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FRENCH LESSONS

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 3 have been learning French once a week for the past 4 weeks and will continue to have a lesson with me for 35 minutes a week for the remainder of the school year. We have just started to learn the song "Petit Escargot" (Little Snail) with actions today. It is a favourite of young children in France and is about a little snail who wears his little house on his back and is so happy when it rains that he pops his head out. The YouTube clips that we used can be found at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9Qjd41Bcp4&feature=share&app=desktop> and
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQq2K13_qj4&app=desktop

The children have also worked hard at making their own little snails, complete with Autumn leaf.

I do not set homework: I know that there is enough to do already! However, I have been asked by so many children what they can do at home to practise that I have listed below a few child-friendly websites that might help. There are also lots of Apps – too many to list here! I must emphasize that this does not have to be done – the children are all super keen and doing well in class so there is no need to do anything extra outside school unless they really want to – this is simply information for you.

Below is a list of the vocabulary your child will have met so far. There is not a great deal of emphasis on writing French in the first half-term but the written version is always introduced to the children from the beginning, so that they can begin to make the link between letters/letter strings and their sounds – much as they do in Phonics lessons in Literacy.

If they would like to have a go at writing any of these from memory, I would be very impressed and their attempts will go into their French file. For now, however, I am very happy that they can recognise these key words and phrases when I say them and manage to say some of them with a partner.

Bonjour	Ça va?	1 un	A	Ecoutez! (Listen!)
Au revoir	Ça va bien	2 deux	L	Regardez! (Look!)
Monsieur	Ça va	3 trois	B	Asseyez-vous! (Sit down!)
Madame	Comme ci, comme ca	4 quatre	E	Levez-vous! (Stand up!)
	Ça ne va pas	5 cinq	R	Asseyez-vous correctement!
	Ça va mal		T	Taisez-vous! (Shhh!)
				Croisez les bras!(Fold arms!)

The fourth column lists the French alphabet letters used to spell the name of our French bear. One of the links below can help with the sound these letters make.

We have also learnt the first verse of a finger rhyme, with actions, called "Voici ma Main, elle a cinq doigts" (another favourite with young French children, the lyrics to which are below) and read a story called "Toutes Les Couleurs"(where the children are encouraged to join in and do actions). Both of these resources are available as YouTube clips if you Google them. French children are also fans of programmes such as Peppa Pig and Octonauts – all of which are available via the internet in French!)

Voici ma main, (Here is my hand)
 Elle a cinq doigts, (It - She!- has 5 fingers)
 En voici deux, (Here are two of them)
 En voici trois. (Here are three of them.)



Here are some Learning Resources: (Do let me know of any others you have found useful and I'll add them to the list during the year.)

<http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/flbla/html/scenarios/scenario1/index.html?scenario=1&group=0&totalactivities=20> (This is useful for greetings and asking how people are. The alphabet section- Lettres et Sons) is great practice if your child is keen to learn the rest of the alphabet! Simply click and repeat.)

<http://www.french-games.net/> (Select Topics then Categories. Lots to choose from.)

<http://www.digitaldialects.com/French.htm> (Excellent for greetings, colours, days and months, numbers. They might like to test their mental maths skills using French numbers! I think this site is Canadian – some of the spellings are American English.)

If you have any questions, I am on the door of Mr Payne's classroom at the end of the day on Thursday and on duty at the "little" gate on Wednesday afternoons.

Have a restful half-term break.

Helen Williams