

FRENCH KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS PROGRESSION

INTENT

Learning a foreign language is a necessary part of being a member of a multi-cultural society and provides an opening to other cultures. A high-quality languages education should foster children's curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world. The teaching should enable children to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing. It should also provide opportunities for them to communicate for practical purposes, learn new ways of thinking and read great literature in French. Language teaching should provide the foundation for learning further languages and further widen pupils' understanding of the cultural and linguistic diversity of the world that they live in.

The principal aims of French at Lewknor Church of England Primary School are to ensure that all pupils:

- develop an interest in learning to speak a language other than English.
- improve the confidence of pupils to use the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in French.
- make children aware of the importance and relevance of language learning and how skills acquired through learning a new language are transferrable to other aspects of life.
- motivate language learning using strategies that are enjoyable and accessible to all.
- stimulate and encourage children's curiosity about language and creativity in experimenting with it.

In line with the National Curriculum, we ensure that children:

- understand and respond to spoken and written French 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 French.

IMPLEMENTATION

All children are taught French in a weekly lesson. French assemblies are also organised periodically for enrichment.

In Reception weekly lessons ensure that children develop speaking and listening skills through games, songs and a variety of authentic sources. They will speak in French by repeating a variety of nouns and articles from topics such as Colours, Days, Animals and begin to build up a bank of core vocabulary which will help to develop their memory skills. They will develop listening skills by matching the French that they hear to images and/or words that they have been taught.

In KS1 children continue to build on their speaking and listening skills and begin to develop their reading and writing skills in French. In reading, children will identify cognates and start to learn how to decode written text. They will start to develop their writing skills by attempting to spell and write some simple words and vocabulary from memory.

In KS2 we are currently using the Twinkl scheme of work to deliver our French lessons on a two year rolling programme. These ensure children acquire a bank of vocabulary and key structures organised around a variety of topics, as well as offering an insight into the culture of French speaking countries and communities. They ensure development is progressive as they build on previous knowledge from units already studied. The lesson activities are challenging, varied and interactive and further develop listening, reading, speaking and writing skills. They are designed to support children or extend their knowledge where appropriate. Core vocabulary, grammatical structures and phonemes are revisited and consolidated throughout the four year programme. The lessons are designed to be progressive and build on prior learning, revisiting word level and moving to sentence level over the four years. The choice of vocabulary ensures exposure to all the key phonic sounds and ability to build sentences using grammatical knowledge.

IMPACT

Formative assessment is undertaken each session in French and pupils are very much encouraged to be involved in that process. As part of our assessment for learning process, children will receive verbal feedback in order to aid progress in the subject, as well as in writing and listening work, which is completed in French books/folders. Children are also encouraged to be critical of their own performance, highlighting their own next steps. Summative assessment is undertaken during the year, using the progression skills document. Progress in French is reported to parents at the end of the year.