



Modern Foreign Languages

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Bonjour!

Welcome to this week's curriculum newsletter all about Modern Foreign Languages (MFL). I'm pleased to have the opportunity to share with you how we teach languages and also how we raise awareness and celebrate other cultures and communities.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Mrs Brill

MFL: National Curriculum Aims

All pupils:

- ♣ understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources
- ♣ speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, including through discussion and asking questions, and continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation
- ♣ can write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt
- ♣ discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied.

How is MFL taught at Raddlebarn?

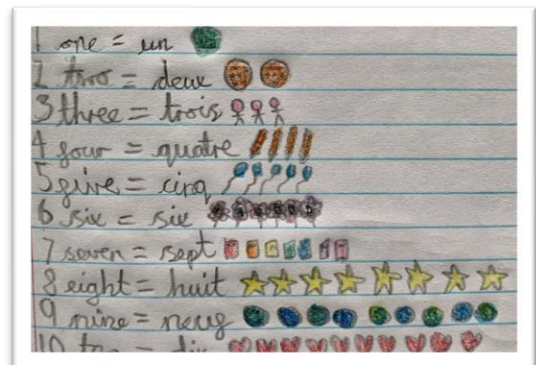


All children in KS2 have weekly French language lessons. We follow the 'Language Angels' scheme of work to ensure coverage and progression. Where appropriate, the French topic will match the curriculum topic, to support cross-curricular teaching. Examples of this include: Romans in Year Three, Space in Year Five and WW2 in Year Six.

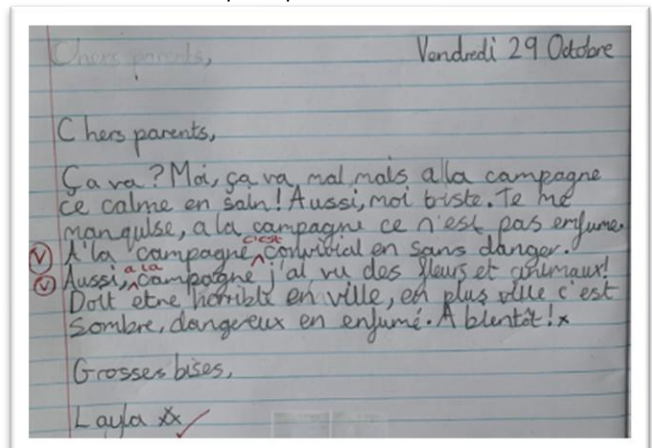
In past years, our year 5/6 pupils have enjoyed MFL taster lessons at King Edwards School as part of their Outreach programme. This is something we look forward to setting up once more when Covid restrictions are over.

Progression in MFL

For the first year of language learning, pupils are exposed to core vocabulary, from greetings and commands to numbers and colours. They will start to show understanding of a few familiar spoken words and phrases. Here is an example of learning numbers 1-10 in Year Three.



By Year Six, pupils are able to write a short text. They can write phrases from memory and adapt these to create new sentences. Here's an example from Year Six's World War Two topic, whereby pupils wrote letters in French from the perspective of an evacuee.



The cultural aspect of MFL

MFL is so much more than just learning a language, it's about teaching our pupils to appreciate and respect that we live in a multicultural world. It's encouraging pupils to be curious about the world around them and take interest in other countries and cultures.

In fact, the National Curriculum states that, 'Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. A high-quality languages education should foster pupils' curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world'.

Whilst French is learnt in Key Stage Two, raising awareness of other cultures is taught through the whole school. Below you can see a Nursery activity celebrating Lunar New Year through artwork and an example of Christmas cards made to send around the world (we received Christmas cards back too!).

Recently we celebrated Mother Languages Day, which gave pupils the opportunity to share their home language with their classmates and study a map to learn where different languages are spoken. As a school, we discovered that there are approximately 6,700 languages in the world!



International Evening

At Raddlebarn, we are proud of our annual International Evening, which gives us the opportunity to celebrate the diverse range of communities at our school. Each year, we invite parent volunteers to run their own stall to share their culture. Previous activities have included: food tasting, story telling, photo sharing, flag painting, vocabulary learning and Mehndi hand painting. The photo below shows one of our music teachers performing on the drums. We look forward to holding this event again once Covid restrictions are over. Watch this space!



MFL at Home

If you would like to practise French (or another language) at home with your child, then BBC Bitesize KS2 Modern Foreign Languages

(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zdmtsbk>) is an excellent website to use.

