

Tête, Épaules, Genoux, Pieds...

This lovely project involved children in Butterflies and Bees and the younger children in our link school, École Primaire François Albert, in Adriers.

The purpose was three-fold. We wanted the children to **develop their sense of place** by linking in real time with France. We gave them opportunities to ask questions, to greet each other in a new language and to see first-hand a school in another country, with children just like them!

Our second aim centred around the use of **music and rhymes as a way of learning a new language**. The schools taught each other songs and we practised through the week. It was exciting to see the children's enthusiasm and their confidence in exploring a new language. Both classes were quick to join as soon as they'd heard the songs!

Finally, we wanted our youngest children to **share their learning on recycling**, and to give them a sense that this is a global issue, which children all over the world are thinking about.

"It is astonishing how much enjoyment one can get out of a language that one understands imperfectly." — Basil Lanneau Gildersleeve





We found the school
on Google Earth.



We were excited to show the children in France our bikes and scooters and our mud kitchen. 😊



We showed photos of
our enormous sand pit!
😊



The children in France gave us a virtual tour of their school.

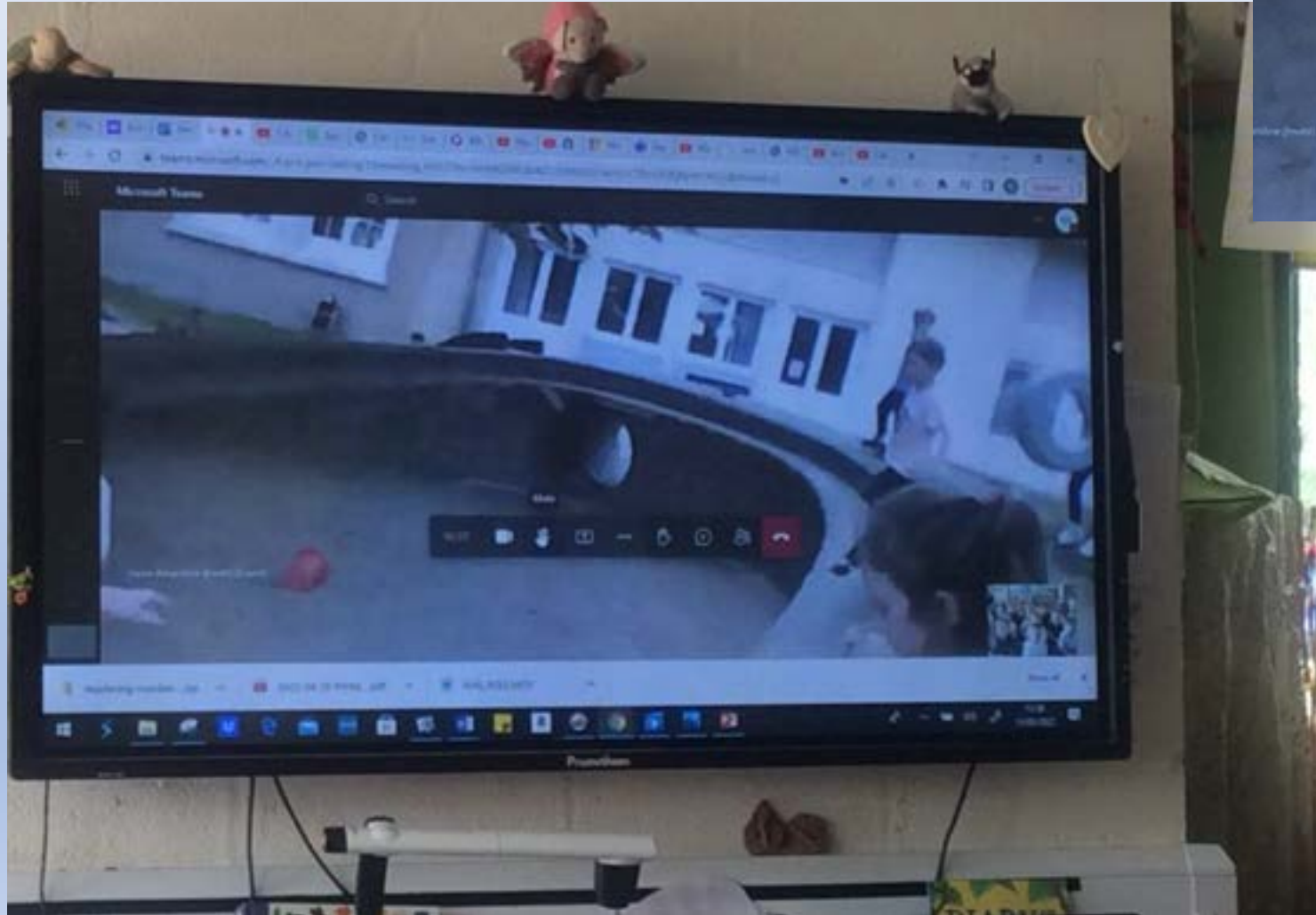
First we saw their classrooms!



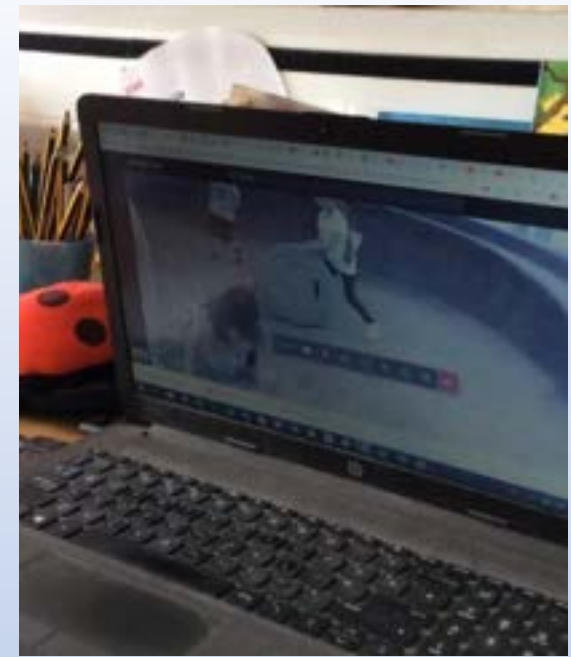
Next we saw
the
chickens!



Then we saw
their
beautiful
playground.
The school is
next to
farmland in
Adriers,
France.



They also have an enormous sand pit just like we do...



... and bikes just like ours!



CBeebies Heads Shoulders Knees and Toes

We taught them the song, Head, Shoulders
Knees and Toes in English.





The children in
France taught it
to us **in French!**
We have been
practising since
they taught it to
us!



Côte, épaules, genoux et pieds.
Genoux et pieds.
Côte, épaules, genoux et pieds.
Genoux et pieds.

J'ai deux yeux, deux oreilles,
Une bouche et un nez.
Côte, épaules, genoux et pieds.

Here is Norah, helping us to remember the words! She says “That’s kind of cool!”

tête

épaules

Tête, épaules, genoux et pieds, g'noux et pieds.

Tête, épaules, genoux et pieds, g'noux et pieds.

J'ai un nez, une bouche,

Deux yeux et deux oreilles.

Tête, épaules, genoux et pieds, g'noux et pieds.

genoux

et pieds

J'ai un nez

une bouche

deux yeux

et deux oreilles



tourne tourne petit moulin



The French children taught us another song called
"Tourne, Tourne Petit Moulin."












Here we are, very excited and joining in with the French song!



Les comptines de Maîtresse Sonia




« Ma tête »

- Deux yeux 
(pointer chaque œil avec chaque index)
- Un nez 
(tirer sur son nez)
- Une bouche 
(faire le tour de sa bouche avec son index)
- Deux oreilles 
(tirer sur ses deux oreilles en même temps)
- Deux joues 
(enfoncer son index dans chaque joue)
- Une tête 
(faire le tour de sa tête avec son index)
- Et beaucoup de cheveux dessus !
(ébouriffer ses cheveux avec ses deux mains)
- 



[Ma tête](#)

The children in France taught us a French action rhyme called “Ma tête” which means “My head” in French. Amandine sent us a copy of the rhyme and a link to a French teacher called Maîtresse Sonia. It meant we could practise it!



“Deux yeux!”



“Un nez!”

We practised the
action rhyme that
the French
children taught
us!



“Une bouche!”



Deux oreilles!



“Deux joues!”

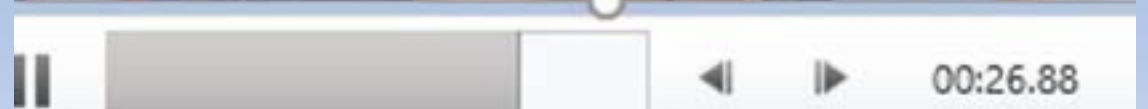


“Une tête!”



“Et Beaucoup de cheveux dessus!”

We made a video of us speaking French which was shared with Year 1 so they could learn this funny action rhyme too!



Our thoughts about linking up with France!

I liked seeing their school and I liked them singing! They sang Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes! I can say bongiorno in Italian! Norah

I liked seeing their school. They had bikes and scooters. They sang Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes! I can say "bonjour!" Skye

I liked the tunnel in the sandpit! They sang Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes in English and in French! It was really good! Archie

They had scooters and bikes. It was really nice at the end, they had a funny part when they rubbed their hair! Arriix

I liked the tunnel in the sandpit and they could go through. It was a hole! I liked the songs, when they sang it in French. It made me happy! It's a bit strange because you don't know what they're saying. I want to know more songs in a different language, and another song in French. Grace

They had bikes and they had chickens. I liked it when they sang in French. It made me happy. Oscar



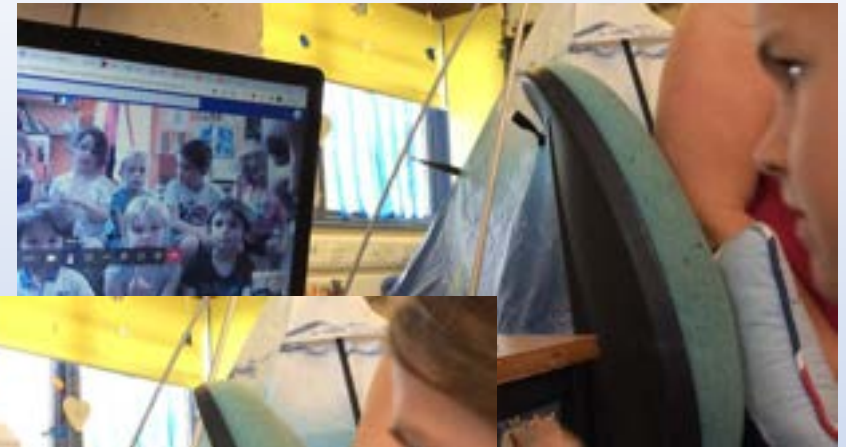


We wanted to show the children in France our work on saving the planet. We also wanted to find out if they also think about this important topic at school...





On our last call we
all said the rhyme
“ma tête”
together.



We asked the children in France about their recycling.
They have different bins for paper, metal and general
rubbish.

We asked what happens to all the food waste and
Amandine told us that they give it to the chickens!

What the adults thought.....

“The children were so excited to see the children from France via video link. They enjoyed introducing themselves and seeing the children in their classroom. They were particularly interested in comparing outdoor provision. After the first link our children were eager to learn the song the children from France sang to them. They particularly enjoyed having a go at French words and phrases and were highly motivated to learn more.”

Mrs Ellis, Teacher in Butterflies

“It was lovely to see how excited my daughter was about her video calls with France. She was keen to tell me some of the French words she has learnt.” Mrs G

**“See you in September or October!
It was a pleasure to link with you and your class.”
Amandine, Teacher in France**

“The children in Butterflies and Bees responded with such enthusiasm to our activity with France. Seeing first hand and in real time a class from another country brings such a depth to their understanding of far places. The children often stopped me in the corridors asking when our next video link was going to be! Children of this age always join in with language learning in a fearless and joyful way. I loved the way they adopted an impressive French accent when trying the rhymes and songs! Learning French in this way has been a really natural way to absorb a new language.”

Mrs Herrin, Year 1 teacher and International Co-ordinator

We have loved our link with *École Primaire François* and we look forward to linking up again next year!