

MFL NEWSLETTER

Honiton Community College • January 2023 • Issue 14

Welcome

hello!

shalom!

hola!

salut!

welkom!

namaste!

bienvenidos!

ciao!



MFL CLUB – YEARS 7+8+9 - THURSDAYS - 1.20-1.50pm

JANUARY

05.01.23 - L4:
Learn about how the French celebrate Epiphany - La fête des Rois

12.01.23 - L4:
Poem writing – Mother Tongue, Other Tongue

17.10.22 – C3
Learn about Chinese New Year. Practice calligraphy, Listen to Chinese music

24.11.22 – L4:
Short French film

FEBRUARY

02.02.23 – L4
Introduction to Spanish

09.02.23 – L4
Make a Valentine's Day Card, write poems, decorate cookies, quiz on how people celebrate Valentine's Day in different ways around the world.

16.02.23 – L4
Guest Speaker

23.02.23 – L4
Pancake making to celebrate Shrove Tuesday

MARCH

02.03.23 – L4
Learn about unique Spring traditions around the world

09.03.23 – L4
MFL themed bake-off – drop off cakes in C2

16.03.23 – L4
Celebrate St Patrick's day. Learn Irish, listen to Celtic music and wear something green!

23.03.23 – L4
Guest speaker

Welcome to the fourteenth edition of the HCC MFL Newsletter! We hope to add to your language learning experience by celebrating student success, promoting language skills, and keeping you up to date with events and activities in the languages department. The Newsletter is written by some of our very talented Language Leaders, as well as MFL teachers.

New Year's Eve in France

The French celebrate the New Year much like everybody else: they have parties with friends and family, countdown to midnight, let off fireworks, and even go for a New Year's swim. Nevertheless, there are certain traditions and customs that are unique to France, and are definitely well-worth knowing if you plan to spend the New Year there.

The French generally refer to New Year's Eve as *La Saint-Sylvestre*. This is because December 31st is the Western feast day of Saint Sylvester I, who was the Pope from 314-335. His pontificate saw the start of the Christian Roman Empire, and legend has it that he both converted and baptized Emperor Constantine. As well as *La Saint-Sylvestre*, you'll definitely hear someone say << *Bonne année !* >>, which is "Happy New Year!" in French.

<https://thefrenchroomhome.wordpress.com/2020/02/10/new-year-traditions-in-france/>

Email answers to MTH
P1 for taking part
P2 if 100% correct



New Year's Eve Traditions and Superstitions around the World. Where does each tradition come from?

1. Leaving money outside on New Year's eve :
a. Scotland b. France c. Spain
2. Putting a gold coin in your drink on New Year's eve:
a. Russia b. Ireland c. Latin America
3. Munch a pig made out of marzipan on New Year's Eve
a. Portugal b. Germany c. Scotland
4. Wear polka dots on New Year's Eve:
a. China b. The Philippines c. Australia
5. Hang onions on your door on New Year's Eve:
a. Italy b. Mexico c. Greece
6. Eat 12 grapes at each stroke of midnight:
a. Spain b. Argentina c. Belgium
7. Throw your furniture out the window:
a. New Zealand b. India c. Italy
8. Put 3 potatoes under your bed on New Year's Eve:
a. Belize b. Brazil c. Colombia

New Year's Day In France



By Poppy Gryman Y9

In France, New Year's Day has not always been January 1st. In the 6th and 7th centuries, in many provinces, New Year was celebrated on March 1st. Under the rule of Charlemagne in the 9th century, the year started at Christmas. In the 10th century, under the Capetian King's, the New Year started on Easter Day. Only since 1564, under King Charles IX has the start of the year been January 1st.

New Year's Day is popularly called *Jour des Étrennes*, and *Le Jour de L'An*. The French love to dine with loved ones on this special day. A farewell to the old year and a grand welcome to the New Year, with an optimistic hope of success, prosperity, happiness and peace to come.

Celebrating in high spirits, the French exchange gifts and cards and share new year's resolutions with family and friends.

The French love the tradition of gift giving and consider it more important to present gifts at New Year than any other festival.

Epiphany – 12th Day of Christmas

The French have been serving up the delicious sweet treat of Galette Des Rois, since the 14th century. Traditionally, it's served on Jan. 6th, the 12th day of Christmas, to celebrate the Epiphany - a religious feast day commemorating the arrival of the 3 King's to the manger where Jesus was born. Hence, it's nickname, the King's cake.

Although the cake has variable ingredients throughout France, inside is usually hidden a small charm, representing baby Jesus and whoever gets the charm, is declared King or Queen for a day.

Today the Epiphany cake is eaten throughout the month of January in France and is simply a festive way of celebrate the New Year with family and friends, regardless of religious background.

The Traditional Epiphany Cake



By Poppy Gryman Y9

Pupils at HCC were kings - and queens - for the day as part of a French Epiphany celebration.

Students from the MFL club ate the "Galette des Rois" cakes on Thursday to mark Twelfth Night, a Christian holiday celebrated Twelve days after Christmas, typically on **January 6**. This is a crisp, puff pastry tart filled with buttery frangipane filling or apple sauce. Hidden inside is a "fève". Whoever finds this in their slice has the honour of being king or queen for the day. Well done to Poppy for being crowned queen!



Tales of Teacher Travels



*Mrs Creed (Creative Arts and Media Technician)
interviewed by Poppy Gryman – yr 9*



Mrs Creed in Thailand

I speak basic French and Spanish, enough to get by on holiday. I can order food, book accommodation and ask where the nearest beach is etc. I always try to learn a bit of the local language wherever I go just to make some polite conversation.

I don't speak another language at home although my eldest son will be starting GCSE French soon so I'll try and join in with some of his conversation practice

I travelled to Thailand in 2005 and lived in Bangkok for a while when my boyfriend (now husband) was working out there for an international aid agency. It was the year after the devastating tsunami and together we worked with ActionAid to get urgent healthcare and equipment to communities severely affected by the disaster.

I don't travel abroad as much as I used to as family holidays outside of term time means it can become very expensive. The most recent foreign place I've visited was Halkidiki on mainland Greece. I've visited quite a few of the Greek Islands before and loved them all but Halkidiki seemed less touristy than the islands and felt a bit more traditionally Greek.

I think it's really important to try and have a go at speaking the language on holiday and not to make an assumption that the locals will speak English. I might not always be understood but luckily I'm quite good at miming and I've found with a bit of mad gesticulating and a few words thrown in I can normally muddle my way through. I think the locals are probably completely baffled by me most of the time but hopefully they appreciate the effort!

As part of my experience working with ActionAid I visited a tiny island off the coast of Thailand inhabited by the Moken (Sea Gypsy) Community. The Moken were traditionally a nomadic tribe who moved between islands, living on their Kabangs (handmade wooden boats) and in stilted huts on the shore. Their way of life is very different to our own and I was totally blown away by their culture. One of the things that surprised me was The Moken have incredible free diving abilities, they can descend to a depth of around 15metres or more, holding their breath for several minutes at a time (don't try this!!). Watching small children using harpoons to hunt for fish and sea cucumbers was also surprising, not something you see here in Devon very often!

I wasn't able to speak to the Moken children in their own language but I did have some pens and paper on me so I drew cartoons for them. Art can be a universal language we can all understand and an activity that brings people together. Even though this experience was nearly 20 years ago it is one I will never forget.

I think my favourite foreign country is probably France for lots of reasons. I visited France often as a child so I have lots of fond memories of going there with my family. Also, the French know what they're doing when it comes to cheese and wine which I didn't really get when I was younger but I can appreciate that now!

I love trying all foreign food but perhaps Vietnamese would be my favourite with Mexican and Thai coming in joint second. Some of the more unusual foreign foods I've tried and not particularly enjoyed are chicken feet in Thailand (a bar snack there) and fish head stew in Norway. Both are quite normal 'delicacies' in these countries but I wouldn't generally consider eating those parts of an animal. (I feel as though I've thought about this question too much !!)

Ever since I watched The Lord Of The Rings I've thought I would love to live in New Zealand, where the movie was shot. The scenery looks incredible and I imagine there is a lot of unexplored territory to visit. I'd also love to live somewhere a bit warmer than the UK.



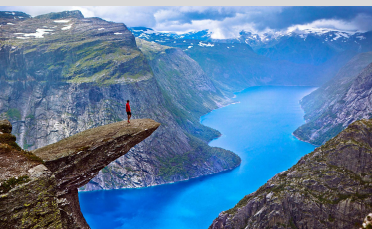
Thailand



*Moken Community -
Thailand*



*Moken Community -
Thailand*



Norway



Mrs Creed in Thailand

How to revise a foreign language

•Regular practice will make you more fluent and confident. Last minute cramming is difficult!

•Little and often produces good results. Intensive, focused revision will help you to absorb new language structures.

•Arrange vocabulary alphabetically, under topics or according to word families.

•Learn the appropriate article at the same time as the new word (e.g., le/la/les, der/die/das).

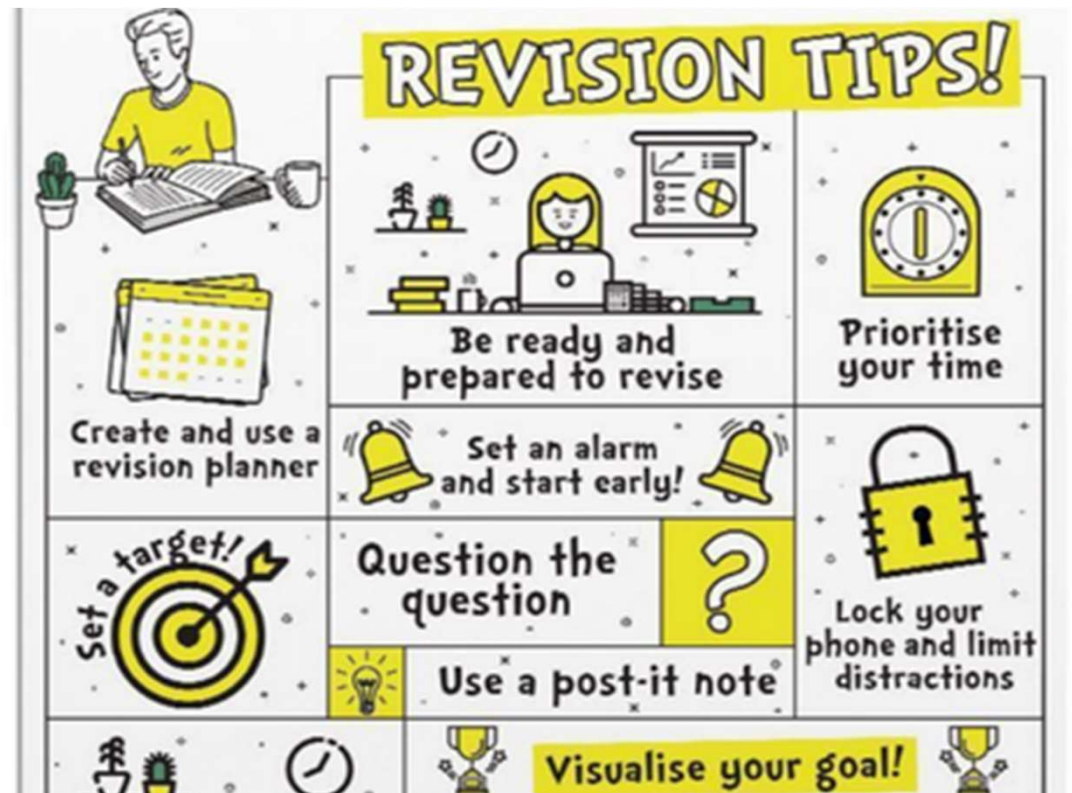
•Write notes and language structures without looking at your module material. You'll be pleasantly surprised by what you can remember. Then work on the things you didn't get right.

•Do any exercises you haven't done before.
•Find someone to talk to in the language.

•Use the language to summarise a unit, saying what you have learnt about the theme.

<https://help.open.ac.uk/tips-for-languages-students>

MFL Revision Tips



January MFL competition

Write a Valentine's Card on why you love either...

- France
- A French speaking country
- The French Language

.....don't forget to hand in your Valentine's Day Card to your language teacher and you might win a fantastic prize!

The winner will be announced on Valentine's Day so good luck !



DECEMBER COMPETITION WINNERS

We were overwhelmed by so many brilliant and moving entries that it was a very difficult decision to select the winner of the Other Tongue Mother Tongue competition but after much deliberation, we are delighted to announce that the winner is Sophia Rose, year 9. Her work, along with that of many other talented students is featured below.

ORIGINAL ENTRY BY SOPHIA ROSE YR 9 – HARSH WINTER

La neige tombe,
Les merles appellent.
Givre décorant l'herbe
Le lac comme du verre.
L'hiver est arrivé

Arbres glaces,
Une brise amère,
Un ciel gris,
Oiseaux en hauteur.
L'hiver est arrivé.

Snow falls
Blackbirds call
Frost covers the grass
The lake like glass
Winter is here

Icy trees,
A bitter breeze,
A grey sky
Birds fly.
Winter is here

I wrote this poem as winter is my favourite season. I find the snow, frost and ice really pretty and I wanted to highlight that in the poem.

TURKISH POEM WRITTEN BY DAISY YR9

Noel'de Kar Yağıyor Bir Çocuk Açılış Hediyeleri Ne mutlu bir görüş
Swirls ile Baston Şekerler Limon Aromalı Sakız Damlaları Noel günü tatlılar sıcak elma şarabı Tüm Süslemeleriyle Türkiye Kalbi Arzu ile Doldurur

Snowing At Christmas, A Child Opening Presents, What A Happy Sight
Candy Canes With Swirls, Gum Drops With Lemon Flavors , Sweets On Christmas Day
Hot Apple Cider , Turkey With All The Trimmings, Fills Heart With Desire

I wrote this poem in Turkish as I am learning it outside of school. It shows my love for Christmas and how me and my family have fun traditions such as apple bobbing in apple juice which brings my family together during the holidays.

HUNGARIAN EASTER POEM - SELECTED BY LILY ROTH YR 7

Zöld erdőben jártam, kék ibolyát láttam, el akart hervadni, szabad-e locsolni?

The tiny poem is an Easter celebration poem. Boys spray water on girls hair for to keep them fresh and young for an other year. (by Lily Roth – year 7)

POEM FOR UKRAINE - SUNFLOWER SEEDS BY KIM STAFFORD - SELECTED BY FFREYA YR 7

Скільки ти маєш? Досить, щоб вздовж доріг? Достатньо, щоб віддати іншим, щоб вони могли заповнити поля? Досить посадити в кожну воронку від бомби, кульовий отвір? Це було б для багатьох. Якби у вас був лише один , один може перетворитися на тисячу в золотому на братській могилі?. Куди сховаєшся У землі Отже, кожне насіння тому кожне насіння може проголосити мир для тих, хто вижив

How many do you have? Enough to line the roads? Enough to give to others so they can fill the fields?
Enough to plant in every bomb crater, bullet hole? That would be too many.
If you have just one, one can spiral into a thousand in a halo of gold.
Where will you hide it in the earth so every seed may declare peace for a survivor's knees at a brother's grave?

**ORIGINAL POEM BY EMILY GREENLAND YR 9 –
LA MÉSANGE BLEUE**

La mésange chantait l'hiver,
La mésange a vu le printemps,
La mésange regardait le soleil d'été,
Et regarde ce que l'automne apporte,

La mésange a construit son nid,
Rempli de plumes et de brindilles,
Assise sur la branche grinçante,
La mésange a vu les enfants courir.

Quand la mésange voit la lune,
Elle tombe dans le repos,
Elle se blottit dans ses plumes,
Et s'endort bénie.

The bluetit sang in winter,
The bluetit saw the spring,
The bluetit looked at the summer sun,
And look what autumn brings,

The bluetit has built its nest,
It filled with feathers and twigs,
Sitting on the creaking branch,
The bluetit saw the children running.

When the bluetit sees the moon,
He falls into rest,
He nestles in his feathers,
And falls asleep blessed

I wrote this poem about a bluetit. I thought a poem about a bird symbolises peace and calmness in the winter. Birds survive through the cold and always come out in the beautiful spring. Birds mean a lot to me and I thought that because they are special, I should write a poem about them.

ORIGINAL POEM BY EMILY YR 9

Le soleil s'est levé dans le ciel,
un nouveau jour qui commence.
Les oiseaux ont chanté et les fleurs on fleuri
car c'est le début du printemps.

La pluie est tombée tôt le matin,
les enfants on ri et joué.
Les arbres se balançaient dans la brise
car c'est le début du printemps.

The sun rose up into the sky,
a new day just beginning.
Birds sang and flowers bloomed
for this was the start of Spring.

Rain fell in the early morning,
children laughed and played.
Trees swayed in the breeze,
For this was the start of Spring.

ORIGINAL POEM BY MARTHA YR9

Jag var allena på solig strand vid skogens
blekblå sjö,
På himlen flöt ett enda moln och på vattnet en
enda ö,
Den mogna sommarens sötma dröp i pärlor
från varje träd,
Och i mitt öppna hjärta rann en liten droppe
ned.

I was alone on a sunny beach by the forest's
pale blue lake, On the sky floated a single cloud
and, on the water, a single island, The ripe
summer's sweetness dripped in pearls from
every tree, And in my open heart a small drop
trickled down.

*My poem is in Swedish and I made it with my
Swedish god mother.*

ORIGINAL POEM BY EVIE WESTERN YR7 - LES LOUPS

La pleine lune, la silhouette sombre hurlant essayant d'exiger l'attention du monde, c'est une fourrure lisse et brillante maintenant hirsute et emmelee par la salete de ramper pres de sa proie l'enorme test. Maintenant, il a ete transmis au loup pour sa survie et pour sa propre future famille. Le puissant loup si humble et fier avec un hurlement si terriblement fort, il tient la tete comme il domine son territoire son nom si mentionne arrete on coeur de peur. Alors que leurs proies se battent pour leur survie dans la nuit au clair de lune. Hurler et se dechainer sous les etoiles, enseigner a la prochaine generation.

POEM CHOSEN BY ELOWEN YR7

Kernewek, or Cornish is a language that died out in the 1800s because everyone was expected to speak English, but since the 1970s it has been brought back and is even taught in schools in Cornwall. My Dad's family are Cornish (not English!) and my Grandad has learnt to speak Cornish and taught me some during lockdown. Whenever I see Grandad, he speaks to me in Cornish. He found this poem for me, and it was written in the 1970s.

An lavar koth yw lavar gwir

Nevra dos mas a daves re hir

Mes den heb taves a golla y dir

The old saying is a true saying

Never did good come of a tongue too long

But a man without tongue loses his land

The poem is talking about how when a language dies out the people can also lose their custom and culture. The word "taves/daves" or "tongue" means language. A couple of interesting facts about Cornish

- My name "Elowen" is Cornish for "Elm Tree"
- Cornish counts in twenties, like French, e.g. 80 = "peswar-ugens" = "four-twenties"
- Cornish puts adjectives (describing words) after nouns (things) just like French, e.g. "An lavar koth" = "A saying old"

ORIGINAL POEM BY HAILIE-BROOKE DAVENPORT YR8

Je dis bonjour quand il fait jour
Je dis bonsoir quand il fait noir
Je dis s'il vous plait pour avoir ce qui me plait
Je dis merci quand je suis polie

I say hello when it's day
I say good evening when it's night
I say please to have what I want
I say thank you when I'm polite

ORIGINAL POEM BY JAMIE YR8

A qui est ce tracteur?
Je pense que je sais
Son propriétaire est plutôt content
Plein de joie comme un arc-en-ciel vif

Whose tractor is that?
I think I know
Its owner is quite happy though
Full of joy like a vivid rainbow

This poem relates to me because I work on a dairy farm and I love tractors and anything to do with engines.

ORIGINAL POEM BY JOSHUA WELCH YR8 – JOUER AVEC MON CHIEN

Je m'amuse avec mon chien,
Je l'aime tellement
Il vient vers moi quand j'appelle
Et il adore jouer au ballon.
Quand je l'entends aboyer
Je sais qu'il est temps d'aller
Au parc, je l'aime tellement.

Fun with my dog, I love him so
He comes to me when I call
And he loves to play ball
When I hear him bark
I know it's time to go
To the park
I love him so

ORIGINAL POEM BY ISABELLE ASHWORTH YR8

Les roses sont rouges
Les violettes sont bleues
J'aime le français, et toi?

Le français, c'est bien
C'est très amusant
Pourquoi ne pas essayer
Un jour, tout le monde

Roses are red
Violets are blue
I like French
How about you?

French is good
It is a lot of fun
Why don't you give it a
Try sometime, everyone

This piece is significant to me because it shows how I feel about French and how if you give it a try, you may find it fun which is what I did to have a certain feeling about French.



“IF WE SPOKE
A DIFFERENT
LANGUAGE, WE
WOULD
PERCEIVE A
SOMEWHAT
DIFFERENT
WORLD.”

-LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN

MFL Job Options

In diplomacy, French is an official language of powerful and influential bodies such as:

- the United Nations
- NATO
- the International Olympic Committee
- the Council of Europe
- the European Space Agency
- the World Trade Organization

In non-profit work, French is important as a “lingua franca,” because the French have founded a number of international non-profits, and because of the widespread use of French in Africa, where many aid organizations work.

French is a working language for top NGOs such as:

- the Red Cross
- Amnesty International
- Doctors without Borders

<https://www.degreequery.com/french-degrees/#section-eleven>

JOURNALIST

Journalists communicate their subtle moods as well as profound ideas and their own feelings to the readers by means of the language. Therefore, to understand multiple languages and communicate the appropriate language to various groups of people will lead to more opportunities as a journalist.

The ability to deploy your language skills also shows that you can work on a greater range of projects, which can lead to a higher salary.

Being bilingual or multilingual sets you apart. Language skills are coveted by employers looking to build a competitive business and are sought after when interviewing for the next step in your career.

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Students of the month

Congratulations to the following students who have been nominated by their MFL teachers as outstanding students of the month.

Well done for all your hard work and effort - you have earned a P2!

Yr7 – April Abbey

Yr8 – Bea Fox

Yr9 – Emily Greenland

Yr10 – Lily McCance

Yr 11 – Michael

If you would like take part in the production of the newsletter, then we would welcome your involvement. Speak to MTH to find out more.