

# Mrs Duffield's Upper School Newsletter – October 2017



Welcome to the first Upper School Autumn term newsletter for MFL! This provides an update on what your son or daughter has been learning in their French class, along with study and support tips. If you have any questions or concerns then don't hesitate to contact me by email.

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## Year 5 and 6 Topics

The children got off to a flying start in French and their enthusiasm and energy is infectious! Children have learnt how to ask and answer basic questions about themselves, learning how to ask how they are, their names and ages. We have also covered how to describe family. They have also laid firm foundations in starting to communicate in French in the classroom, tackling classroom instructions, which they are now able to use well every lesson. We have practised all four skills through games, songs and mimes. We have also focused on the difference between how these phrases are spoken compared to how they are written and we have learnt our first three phonic rules of French; -ez (allez!), the silent "s" and the nasal sound "ans". We practised all of this by singing Frère Jacques. A fun-packed six weeks and a great start to a new subject!

Our new topic in Year 5 will cover pets, dictionary skills and learning about how Christmas is celebrated in France. In Year 6 we will be looking at Physical description and personality before celebrating Christmas in France.

## Penpalship with L'Ecole Jacques Prévert, Ormes



I am pleased to inform you that class 5B will be taking part in a trial penpalship with a primary school near Orleans. Children will be given a child of a similar age to write to and practise their French. I have agreed with the teacher that will choose a topic per letter to allow us to prepare the topic in advance of writing the letters. We should be receiving our first letter after half term! If this pilot class is successful then I hope to find penpals for the other Year 5 classes.

## Revision and study skills

Although French does not make up part of home learning, looking over vocabulary covered in class will really help students start to build up their language knowledge as well as their confidence in lessons. We have a school subscription to [www.linguascope.org](http://www.linguascope.org) which is a really enjoyable online resource (user: Greenway password: bravo!) This site uses games and challenges to allow vocabulary to be practised in a fun way. A little learning week by week can make a huge difference to confidence and study skills and is really worthwhile. Other good websites include:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primarylanguages/french/>

<http://primarygamesarena.com/Subjects/French/>

## European Day of Languages

### September 26<sup>th</sup> 2017

This annual event takes place across Europe to encourage students of all ages to understand the value of speaking a different language and the opportunities that this will provide them going into the future. Over the course of the day, students were able to enjoy hearing their teachers and friends speaking a different language, from Romanian to Portuguese and to take part in a variety of different class activities about their Languages and cultural general knowledge. It was wonderful to learn about the many different home languages spoken by families at Greenway and to celebrate different cultures among us, The whole class and teacher prize for using as much French as they could during the day went to 6R who were led to a convincing victory by Miss Reed's competitive approach. Special mention should also go to Mrs Stocker and 5S, Mr Reed and 3R and Mr Lane and 5R for their valiant linguistic efforts!

Students were also lucky to enjoy a special Spanish menu in the canteen, of Patatas bravas, Spanish omelette and Albóndigas (meatballs) with a dessert of churros and chocolate sauce. Yum!

The highlight of event for me were the fabulous entries into the "Why study languages?" poster competition. The winners Libby 4A, Joe 5W, Daniel 6C and Hannah 6R had really understood why it is important to study a language and had thought about how to encourage other people to do so. Their work will be displayed across the school, in celebration of their tremendous efforts.

### \*\*\* Stretch Challenge\*\*\*

For those students or adults who want to push their French studies a little further, try googling a familiar subject, such as a sport or a tv show, on French google ([google.fr](http://google.fr)). Reading in a foreign language in a familiar context really helps you feel more confident and cognates (words that look the same in both languages) can help you to unravel meaning. Bon courage!