



Subject Story

French

Language learning prepares pupils to participate in a rapidly changing world in which work and other activities are often carried out in languages other than English. French is taught at Morden Primary School as our focus language within KS2. There is a strong focus on the use of speaking and listening within French lessons, with each unit of work combining vocabulary, knowledge of language and speaking and writing activities. Each class across KS2 follows 'The Primary French Project' scheme of work, which builds progressively on previous knowledge to extend children's ability to communicate in French in increasingly complex situations.

The National Curriculum states:

Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. A high-quality languages education should foster pupils' curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world. The teaching should enable pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing.

If you were to walk into French lessons at Morden, you would see:

- High quality interactive slides with sound options to hear correct pronunciation of words and phrases
- **The use of key vocabulary and phrases repeated throughout the lesson and across the unit** – consolidating previous learning and enabling the children to become familiar, confident and more fluent in developing their own responses to recognised questions.
- **Reference back to the unit title page** – at the start of each lesson, focussing attention on the skills to be developed in the proceeding learning activities.
- **Retrieval practice** – giving learners the chance to consolidate previous skills and knowledge.
- **Additional resources, such as French dual language dictionaries and iPads** - allowing the children to develop their responses further and extend their knowledge of vocabulary.
- **Links to phonics, grammar and language skills** – supporting pronunciation of graphemes, knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, for example prepositions and determiners, through learning how to identify these in another language
- **Children speaking French** – opportunities throughout each lesson to listen to, repeat and practise new vocabulary and phrases, working as a whole class, 1:1 response with an adult or peer:peer conversations.
- **Games and a wide range of activities** – allowing children to practise new vocabulary in fun and creative ways.
- **Inclusivity** – learning that is accessible for all.

Pupil Voice

- **Year 3:** I like learning French. I want to learn other languages when I am older. It is my life's aim to learn all the languages.
- **Year 4:** I am proud of my latest piece of work (*translation*). I could translate 3 sentences and I usually find translation tricky.
- **Year 5:** It's fun learning how to pronounce new words and even if you get it wrong you learn for next time.
- **Year 6:** It helps us to learn French when we repeat words and our teacher translates them into English, it helps it stick in my head. We listen and repeat again and again until we can say it on our own. We learn new vocab one week and write it the next.

An example of skills and knowledge progression within our French curriculum

DISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE						
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Phonics Physical French Phonics (Brilliant Publications), Sue Cave and Jean Haig			AUTUMN – File 2 Number <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a, â, à • eu, œ, œu • r, rr • o, ô, au, eau • é, er, es, ez, et • un, um • c, k, q, qu • oi, oi • s, ss, ç, c • z, s, x • t, tt, th • in, im, ain, aim, ein, eim, yn, ym SPRING – File 3 Months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • c, k, q, qu • o (not at end of word) • i, î, y • a, â, à 	AUTUMN – File 1 Colour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a, â, à • e (before 2 consonants) è, ei, ai, aî, a (before y) • eu, œ, œu • g, gu • g (before e, i, y), j • i, î, y • o (not at end of word) • o, ô, au, eau • ou, oû, où • r, rr • an, am, en, em • on, om SPRING – File 5 – Animals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an, am, en, em • é, er, es, ez, et • e (before 2 consonants) è, ei, ai, 	AUTUMN – File 4 Days of the Week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a, â, à • e • eu, œ, œu • un, um • c, k, q, qu • e (before 2 consonants) è, ei, ai, aî, a (before y) • r, rr • s, ss, ç, c • i, î, y • an, am, en, em • g (before e, i, y), j • ch SPRING – FILE 7 Silent Letters	Autumn – FILE 7 Silent Letters
					SUMMER – revise and consolidate	SPRING – FILE 7 Liaison (counting nouns beginning with a vowel) Silent h
					SUMMER – revise and consolidate	SUMMER – revise and consolidate

Examples of learning

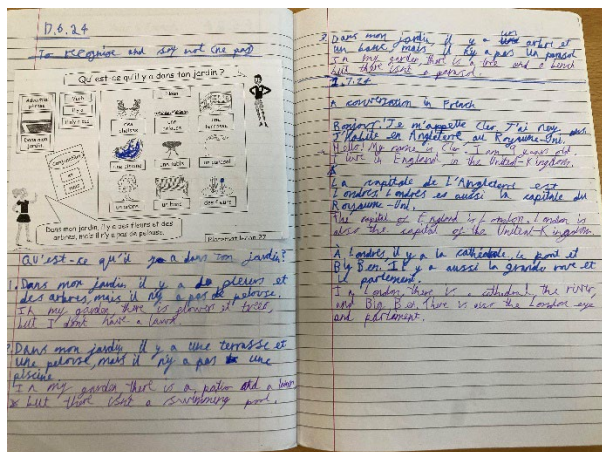
Year 5, telling the time in French



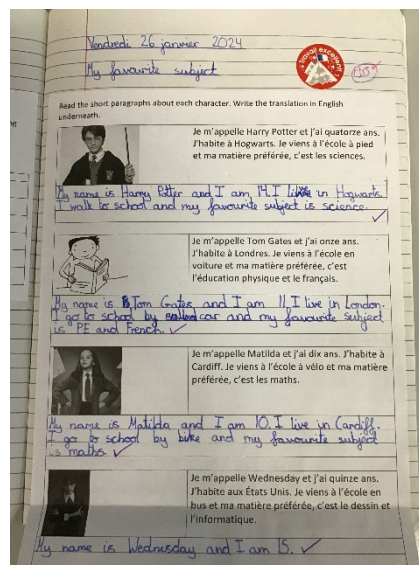
Year 6, naming classroom objects – Kim's game



Year 4, example of written work



Year 6, example of translation



Successes in 2023-2024

- Phonics scheme sourced, mapped to units of work and prepared with CPD for class teachers to launch in 2024-2025.
- Progression of knowledge and skills map reviewed to reflect sequencing of substantive and disciplinary knowledge (including phonics) across KS2.
- Pupil voice shows the clear sequencing of lessons building knowledge through speaking, listening, reading and writing.
- Subject Lead attended Language Network Meetings and Language conference.
- CPD to share activities and games to support language learning following French network meetings.
- Range of activities and games being used regularly in French lessons in some year groups.
- Outdoor learning used to encourage French speaking in UKS2.
- All children could explain which work from French lessons made them feel proud and why.

Priorities for 2024-2025

- Phonics embedded in French lessons across all year groups.
- Games and wide range of activities used in French lessons in all year groups.
- Support inclusivity and diversity within the French curriculum.
- Children will be able to create sentences fluently using new vocabulary with previously learnt phrases.
- French café to celebrate French culture for all year groups.
- Explore joint music/language project with Eurovision focus outdoor learning week.
- French club for KS1 children in the Summer Term

Ambitions for Languages at Morden Primary School

- Children across KS2 will be able to speak with confidence and fluency in French, recalling vocabulary and phrases with speed and accuracy.
- Whole-school and parental engagement will improve through the use of language-specific home learning tasks and opportunities suggested in lessons and overviews for wider learning.

Some websites you might find particularly interesting

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z39d7ty>

<https://www.euroclub-schools.org/french-zone>

<https://www.duolingo.com/>