

‘Learning a new language together’

Each year group in KS2 have completed another ‘language angel’s French culture activity this term.

JBr and SC have also planned for the whole of KS2 to complete a ‘Why learn French’ afternoon during the week of the 7th July. SC will create an ideas pack for staff to use. Each year group focusing on a different area of French culture. The evidence of which will be used to create a powerpoint for the KS2 and Year 2 (in preparation for KS2) to share on Tuesday 15th July which is close to Bastille Day.

Teacher quotes from completing the work about French culture:

- ‘Children gained insights into the countries that speak French and this surprised many children although not children from Nigeria. They had prior knowledge of people from outside of France speaking French. I feel this opened children’s eyes to the wider world and allowed them to be inspired to broaden their horizons.’
- ‘It is always good to see when children find out new things about the world and especially if it inspires them.’

Pupil quotes from completing work about French culture and learning the language:

- ‘When I grow up, I want to go to France and see the sights with my eyes and they will be in my memory forever. The lessons help me with that. For example, if I am in a restaurant in France, they will speak to me and I can speak back.’
- ‘I enjoy looking at English words compared to French words. Also, I have heard that in secondary school it is hard to learn a language with all of the other learning but if I have a memory of French this will help me.’
- ‘I was surprised many African people speak French.’
- ‘I like learning new languages. It is boring to only know one. I speak four now.’
- ‘When I grow up, France will be a great place to explore with my family.’
- ‘It was interesting seeing that schools in France are so different but the same too.’
- ‘I have learned to interact with people. Sometimes I have had difficulties with other children. Working with them on these activities has helped me with other children. Even today, I met with someone new in the playground and they were from a different school!’
- ‘I want to learn how to read a book in French and what the meaning of every word is!’
- ‘I think speaking to real French people would be amazing and interesting.’

At Bishop King we endeavour to create a purposeful curriculum. We therefore felt it was vital for children to know why they are learning French and gain insights into both French culture and the number of countries that speak French’. Children were particularly surprised that it is spoken in many other countries, ‘I was surprised many African people speak French’. However, this didn’t surprise the children from Nigeria who had prior knowledge of people from outside of France speaking French due to it being ‘introduced as Nigeria’s official second language in 1996.’ Many Nigerian children said their parents can speak a few French words and have helped them practise at home. Once again, children have loved finding out about the lives of children in other countries. Although they didn’t have the personal link, as with our partner projects, they were just as fascinated by both similarities and differences seen on images and videos from the school scheme. A child in Year 4 said ‘it was interesting seeing that schools in France are so different but the same too’. As we currently don’t have any children who originate from France in school, learning French provides us with opportunity to explore and gain knowledge of yet another country as well as learn another language on a ‘level playing field’. Project evidence takes the form of pupil voice, children’s work, teacher

evaluations, Language Angels scheme and a powerpoint. The celebration and sharing of this project with the whole school will happen on France's National holiday, le 14 juillet, which is known in English speaking countries as Bastille Day, on the 14th July. All the work which the children in KS2 have completed throughout the year will be shared with the whole school and added to the website. Year 2 will then focus on French as their 'language of the moment' for the remainder weeks of term to support their transition into Year 3. Celebrating and learning different language is a big part of being at Bishop King School. A teacher stated that learning this project 'opened children's eyes to the wider world and allowed them to be inspired to broaden their horizons' as it provided them with comprehensive understanding of the reasons for wanting to speak French and how it fits into the wider world.' In their evaluation a child stated 'When I grow up, France will be a great place to explore with my family. I am looking forward to being in a restaurant in France, they will speak to me and I can speak back.'