

Info-lettre n.1 - Décembre 2023



La gazette de l'EFB

Dear friends and families,

What an eventful first trimester it has been! The children in nursery and reception class have successfully settled into their classes, forming new friendships along the way. Witnessing these positive interactions and newfound learning experiences has been truly heartwarming.

Our efforts have been focused on enhancing our school's marketing tools, including the creation of a film initiated by les Amis and the development of our new website.

Amidst the busy schedule, we made it a priority to reinforce key safeguarding messages with the children, particularly during anti-bullying week.

It was a pleasure to see numerous parents exploring our day release classrooms and engaging in friendly conversations during our coffee morning. The open days for English school headteachers were also well-attended and we had very positive feedback.

Our community spirit thrived during the splendidly organized "Bal des neiges" by les Amis. Both children and parents enjoyed themselves in the festive atmosphere, and Santa's visit brought joy to everyone.

A special thanks to all my colleagues for their dedicated hard work this term again and especially in making this end of year a success with the traditional video of the children's concert.

I wish you all a very nice festive season.

See you in 2024!

Mathilde Monnet, headteacher

Practical information

School holiday dates 2023-24:

16 December 2023 – 1 January 2024

10 February 2024 – 18 February 2024

29 March 2024 – 14 April 2024

25 May 2024 – 2 June 2024

Last day of school 22 July 2024

Bank holidays:

Monday 1 January 2024

Friday 29 March 2024

Monday 6 May 2024

Monday 27 May 2024

Inset day:

Friday 9 February and Tuesday 23 July

Absences:

If your child is unwell or otherwise unable to attend school, please notify the office by emailing enquiries@ecolefrancaisedebristol.org

Late arrivals:

Please notify the school of any late arrivals by emailing

enquiries@ecolefrancaisedebristol.org or phoning us on 0117 969 2410.

La classe de maternelle, Claire, Fanny, Mélina, Sara, Cristina et Barbara

What a busy first term in our “maternelle”!

We did lots of cooking in October for the “semaine du goût”:



We enjoyed making some “chaussons aux pommes”!

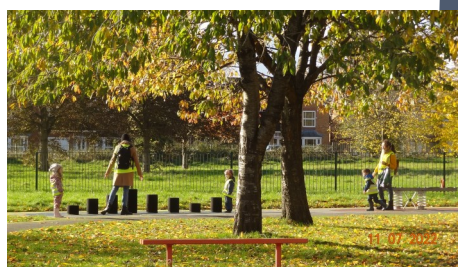
We made lots of different breads with Paul and Jean’s mum, Mathilde.



Reuben’s mum from *Gingerbeard’s preserves* brought some jam, chutneys and other sauces and we tried to recognise the different ingredients.

We really recommend checking their website: <https://gingerbeardspreserves.co.uk/>

We went for a walk in a park near the school in October to observe the signs of autumn and brought back chestnuts and leaves to school!



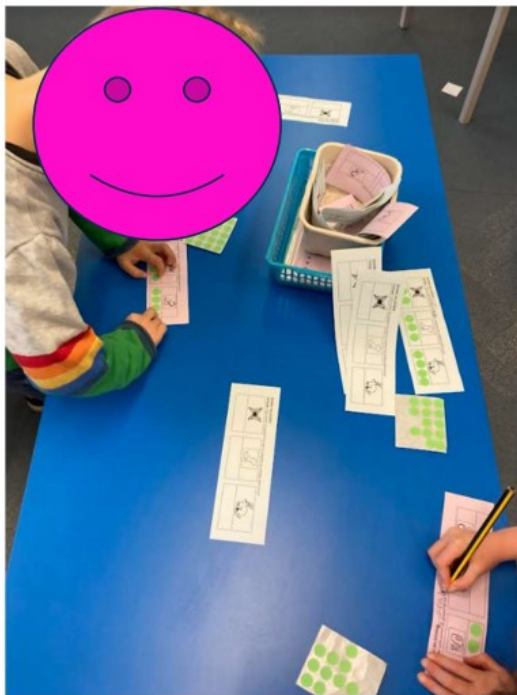
In November, we took part in “anti-bullying week” and talked about being a good friend. We wrote down our ideas on our “arbre des supers copains” (“the great friends tree”).

This week was our “goûter de Noël”! We invited all our parents to come and watch a recording of our Christmas concert, had a lovely “goûter” all together, had a go at some craft activities and even had a visit from a very special guest!



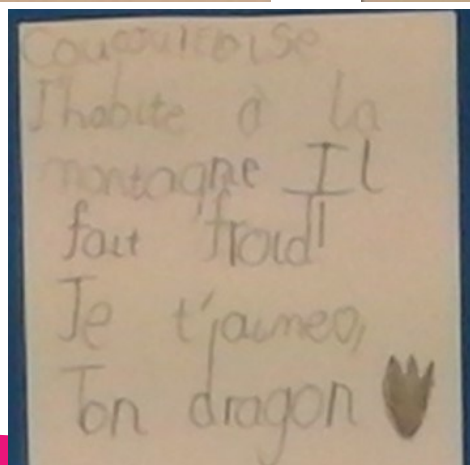
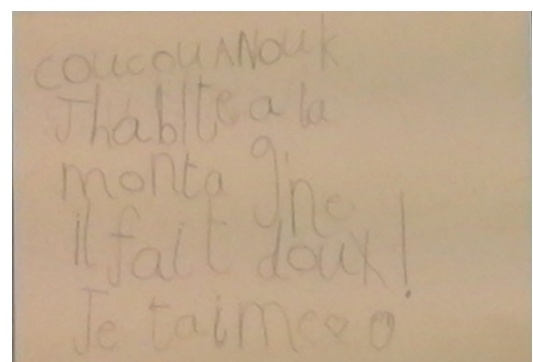
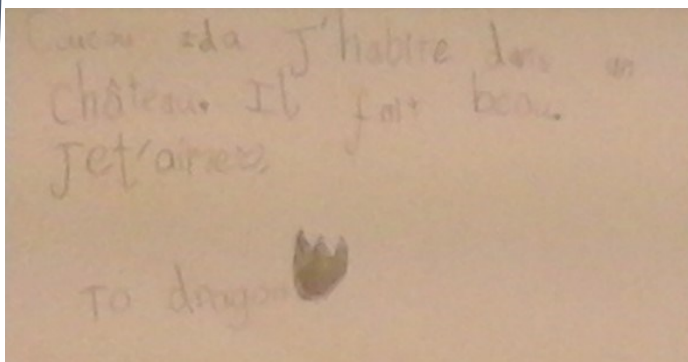
La classe de GS, Tuesday, Sarah and Mélina

During this term, the Grande Section class has been busy working on syllables. They learned to count them, find the starting syllable of a word as well as the final syllable. And all while having fun, of course!



La classe de CP, Wednesday, Sarah and Barbara

This term, the CPs studied several albums including *Cher Dragon* by Emma Yarlett. The children followed the letter exchanges between a little boy and several professionals in order to receive advice on caring for his pet dragon. The CP pupils were able to create their own dragon, draw it and describe it. They also imagined the place where their dragon would go and eventually live and created the postcard it would send them.



La classe de CE1, Tuesday, Manuelle and Cristina

Tasting week in CE1!

This year, for “tasting week” (“la semaine du goût”) , the CE1s went on an excursion to Italy... Thanks to Cristina, our assistant, they learned the secrets of pizza: Where does it come from? How to prepare it? They also met a certain Mona Lisa, the Colosseum, Italian volcanoes.

The CE1 are happy to share their vegetarian pizza recipe with you:

Ingredients :

- 1 pizza dough rolled out
- 1 jar of tomato coulis
- 1 ball of mozzarella
- Vegetables (peppers, tomatoes, mushrooms)
- A few basil leaves
- Olive oil, oregano, salt

Method :

1. Mix the tomato coulis with a little olive oil and oregano, add salt.
2. Spread the sauce on the dough
3. Sprinkle with pieces of mozzarella, peppers, mushrooms, olives. Add a few basil leaves.
4. Cook and enjoy hot.

Mini quiz:

- 1 - Which Italian painter did Francis I of France bring back to France?
- 2 - What drink do Italians have from morning to bedtime?
- 3 - Can you name 2 Italian luxury car brands?
- 4 - What are the names of the 3 Italian volcanoes?



Answers:

- 1 – Leonardo da Vinci; 2 – coffee; 3 – Ferrari, Lamborghini, Maserati; 4 – Vesuvius, Etna, Stromboli

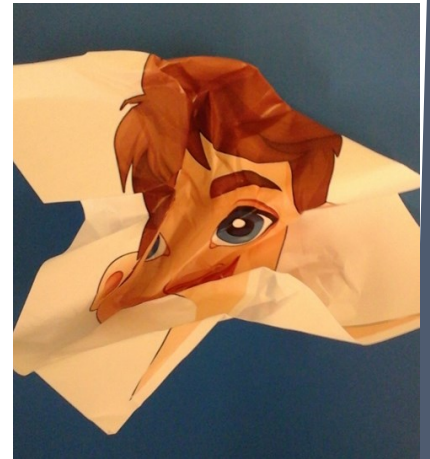
La classe de CE1-CE2, Thursday, Manuelle and Virginie



François against harassment

During anti-bullying week, the CE1/CE2 pupils got to meet François. François is a pupil in an unknown school, where he experienced bullying. Children imagined the unpleasant words he might have heard and what to do to help him feel better.

By crumpling and un-creasing his portrait with each positive or negative remark, the children were able to realise the impact of spoken words. A good opportunity to reflect on the words we use.



La classe de CE2, Wednesday, Manuelle and Cristina

Reading at home competition

This year again, in order to encourage children to read regularly, the CE1 and CE2 pupils received a reader's card. Every day they read in French at home, parents are encouraged

to sign a box on the card. At the end of each completed line, children receive a star and add one on the class chart.

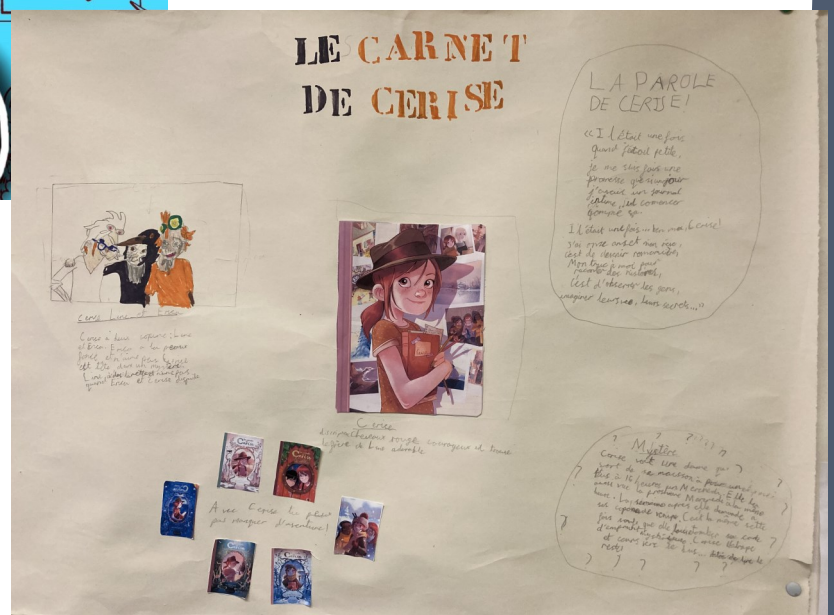
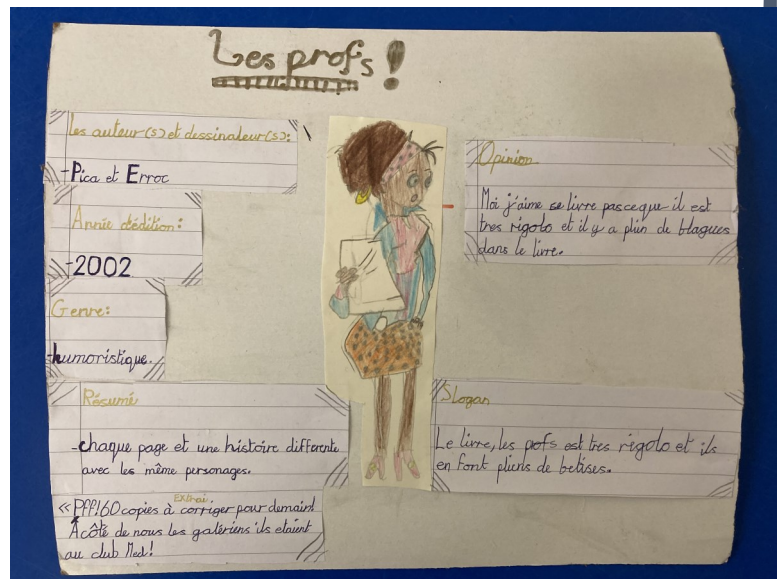
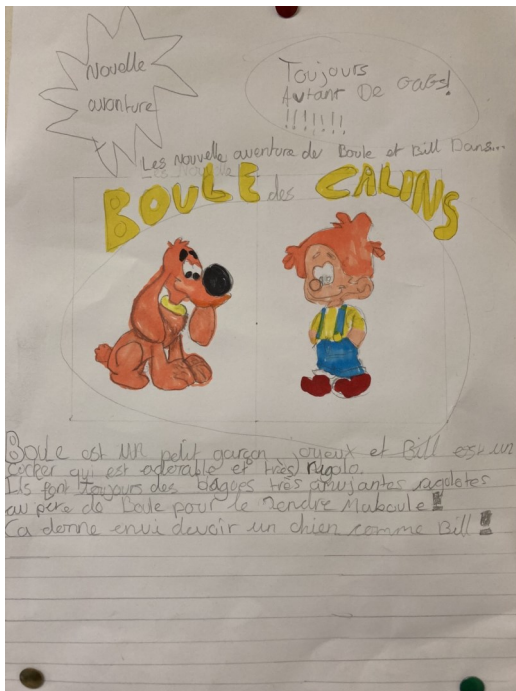
This term, the Wednesday CE2 class particularly stood out: they read more than 110 lines, an average of more than 6 lines per pupil! The class will therefore be rewarded for its perseverance when returning from the Christmas holidays.

Congratulations to the CE2 pupils (and their parents!) for their wonderful achievement in this project!



La classe de CM1, Thursday, Sarah

The CM classes have focused on a specific literary genre: the comic strip!
 Through a series of workshops, they have discovered the genre, its associated vocabulary, the use of various shaped bubbles. But above all, they each had the opportunity to present a comic strip to the rest of the group!



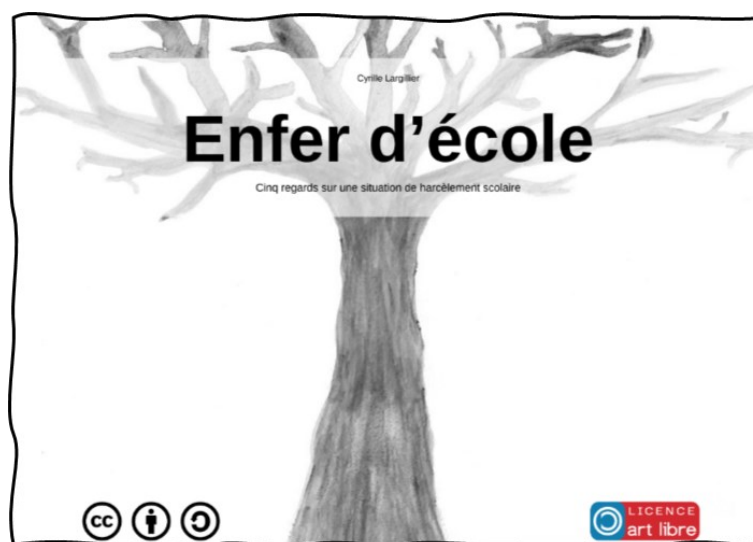
Les classes de CM1/CM2 et CM2, Friday, Sarah and Manuelle with Barbara

Workshops in CM classes

Since the beginning of the school year, the CM1/CM2 and CM2 classes on Fridays have a new organisation in the afternoon. Pupils from the 2 classes are mixed and divided into 4 groups for varied activities in small groups. They participate in 2 workshops per week. The program therefore changes once a fortnight. There is generally a games workshop (in reading or language study) with Barbara, a writing production workshop with Sarah or Manuelle, a literature workshop with Sarah or Manuelle, and an independent workshop with self-correcting exercises. Currently, 2 workshops are working on different aspects of reading aloud: making liaisons and reading expressively. The workshops are always eagerly awaited by children!

“Enfer d’école”

During Anti-bullying week, the 3 CM classes were invited to listen to the story of a bullying situation. The situation was described by the different protagonists: Randa, victim, Madame N'Moga her mother, Madame Senon, the class teacher, Angèle, the the bully and Fatima the bystander. Children were able to discuss each person's feelings, make hypothesis about the outcome of the story but also reflect on how bullying situations work and their own experiences. A very moving afternoon for pupils and adults alike.



Club FLE, Saturday morning, Mathilde, Mélina, Armand and Paulette

During this first term, we learnt to know each other, and we discovered the vocabulary of the school. We also did some activities around Halloween, the Autumn season, and apples. We even made our own "Chaussons Aux Pommes" (apple turn over).

We had fun with the farm animals, and we finished the year learning all about Christmas in France!



Classe GCSE, Saturday morning, Cyprien and Erwan

Well done to all our Saturday morning GCSE students for such a great start this year!

Lessons have included a mix of Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing activities with a special attention given to verbs and grammar. Our teaching assistant, Erwan, is also with us, offering valuable support during lessons.

We are planning to cover all 12 GCSE topics this year to familiarise the students with the content of the course. Topics will then be revisited more in-depth next year.

Students who are thinking of entering for the GCSE soon are receiving more specific guidance in the form of past papers and parent-teacher conversations. Exam top-tips are shared with the class in each lesson.

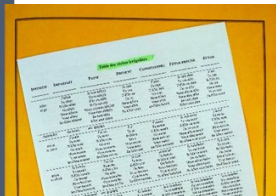
Key highlights so far, include:

- Le magicien (mind-reader): a guess-my-sentence activity on the Unit 1 topic (Family and friends) to practice être and avoir.
- Excellent use of our irregular verb table by the students, who are showing resilience and determination at getting their verb conjugation right.

Magicien / Magicienne

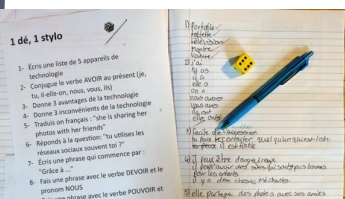
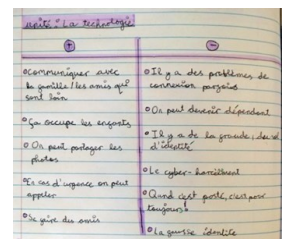
Choisis 4 phrases en secret. Le premier qui devine les 4 phrases de l'autre gagne !

1. Je ___ fils unique et j'___ quinze ans.
2. Il ___ un chien et deux chats. Ils ___ très mignons.
3. Mes frères ___ onze et quatorze ans.
4. Tu ___ une grande famille toi ? Chez moi, nous ___ quatre.
5. Mes parents ___ sympas, mais ma soeur ___ casse-pied.
6. Vous ___ combien dans ta famille ?
7. Nous n'___ pas d'animal à la maison.
8. Il ___ un grand-père qui habite à Londres. Il ___ gentil.



- Great mini-debate on the advantages and disadvantages of technology (Unit 2 topic).

- Fun and exciting game "one pen, one dice", where the aim, in pairs, is to win both for speed AND accuracy!



Bravo à toutes et à tous! It's a real pleasure to be spending Saturday mornings with you.

Cyprien

Classe de FLE, Thursday 16h45, Hortense

This term in our Thursday class, we've explored emotions, crafted personal poems, and are now diving into the enchanting Christmas traditions of France. The children are not only building language skills but also fostering a deeper cultural appreciation.

Les bambins, Monday 10h, Hortense

In Les Bambins, our group for children aged 18 months to 3 years, the first term has been a whirlwind of joy and creativity. From the enchanting world of Hervé Tullet's books to lively parachute games and crafting our own paper cabbages, each session has been a celebration of imagination. We're thrilled to share that we are now at full capacity with 15 wonderful families on board, creating a lively community of the youngest learners at French School!"

LES BAMBINS
A TODDLER GROUP...IN FRENCH !
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AND THEIR PARENTS/CARERS

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from 9:30am
to 10:30am

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PER TERM
3 TERMS PER YEAR

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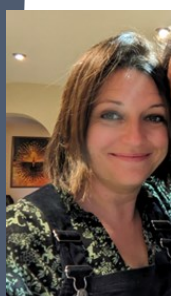
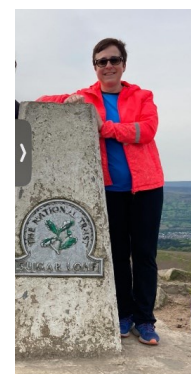
Spotlight on...

We normally learn a little more about a member of our team in each newsletter. We have quite a few new members of staff this year so we thought we'd put the spotlight on all of us so you know who is who!

Hello, I'm Mathilde.

As the headteacher, I've dedicated a decade to our school. My journey began as a cover teacher, progressing to a role in our Day release classes. Assuming the headship following the retirement of my predecessor, I balanced my responsibilities by working part-time as both a nursery teacher and headteacher. This year, I serve as a full-time headteacher, but I am still actively engaged in classroom activities.

Beyond my professional life, I devote my spare moments to my family, to the pursuit of learning to sew and to walking.



Hi, I'm Claire!

I teach in our maternelle Monday to Thursday and I am also the deputy headteacher of our school - you might see me at school on Friday mornings too! I have been a teacher for a long time now, in schools in France and in the UK. This is my 5th year in maternelle although I did work in our day release classes about 15 years ago! When I'm not at school, I like going on walks with my family, discovering new places and singing in my car!

Hi there!

I'm Sarah and I am one of the Day Release teachers. I teach the GS, CP, CM1 and CM1/CM2 classes from Tuesday to Friday. Outside of school, I love spending time with my dog Effie, eat plenty of cheese and listen to live music! I've recently joined a samba drumming band... Who knows, you might see me gigging around Bristol soon ;-)

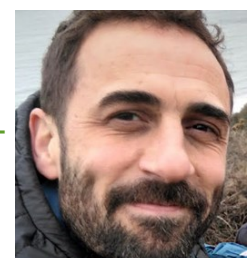
We would like to congratulate Sarah and her husband Ross who got married in November !



Hello! My name is Manuelle. I have been teaching at the French School for four years. This year, I work four days a week: Tuesday in CE1, Wednesday in CE2, Thursday in CE1/CE2 and Friday in CM2. I really like the principle of this school which allows students to enrich their knowledge of the French language while continuing to live the life of an English pupil. I also really like all the interactions we have here, with students who have French in common but who come from different French-speaking countries: Canada, Switzerland, Ivory Coast, Belgium... Outside of school, I enjoy reading, cooking and spending time with my family. I have three grown-up daughters, the eldest lives in France, the second studies in Scotland and the youngest lives with

us.

Hi, my name is Cyprien. I am the Saturday morning GCSE French class teacher. During the week, I teach French at KS3/4/5 in a Bristol secondary school. When I'm not at school, I spend time with my family, I play the piano, I go to roller discos and I enjoy walking or running with our dog.



to



My name is Hortense. I am the administrator of the school. I also lead our lovely toddler group Les Bambins on Mondays and have also been teaching French as a foreign language for 2 years now in the Thursday after-school class. My favourite time at school is when children excitedly knock on the office door to share a slice of their birthday cakes.

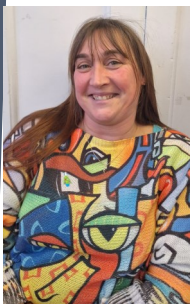
My name is Fanny and I have been working at l'école française for 9 years. I am a teaching assistant in the maternelle.

When I am not working I enjoy travelling, spending time with family and my friends. I also love sports such as skiing, running, hiking....



Hello, my name is Sara and I work in the Maternelle on Fridays teaching English. When I'm not at the Maternelle, I do admin for my own business, run around after my two children and I am also a gymnastics coach. When I have some free time I like to go running or walking in the Mendip hills.

My name is Mélina, I have worked as an assistant at the Ecole Française for 9 years but I have been coming to the school as a mum for the last 15 years! I have 3 children, they are my everything. When I am not at school, I enjoy cooking and baking. I also like jigsaw puzzles. I love visiting charity shops and drinking a beer or a cocktail in good company!



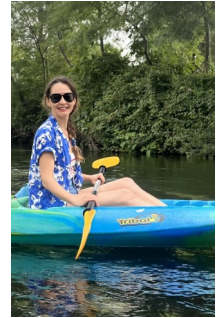
My name is Barbara, I have been working at the Ecole since January 2022. I am a school assistant. I have two children. I used to be an American football referee during my spare time and I have been a pattern maker in sports clothes for 13 years. At the moment I am trying to achieve my red belt in Taekwondo.



Hello! My name is Cristina, I'm Italian and have been living in the UK for 8 years. I love languages and foreign cultures, and I can speak 4 languages, now learning my 5th! :) I work as a teaching assistant in maternelle (mornings) and in CE1/CE2 (afternoons) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. I also work for Bristol City Council with children and young people in care, as a key worker. When I'm not at school I like going swimming and running. I love cooking and preparing meals for my partner and my friends. My favourite hobbies are reading and planning travels abroad!

My name is Virginie. I work on Thursdays at French school as a teacher assistant for the CE1 and the CE2. I have three children aged 18, 11 and 8. I also work as a French nanny with a beautiful family based in Bristol. When I'm not in school, I spend time with my boys supporting them in their sport activities. I enjoy getting out into the open air where I can hear the sound of the rustling trees and the running water.

Bonjour! I'm Naomi Muir and I've been working with Hortense in the Bambins class since October. It's so much fun! I am a French and Spanish teacher, and am working part time at Clifton College. As of January I will be taking over the FLE group on a Thursday and really enjoyed meeting some of them the other week. In my spare time I like knitting, drinking tea and reading but these are usually interrupted by my young children!



I'm Kirstie, I work at the school at lunchtime everyday, with most classes. I enjoy being with the children of the school. I also volunteer at Fonthill School next door! When I'm not at school, I love spending time with my family and going on day trips!



Hi, I'm Armand. I work as an assistant for the Saturday French club class with Mathilde and Méline. I am a former pupil of the school and I am enjoying my second year of helping the little ones to learn some French. I am an A level student and in my spare time I enjoy drawing on my computer and playing the guitar.

Hi! My name is Erwan Flageul, I am in year 13 at QEH. I joined the Ecole Française de Bristol last October as an assistant for the GCSE class on Saturday mornings. I am French, I arrived in the UK 8 years ago after having spent 8 years in Congo. When I'm not at school, I play football for Cribbs FC. I'm really happy to have joined the team!

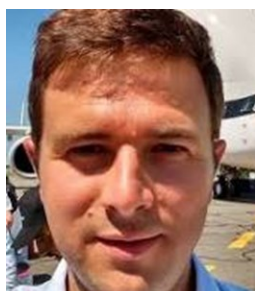
Directors, Ecole Française de Bristol 2023-2024



Nicolas Hatton, chairperson



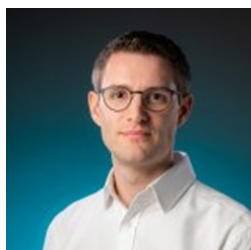
Serge Cren



Etienne Ardon



Amber Strechman



Chris Vagg

Les Amis is the PTA (Parent Teacher Association) of L'Ecole Française.

Our aim is to organize fun events for the children and their families and nurture the lovely community we have, thanks to the school, while raising funds to continually improve the resources available for the children.

Thanks for your support and generous contribution to the events organized this year!

We have already raised over £1340! Thank you so much to everyone who's got involved so far.



These funds will pay for magazine subscriptions for the school and playground improvements! We are planning many more activities next year so look out for news on the Classlist channel "PTA/Les amis de l'EFB".



How to get in touch?

Our Classlist channel

By email amisEFB@outlook.com

Via your class representative (each class has a WhatsApp group administered by your rep)

You can also raise FREE donations all year long by using Easyfundraising every time you shop online (over 7,000 brands, including M&S, eBay, John Lewis, Argos, ASOS, Expedia, Just Eat ...).

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ecolefrancaisedebristol/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=email-2

Merci et belles fêtes à tous !



Alliance Française
Bristol

Are you interested in learning French? Look no further! Alliance Française de Bristol offers French lessons for all levels, whether you're a beginner or proficient speaker. Our classes are conveniently located all around Bristol, making it easy for you to find a location that suits you. We also have online lessons if you prefer.

At Alliance Française de Bristol, we prioritize practical language skills, with a strong focus on speaking. Our experienced teachers will guide you through interactive lessons, helping you gain confidence in your French communication abilities.

But that's not all! We also organize exciting events where you can immerse yourself in French culture and practice your language skills in a fun and engaging environment.

Enrolment for our French lessons begins in early January, so don't miss out on this opportunity to embark on a language learning journey with Alliance Française de Bristol. Sign up now and unlock the doors to a whole new world of language and culture!



Alliance Française

Audrey Johnson

Alliance Française de Bristol

www.afbristol.org.uk

Podcasts, ressources

Sites with podcast recommendations:

<https://www.radiofrance.fr/podcasts/enfants>

<https://www.familiscope.fr/activites-enfant/decouvrir-le-monde/les-meilleurs-podcasts-pour-enfants-et-ados-6889>

<https://teteamodeler.ouest-france.fr/Savoir/Podcast-enfant/les-meilleurs-podcasts-pour-les-enfants>

<https://www.telerama.fr/podcast-pour-enfants/>

To receive a message from *Le Père Noël* :

<https://www.portablenorthpole.com/fr/video-pere-no->

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Liens utiles:



Français à Bristol

<https://www.facebook.com/francais.abristol/>

Les Petits Zouzous

<https://www.petitszouzous.com> (classes for children aged 0 to 5—free tester session)





More photos of
Le bal des neiges,

