



Sections Internationales de Sèvres

PRIME NEWS

DECEMBER 2015

FROM THE INTEGRATED AND WEDNESDAY PRIMARY SECTION

Editorial

by Catherine Potter-Jadas
Head of Primary

This school year has begun more serenely than last. The changes last year of Heads of schools, inspectors and staff, made for a busy beginning; this year has been positively straightforward! Claire Dray has taken on her role as head with such competence that it is hard to believe that she only joined us in the summer and we look forward to a long and enduring collaboration with her at the helm. We are also delighted to be working with John Parker, who joined us this year and teaches in both the Integrated and the Wednesday Section. He too has quickly found his feet and I would particularly like to take the opportunity to thank him for so effortlessly taking on the publication of this magazine. On the Wednesday

team, there have been a number of moves back to England or retirements and we are pleased to have Ellie Sellé, Joanna L'Honore and Jenny Bateman-Irish join the team. They bring with them fresh ideas and abundant enthusiasm. This year we are fuller than ever in the Integrated Section and have nearly reached our maximum capacity. The larger number of children at each level has enabled us to split SIS classes between two French classes. Whilst it is imperative for our children to be with others that are 'different,' it is also our intension that the children are fully integrated and are able to assume completely their bilingualism. The split between two classes has borne its fruits and we

are pleased to observe the children navigating comfortably between the two cultures. Moreover, the dynamics of the English class have been boosted. The fact that they are working with children other than those they work with in French is refreshing for them and makes the swop from speaking French to English easier. As for the contents of the lessons, although there was much public talk about the changing the curriculum, there have been no major changes as yet, so your children will continue bringing home their prehistoric tools, recounts of the storming of the Bastille and you will still need to help them learn off by heart all the French departments – we thank you in advance for all your support and efforts!

A Word from Mr Tidmarsh...

Four new teachers have joined us in the Wednesday School: Joanna L'Honoré and John Parker (John replaces Laurie Johnston who had to leave unexpectedly at Toussaint) teaching P5, Jenny Batemen-Irish in P4 and Ellie Sellé in P3. We are thrilled to have them on board.

The major focus in class this year is on developing children's creative writing. Teachers have begun to use the 'Writing Workshop' style of teaching (developed at Teacher's College at Columbia University in New York). We're hoping to see growing creativity, more personalised learning and rising standards of children's writing. Don't be surprised if the way your child's writing is assessed changes – it's part of the process of developing creative, confident writers who enjoy putting pen to paper.

Finally, I'd like to express my deep gratitude to all volunteers and staff who made the Christmas party (both afternoon and evening events) such a success. Read more about that on page 20.

MEET THE NEW TEACHERS...

JOHN PARKER

Background:

I'm a primary school teacher, originally from Birmingham in the UK. I moved to Paris in August 2012. I have been teaching for four years.

What I like about SIS:

The team are fantastic – really helpful and supportive – and clearly love teaching. The children are wonderful and their parents aren't too bad either!

Teaching style:

I'm quite traditional in terms of teaching rudimentary skills, but I also like to incorporate lots of

opportunities for self-expression, through drama, music, art and dance.

Hobbies:

I love running and playing sports, especially football. I spend a lot of my time playing instruments, singing and writing songs. I also love reading and learning.

Classes:

I teach P2 at Boulogne and Sèvres, P5 at Sèvres, and P5 in the Wednesday programme.



JENNY BATEMAN-IRISH

Background:

I was born in Norfolk in England. I have experience working in publishing and I now coach writing for children and adults in schools and creative agencies in Paris.

What I like about SIS:

I love the positive community feel. My son is in P2 and I can't think of a better way to give him a sense of what it's like to be at school in the UK.

Teaching style:

I put a strong emphasis on confidence

building, creativity and 'thinking outside of the box'. I like to mix and match traditional and inquiry-based learning techniques.

Hobbies:

Travelling to far and distant lands...sometimes in real life, but mainly by reading translated fiction and listening to podcasts.

Classes:

I teach P4 in the Wednesday programme.



ELLIE SELLE

Background:

I'm originally from Reno, Nevada and have been living in France for four years.

What I like about SIS:

I love the enthusiasm and energy the teachers and directors bring to the job. I also love my students' eagerness to learn this year. It makes teaching feel like such a privilege!

Teaching style:

As much as possible, I try to get

the children interacting, sharing, and actively taking part in each lesson.

Hobbies:

As the mother of a 16 month old, my hobbies have shifted somewhat from snowboarding and ultimate Frisbee to babygym and toddler play groups!

Classes:

I teach P3 in the Wednesday programme.



JOANNA L'HONORE

Background:

I am American and have been in France for 20 years. Despite a classic teaching degree and Montessori training, I am always open to new approaches.

What I like about SIS:

I have the privilege to experience SIS both as a parent and a teacher. I find the team always so supportive and positive. The experience, knowledge, and creativity of the team are very enriching and inspiring.

Teaching style:

Given my Montessori background, I

try to incorporate as many active hands-on activities as possible to make learning a fun and positive experience.

Hobbies:

I love reading... what a surprise. I enjoy cooking both sweet and savoury dishes. I also enjoy running, playing drums, and gardening when I have time.

Classes:

I teach P5 in the Wednesday programme.



WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

In Integrated, Boulogne...

P2IB and Mr Parker have been kicking off their morning lessons with a little bit of dancing, to get those neurons firing.



Above: The class trying out a new move: flying. Poetry in motion!

Left: Alice and Charles performing the robot in perfect synchronisation.



As a part of the P3 Integrated topic-history sessions on the unit: the divisions of the year, P3IB are learning about the seasons. Here they are enjoying colouring their season wheel to learn which months make up each season.



P4IB have been getting to grips with timelines and learning about BC and AD...





What are the qualities of a good king? That's what P5IB have discussed and decided upon in group work. After learning about Charlemagne's reign they'll each decide if he was a good king or not. They'll be able to express their ideas by writing an opinion paper.

P6IB have been learning about refugees. Many chose to write stories where children are fleeing difficulties. We have been developing understanding and compassion for people who arrive in new places and the stories that they bring with them. They understand that refugees are more than faceless statistics.



In Integrated, Sèvres...

P2IS have been learning about day and night. Here they are producing some artwork showing some of the differences between them.



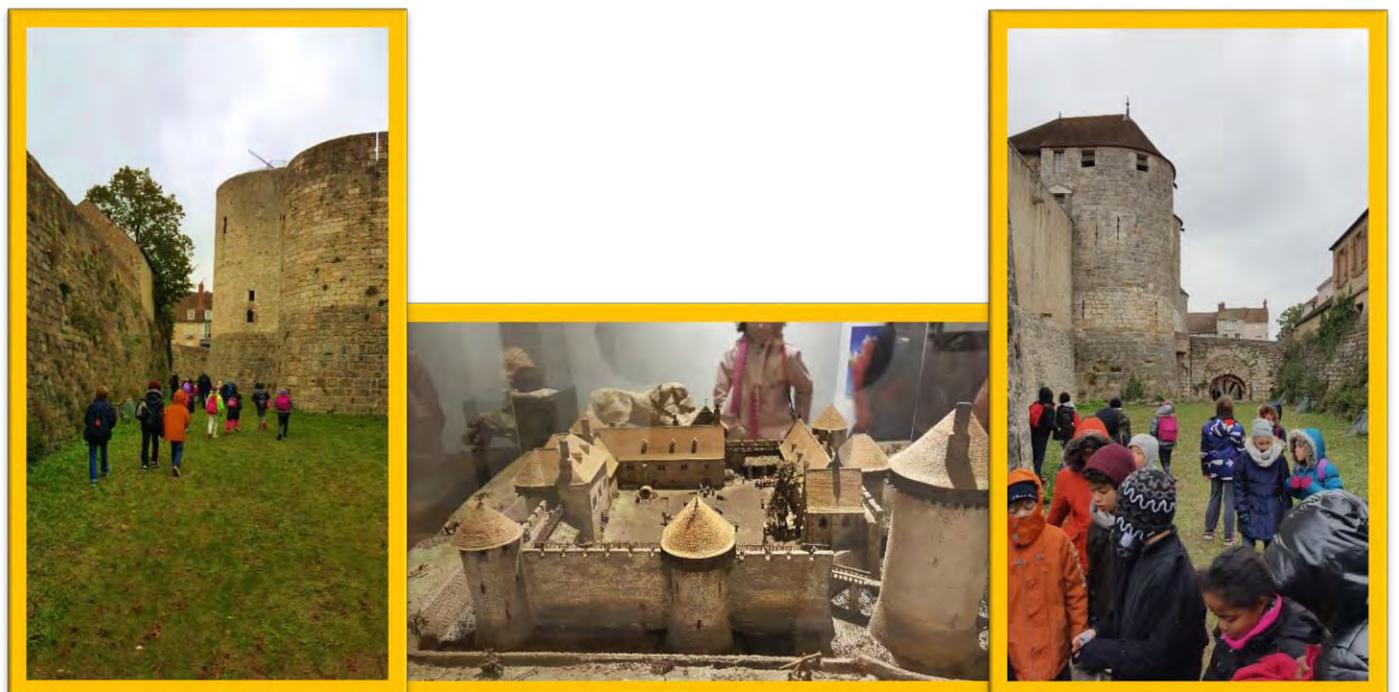
The P3 Integrated classes are learning about the divisions of the year as part of their topic-history sessions. After collecting information, planning and rewriting, P3IS continued to work like true authors using their literacy skills to create their books about 'their week'.



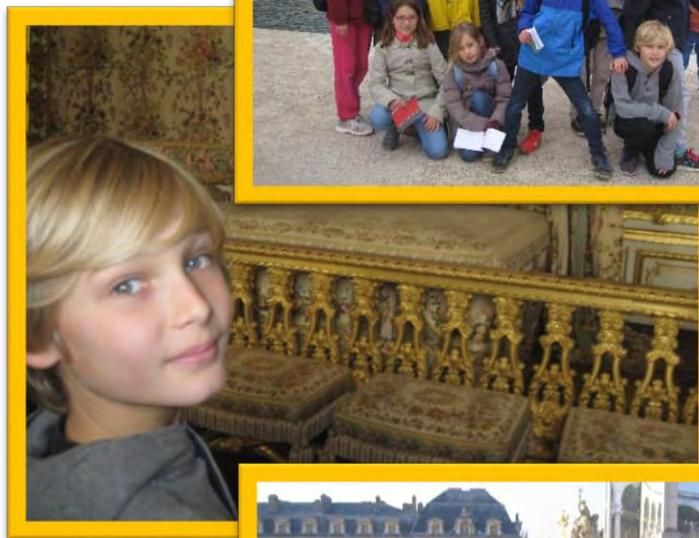
P4IS have been astounding each other with topic talks on subjects of their own choice. Here, Lucie Landel let us into her alter-ego as a mad scientist, showing how to make small explosions using only things you find in the average kitchen. Lucie said, "I'm not the kind of mad scientist who wants to take over the world, I just like blowing stuff up." Needless to say, she scored very highly in the peer-to-peer rating at the end of her talk.



P5IS had a great – though admittedly freezing – trip to Dourdan Castle. We learned about the history of the castle, its fortifications and some of the historic figures who resided there or visited... Thanks to Greg Cordano (Maya's dad) for his contribution on the day.



P6IS had great weather for their trip to Versailles. The outing began with a rally round the gardens accompanied by period music. After a quick picnic, we then visited the palace with a guide who furthered our knowledge of this magnificent building.



In the clubs...

Games Club with Mrs Montrella – playing games before lunch: a good way to start the afternoon!



Singing Club with Mr Parker – wonderful voices joining together in renditions of favourites old and new.



At Wednesday School...

P1WB have been talking about peace.



P1WE have been investigating the way the letters of the alphabet relate to different sounds. Using whiteboards, pupils were asked to write one of the sounds they had learnt in class and illustrate the sound with a specific picture from one of the stories they had heard to accompany it. As you can see from the photos, the children came up with some good examples of the letter 's' as in snake, 'a' as in ant and 't' as in tennis racket!



P2WM were talking about alphabetical order and the kids worked together to get themselves in alphabetical order using their first names.



As part of P2's Fruit & Veg Aprons Project this term, each child in P2WS has drawn a vegetable or fruit to have printed onto an apron in one month's time. They are all very serious indeed – applying themselves throughout the whole task.



P2WT have been making aprons.
Here they are preparing their 'fruity' motifs.



P3WP have been answering the question 'How am I different?' and here is what they came up with: I am different because...

- I speak Korean and I play piano;
- I like winter;
- I like school;
- My family is English and French;
- I wanted to be a... god;
- I come from New Zealand;
- I play drums and I'm American;
- I'm from New York and I like writing;
- I have glasses and I play hockey;
- I hate French School;
- I play saxophone, I love pop tarts;
- I was born in France, started school in New York, and moved to New Jersey.



P3WF have been getting to grips with dictionaries.



P3WS have been learning about punctuation. Here they are doing some 'air punctuation'.



Can you guess which sign means full stop, question mark or exclamation mark?

P4WB students have been looking at language use in chocolate advertising.



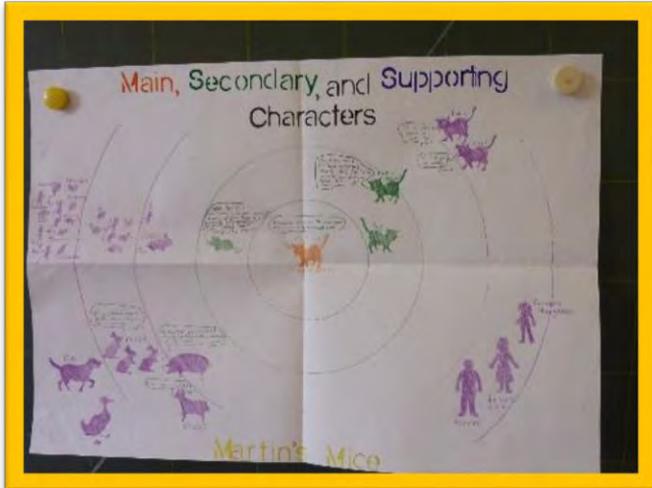
P4WK made 'All About Me' posters and told their classmates all about themselves.



P5WJ have been reading *The Firework Maker's Daughter* by Philip Pullman. Here they are acting out their favourite scenes from this wonderful book.



In P5WL, one of the favourite activities is the relay game. We have played 'Quotation Relay' and 'Noun Relay' but, as the year progresses, many other skills will be included in our game.



We are also exploring, identifying and analysing characters while reading Martin's Mice. The children are working on creating their own character maps and, by the end of the holidays, the blackboard will be decorated with fabulous, creative and clear maps including most of the characters.



Until Christmas, the children will be using their research and public-speaking skills to present topics of their choice such as rugby, India and owls.



P5WM acting out a scene from the BFG.



The 'outlaws' of P6WA taking their vocabulary competition very seriously!



P6WD share their Wow Words.



A literature circle activity in P6WM, working on *Journey to the River Sea*.



Library for Wednesday school is up and running.



SIS COFFEE AND PLAY

The English play and coffee group for SIS parents and their young children on a Wednesday afternoon is off to a great start. In the Gambetta A library, every two weeks from 13:50-16:30, parents, nannies and their pre-school children are coming together to do crafts, sing, read stories, drink coffee (or tea!) and play, all whilst speaking English of course.

The group is organized and led by SIS parents. **How to get involved?** Write to Nicole Rowan at nicolerowan@gmail.com or come along on the 16th December. (Children must be accompanied by an adult)



LOVE IN A BOX

As a response to all the debates going on concerning the refugee situation, we decided to discuss the issues facing people who are forced to flee their countries in class. A concrete extension of the work done in class was the possibility to participate in the charitable action Love in a Box. The children were delighted to be able to offer a present to other children who might otherwise not receive a gift this Christmas. A big thank you to everyone who participated.



LOVE
IN A

BOX



CHRISTMAS PARTY 2015

At this year's Christmas party we were fortunate enough to have the Blunderbus theatre company come from the UK to perform their version of The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark, with an evening show opened up to the public. Our deepest thanks go to the volunteers and staff who made both events such a success.



AN ARTY AFTERNOON

Several lucky children at Integrated Boulogne recently took part in an art workshop led by Australian artist and author, Leigh Hobbs. Leigh showed the children how to draw a few of his characters, whilst still encouraging individual expression.

