

“A language is not just words. It’s a culture, a tradition, a unification of a community, a whole history that creates what a community is. It’s all embodied in a language.”
Noam Chomsky.

Intent

Leavening Community Primary School recognises that the learning of a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for the pupils. To enable our children to celebrate and welcome differences in our world it is vital that we foster their curiosities and encourage them to have an understanding of different languages and countries. At Leavening, we intend to embed language learning into our curriculum across all phases and inspire a love of language as part of their lifelong journey of learning. We also fully adhere to the aims of the national curriculum for modern foreign languages to ensure that all children:

- Develop an interest in learning languages, introducing young children to another language in a stimulating and enjoyable way.
- To trigger and encourage children’s curiosity about language.
- To help children to develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries.
- To develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in the language they have studied.
- To lay the foundation for future language learning.

What Modern Foreign Languages looks like at Leavening

Implementation

Our chosen language is French. French is widely spoken on all five continents. Mrs Stockill leads the teaching of French in school. Children have weekly lessons in French in Reception, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. Nursery children also experience the language with keywords taught each half term. In the Early Years and Keystage 1 settings, activities include learning through songs and games. At Keystage 2, children build on this knowledge developing their skills and

understanding. We follow the North Yorkshire Scheme of work that is adapted to meet the needs of our own children. We teach lessons so that children:

- Develop not only their language skills but also their love of language learning.
- Progressively acquire, use and apply a growing bank of vocabulary and an understanding of French grammar organised around topics.
- Have the opportunity to develop their confidence and creative skills through learning a language and the cross-curricular opportunities this offers.
- develop their language talents through a vibrant curriculum, nurturing speaking and listening skills through conversational work, singing activities and games whilst also building their reading and writing abilities through stories, pictures, captions, posters and letters.
- Understand a different culture and help them to develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries to our own.
- Work in an environment that supports and embeds their learning with French signs and displays around the school.
- Develop skills that contribute to learning across the curriculum.
- Are given extra opportunities to enhance their learning of French including a bi-annual French café event.

How we entwine French with our Leavening school values underpinning our purpose of 'Together We Can'

Care, share and belong

Children learn to explore a different language and respect different cultures understanding that 'Everyone Belongs' no matter who they are. They grasp that we should be considerate of those in our community and beyond with a realisation that there is a strength in sharing different approaches. They value the diversity of society and celebrate those differences.

Look and learn beyond the classroom

The experience of learning a foreign language takes our children beyond the familiar environment of the classroom, allowing them to explore the life-style, and cultures of a different nation alongside developing their abilities to view language as an adventure and not a barrier.

Aim high so everyone can shine

Through the nurturing of a belief in their own ability to learn new things and an understanding that effort leads to success, the children discover that learning French is interesting, rewarding and fun. Children are encouraged to develop a 'have-a-go' attitude and flourish as they realise their own individual talents.

Learn with passion

Our children ooze enthusiasm for languages, they are always keen to participate, never afraid to fail due to the conducive atmosphere created in lessons. They feel comfortable to tackle all aspects of learning a language inspired by each other to achieve.

Vouloir, c'est pouvoir!

How we know our French curriculum is successful

Impact

Learning a language raises an awareness of the multilingual and multicultural world and introduces an international dimension to pupils' learning giving them an insight into their own cultures and those of others. As the children at Leavening begin to understand and appreciate different cultures, people and communities, they too begin to think of themselves as citizens of the world as well as the United Kingdom.

Learning a language supports oracy and literacy. In French lessons, we spend a lot of time speaking, listening and interacting. Children take part in role-plays, conversations and question-and-answer work, singing songs and reciting chants. At Leavening, children feel confident to contribute and participate in many activities requiring these skills.

Language learning leads to improvements across the curriculum as children approach a broad range of learning activities in a new and challenging context. This can lead to deep learning and considerable progress as they reprocess existing knowledge. At Leavening, the children study French from the start of their journey here, not only building on their knowledge of the language yet also recycling skills developed in other curriculum areas.

Above all, the impact of learning French at Leavening CP school shines through in the children's desire to engage in French lessons with a pure 'joie de vivre'! Ultimately, we hope that the children will have secured a lifelong love of learning a language.