



Modern Foreign Languages

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Bonjour!

Welcome to this week's curriculum newsletter all about Modern Foreign Languages (MFL). At Raddlebarn we teach French from Year Three-Six.

I'm delighted to share with you how we teach and embed languages and also how we promote and celebrate other cultures and communities.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

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?

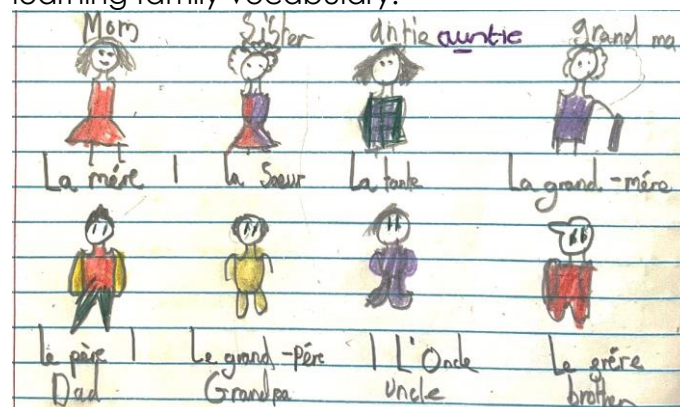


As discussed in last year's newsletter, all children in KS2 have weekly French language lessons. We follow the 'Language Angels' scheme of work to ensure coverage and progression. Children learn, use and apply a growing bank of vocabulary organised around half termly topics. Each topic covers a speaking, listening, reading and writing element.

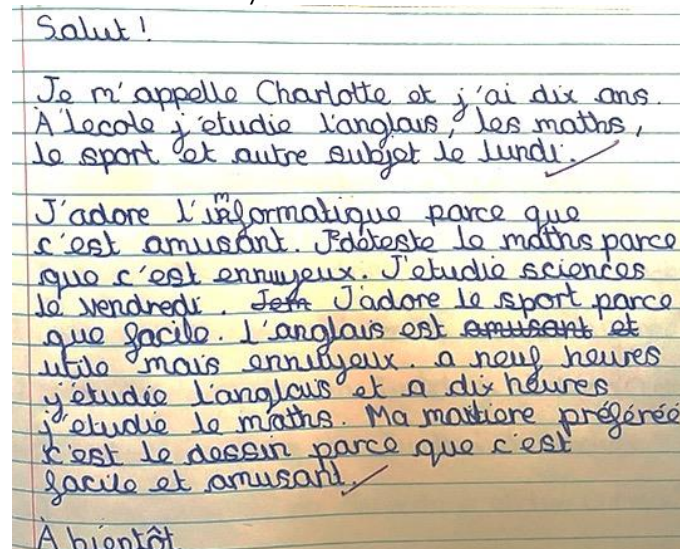
Where appropriate, the French topic will match the curriculum topic, to support cross-curricular teaching. Examples of this include: Romans in Year Three, The Olympics in Year Five and WW2 in Year Six.

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 Year Four learning family vocabulary.



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 of a Year Six pupil writing an email about daily school life.



Pupil Voice

In March 2022, we did pupil voice interviews to ascertain how children felt about learning French. The feedback was really positive. A Year Four pupil stated that, 'Learning a language is fun. If I go to France, I can do a bit of French'. Whilst a Year Six pupil commented, 'It is interesting to learn another language and also learn about another country and their culture'

Pupils enjoy the range of activities on offer in a French lesson, mentioning: writing, speaking French with their partner, being creative and playing games.

Interestingly, many pupils commented that they would like to learn more songs in French. In fact, Year Four pupils were able to sing 'Rudolf the red nosed reindeer' beautifully, having learned it at Christmas and remembered it! It is important to us that the children have ownership of their learning and we are therefore taking this feedback on board. After Easter, all children will learn to sing 'Frere Jacques' in singing assembly. If this is successful, we will progress to a slightly trickier song in Summer Two. The links to the song will be posted on our social media nearer the time, why don't you have a go at learning it with your child?

This also meets the National Curriculum aims, whereby pupils should be taught to explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words.



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.

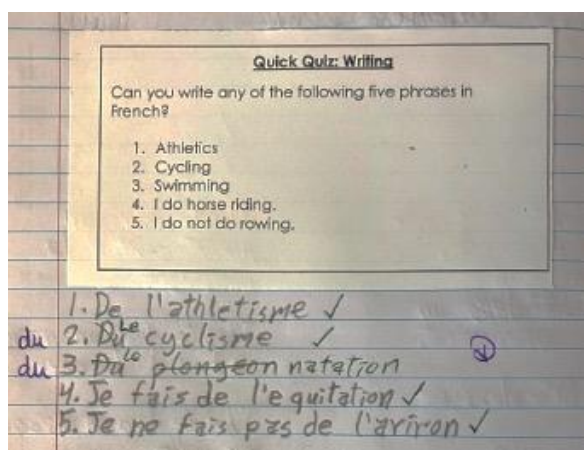
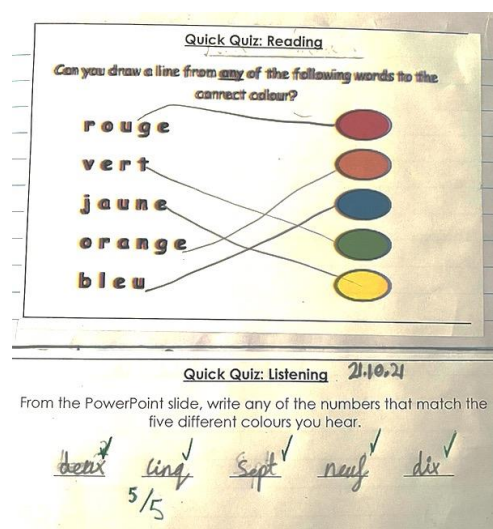
In fact, the National Curriculum states that, 'Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. A high-quality languages education should foster pupils' curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world'.

To this end, we are promoting cultural lessons as part of our MFL teaching. In Year Three, in their introduction to France unit, pupils learnt how Christmas is celebrated in France. In Year Six, as part of their World War Two topic, pupils learnt how Remembrance Day, or 'Le Bleu et de France' is celebrated in France. We will be continuing to promote our cultural lessons.



Quick quizzes and Key Phrases

This year we have introduced quick quizzes to help pupils retain the new vocabulary they have learned. For each unit of work, there is a speaking, listening, reading and writing quiz. In this way, pupils are repeatedly exposed to all four elements of language learning. Below you can see an example of a Year Three pupil's quick quiz on the left, recapping colour vocabulary. On the right is a Year Five pupil's quick quiz to practise sport vocabulary.



As part of our push to help children embed the language, we are also releasing a 'Key Phrases' word bank. This can be used throughout the day at school and also at home. In this way, we raise the profile of language learning and also give children useful every day expressions to use.

The key phrases document is on our social media and you can also find it on our 'School News' page on the website here: www.raddlebarn.co.uk/french-key-phrases/. Why don't you have a go learning it with your child?

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. You can click on the microphone symbol to hear the correct pronunciation and there are also fun videos to watch!

