

Foreign Languages Newsletter Summer 2023

We have had a fantastic and very busy time over the last few months in languages at Knavesmire!

We started the summer term with a visit from the children and teachers of our Spanish link school El Cim. They were with us for a week and enjoyed spending time with everyone in assemblies, playtimes, lunchtimes and in lessons with year 4, 5 and 6. Our children all hugely enjoyed this enriching experience and the year 5 and 6 children also enjoyed an extra Spanish lesson delivered by one of the Spanish teachers. What a brilliant week everyone had and we look forward to continuing this strong link.

In May we also enjoyed cultural diversity week in school and each year group delved into a different culture. Year 5 in particular enjoyed looking at the languages of Burkina Faso (including French and Mossi) and this was again a very enriching experience for the whole school when the knowledge was shared with the rest of the school.

Last week we were delighted to help the German work experience exchange at Tadcaster Grammar school by welcoming a German school student, Annika, into school for some work experience. It was great to see our children being so welcoming and interested to find out more about life in Germany and about the German language. Again, a fabulous opportunity for our children to engage with a person from another country.

We are all very excited that our year 5 children and parents and carers will once again attend the MAT French café day at Millthorpe School on 4th July. Our children are looking forward to using their French knowledge in a real situation with the help of teachers from all our MAT schools. It will also be a brilliant opportunity to make new friends from another MAT primary school and to spend the day at Millthorpe.

The UKS2 MFL club has been a great success this term and has been very well attended. Children have been keen to attend and work on languages independently. Mrs Gibson was also very excited to start a 'virtual' KS2 lunchtime Chinese Club with our colleagues over in Xian. The children enjoyed the games and learned lots of basic Chinese vocabulary. We are hoping to re-run the club in the Autumn term with KS1 pupils as well as new KS2 pupils.

Here are some of the other things we have been up to in language lessons in school.

Reception

Reception have been busy practising all of their knowledge and have been learning new songs such as "Vole Vole Vole Papillon" and "les petits poissons". As part of their learning they have looked at how to travel to France and as part of art week they will describe paintings using French colours. They are beginning to show awareness of connections between languages and are ready to move to year one! They have had a super year and I am very proud of their progress (Miss Lupton)

Year 1

After a truly fabulous year of French, Year 1 have, during this last half-term, begun an introduction to German and have been getting to know our German puppet friends, Felix and Franzi. Felix and Franzi, who are a frog and a duck, have come over to York from Berlin Zoo! Alongside basic phrases and greetings, we will therefore be learning the names for some animals you might find in a Zoo, as well as learning to say and recognise colours, numbers and fruit. We were delighted to welcome Annika, a German work experience student, into our first German session last week. In addition, the children have enjoyed linking with our French school to find out about what they do for fun, as part of Year 1's current Big Idea. It is great that our link schools can be involved like this, giving a truly global feel and sense of purpose to the children's learning. All the children in Year 1 have been absolutely amazing language superstars this year and I have LOVED teaching them - a huge well done to everyone! (Mrs Merritt)

Year 2

I have absolutely loved teaching year 2 for Language lessons this term and have been thoroughly impressed with their attitude and effort in our lessons. In French, The children have enjoyed learning the song "il y avait des gros crocodiles" and have been looking at singular and plural nouns. They are also starting to recognise gender differences when using colour adjectives. In addition, they loved doing an outdoor bug hunt in French alongside Mrs Merritt and year 1! Since half term we have been learning some German, following on from Year 1 German, with the German puppets Felix and Franzi. They have made an excellent start and are developing a good awareness of language features. (Miss Lupton)

Year 3

Year 3 have had an excellent term, and are becoming super linguists. They enjoyed their own French breakfast and were fantastic at asking for food and drink in French. They were also delighted to receive answers to their questions from our French link school about the village of Latresne and enjoyed comparing life and school in France to the UK as part of their Big Idea. Since half term we have started, once again, to learn some basic German. The children are doing really well so far and also enjoyed meeting Annika as part of their learning. (Miss Lupton)

Year 4

Year 4 have worked really hard in languages this term. They have learnt how to tell the time in French and all about infinitive verbs, then used this knowledge to write their own stories! After this, they moved on to shopping conversations and learning about Euros. This half term, Year 4 have made a fantastic start with learning German. So far they have learnt basic phrases and numbers, and have enjoyed spotting cognates in German stories. They will hopefully enjoy watching videos of our German link school to

learn a little about life at school in Germany. We will be learning how to describe ourselves and our favourite parts of the school, so that we can send some work back to the German link school! (Miss Cargill)

Year 5

Year 5 have had an exciting term and this year I have been so very proud of each and every one of them, as they continue to develop their linguistic knowledge and skills. This term we have learnt vocabulary for places in town and looked at a French text describing some of the famous monuments in Paris. The children loved learning about the Eiffel Tower and then making their own tower using spaghetti and marshmallows. We have been learning how to ask for tickets and Year 5 will then create and use more complex dialogues during the MAT French café day at Millthorpe on Tuesday 4th July. The year 5 children also enjoyed writing to children at our link school in Spain and they loved having the opportunity to spend time with the Spanish children and teachers in school. (Miss Lupton)

Year 6

Year 6 have had a very busy time and have been looking forward to and preparing for year 7 languages. In addition to receiving letters about hobbies from our partner school in France, the highlight was the children's amazing visit to Barcelona and, of course, the return visit by the Spanish children. Our children were very welcoming and enjoyed sharing lessons (including an extra Spanish lesson) and evening events with the children. The children from year 6 also enjoyed a visit to the residents at the Chocolate Works to talk about the visit to Barcelona and to chat to residents about learning foreign languages. The visit was very enriching for both our children and for the residents.

In French children have recapped their knowledge ready for secondary school and over half of the year group have joined in with some extra German lessons to get them one step ahead for year 7 - their interest and enthusiasm for language learning is something that makes me very proud indeed.

I have loved teaching year 6 and will really miss them next year. Good luck to each and every one of them as they continue their linguistic journey!

Finally, If anyone is lucky enough to venture overseas during the summer break, I would be grateful for any photographs, leaflets, newspapers and magazines in different languages and of course I would love to hear about any of our super linguists using their knowledge!

Bonnes vacances! Happy Holidays!

Miss Lupton