.

Elsewhere, we listened to the BBC's radio programme 'Journey into Space: The Red Planet'. The children are not used to listening to stories without images, moving or otherwise, and this was tricky for them. Following this, the class began the key task in our Topic of writing their own radio programme about a space adventure. Friday's Big Write was spent writing the play script.

And that was our week.

**Our Talk Topic for this week is: Are you like your character which you play in the Summer show?**

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 seems like just yesterday when we began in Year 5 and now we are almost at the end. The testing has finally been completed and things are less stressful and frenetic. In Numeracy we went through the tests and saw where we had made our mistakes, and also, how we could avoid making these mistakes again. We also had the chance to work on different pages from our text books, always trying to extend and stretch ourselves. All the children have their activelearnprimary passwords and there are many games and homework activities to do on the site. This will be our maths homework for the next few weeks.

In Literacy we carried on reading from our Jules Verne book, *Around the World in 80 Days*. We got to the part where we met these strict fanatical Hindus who were in the process of carrying out a ritual called suttee. This involves voluntary human sacrifice and the children were indignant at the prospect of this poor woman dying just because her husband had. This led on to a discussion about women's rights and then also on to women and men being paid differently for equal work. The children then had to read the next 2 chapters as homework and have found out all about Aouda and how she had been rescued by Passepartout and Mr Fogg. Following on from this we did a comprehension about Emmeline Pankhurst and the Suffragettes. Again, the indignation on the part of the children was evident as they found out that women who got married in those days gave up virtually all their rights. It is good to see that Year 5 are forward thinking children!



In French with Mrs. Scharf, we started watching a new French film called “Jack et la mécanique du cœur”. The story of a boy who was born with a very delicate heart condition. We also talked about the weather and how to present the weather forecast with adequate vocabulary and to do so, we also learnt a new tense: the future simple. In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we learned how to use ‘le futur simple’ both with the regular and irregular verbs. We briefly reviewed le futur proche and talked about the differences between the two tenses. We followed up with some exercises, then we reviewed and learned new adjective words, and we got to select which adjectives will be used to describe ‘papa, mon héros.’ Then, we started working on our fun bricolage for ‘la fête des pères’ (Father’s day).

In Science we did a series of fun experiments with water. The first was called Make a tornado in a bottle. We had to use water, glitter, dishwashing liquid and a plastic

bottle to create a tornado. The result was fun and joyful. The second experiment was called Gravity free water, which involved filling a glass with water and covering it with cardboard before turning it upside down. The amazement was again great as each child tried to do this. The final experiment, entitled Escaping water, had us transferring water from one plastic cup to another using paper towels. This was almost magical for the class as they saw the water travelling through the paper towels. We've been working hard to perfect our summer play for you all and will be very proud to perform it for you. If you have not already done so, please send in the costumes as soon as possible.

**The talk topic for this week is: How do you see the role of women in a marriage, politics and the work place? Discuss.**

Have a lovely 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,

Examinations officially finished at 12.15 on Monday! We are all very relieved that they are over, so that we concentrate on all the exciting activities leading up to the end of term. With the production only days away, we have been extremely busy rehearsing and practising our singing. This has not been helped with having children away on holiday at this important time. The rehearsal on Tuesday was disappointing as, unbelievably, some actors still do not know their lines. With encouragement, this situation had improved dramatically by Thursday, when we rehearsed outside.

Our next project is to recreate the public enquiry into the sinking of the Titanic. We are studying and evaluating historical and modern day evidence into this disaster. Each student has now been given a character to represent: Bruce Ismay, a White Star Line director, H. Bride, the Marconi wireless operator - to name a few. The characters now have to 'learn' their parts, ready for the Year Six Court Room, next Thursday.



We enjoyed two student-led science experiment this week. Scientist Eashan asked us what happens to a pupil when it receives direct light. Each student had to then, with a magnifying glass and mirror, observe what happened to their pupil. Many predictions proved incorrect! The experiment was followed by a detailed and informative

explanation. Scientist Divgun had organised an experiment to create blue light using water and milk; we shall be repeating this experiment as our results were inconclusive. Well done to both scientists.

In French with Mrs. Scharf, we started watching a new French film called “Jack et la mécanique du cœur”. The story of a boy who was born with a very delicate heart condition. We also talked about the weather and how to present the weather forecast with adequate vocabulary and to do so, we also learnt a new tense: the future simple. In French with Mrs Halvorsen, we learned how to use ‘le futur simple’ both with the regular and irregular verbs. We briefly reviewed le futur proche and talked about the differences between the two tenses. We followed up with some exercises, then we reviewed and learned new adjective words, and we got to select which adjectives will be used to describe ‘papa, mon héros.’ Then, we started working on our fun bricolage for ‘la fête des pères’ (Father’s day).

Can you believe that we only have three weeks to go! We shall be very busy next week with the production and please don’t forget that Monday is a holiday. Congratulations to all the students for preparing so well for the SATs 2019! Talk Topic: I do (and I don’t) want to leave BISB? – discuss.

Best wishes,

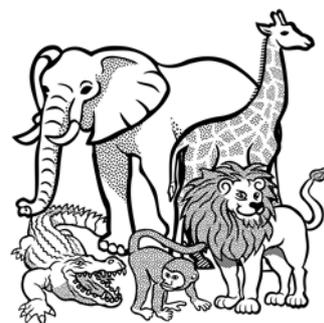
Beverley Tranter and Ena Tolentino  
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Please click [here](#) for our Year 6 webpage

### English as an Additional Language

Dear Parents,

We have had fun this week in the Infant department EAL sessions, talking about the similarities and differences between different animals. Year One and Two worked in pairs, to read some paragraphs from non-fiction books to find out facts about animals, and then tried to recount the facts to the group. We also practised comparing two animals, using language such as They both have...; They can both..., Neither of them can... as well as all, most, some. We began to think about things that all animals have in common. The Reception EAL group practised simple descriptive sentences to talk about animals (They can/have/ live in). We talked especially about spiders, and we read The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle.

The Junior Department EAL group this week focused mainly on reading to get information from a non-fiction text. The text we read was about The Solar System, in connection with Year 4’s work on space. We especially practised using certain strategies: pre-reading, thinking about what we already know, and about what we might expect to find out; while reading, check our own understanding after each sentence, isolate words that are confusing to us, identify the main idea of each paragraph.



I wish you all a happy weekend.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Kate Read

ealteacher@telenet.be