

## What does MFL look like at Vicarage Primary School?

The Modern Foreign Language taught at Vicarage is Spanish, as it is one of the most spoken languages in the world. So that substantial progress is made, children are taught from year 3 to year 6. This enables them to develop and build on skills each year and a secure foundation and an understanding of language learning is given, in preparation for further modern language learning at Secondary School.

Vicarage uses The Catherine Cheater Schemes of work, which were specifically written for language learners in primary schools. They are fun, innovative schemes which progressively develop children's language learning skills and reinforce their literacy. The schemes are both entertaining and challenging, comprising of interactive presentations with images and maps, native speaker voice recordings, songs, games, website resources and an array of story books.

Learning Spanish supports and reinforces the key Literacy skills, reading and writing. The main focus being on practical communication, both spoken and written. Pupils are taught to understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of sources. They also learn to speak with increasing confidence and fluency, continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation. As their language develops the children write for different purposes and audiences, using the range of grammatical structures they have learnt. They also discover and develop an appreciation of writing through a variety of reading resources.

As well as developing verbal communication skills, in learning Spanish, all language structures, grammar rules, phonetics and the origins of language are promoted, questioned and enjoyed by the pupils.

## What do the children enjoy about MFL at Vicarage Primary School?

'I love learning languages because it allows me to find out more about other cultures and meet new people.'

'If I learn languages, I can communicate with other people and I can travel the world!'

'Learning a language is important because it can help you get a good job in the future, which is exciting.'

## Modern Foreign Languages at Vicarage School

### *Examples of learning and enrichment activities at Vicarage Primary School.*

The curriculum is tailored to our pupils and links are made between the languages some pupils already know and their different cultural backgrounds. This not only encourages pupils to share and celebrate their cultures and language skills, but it provides them with a sense of pride, achievement and motivation for future language learning.

Learning Spanish promotes many opportunities for cross curricular learning. Strong links are made with Geography, History, Music, Drama, RE and Art.

Pupils learn where Spain and its key cities are geographically, as well as the other countries around the world where Spanish is spoken. They also learn about the different climates, traditions, religions and celebrations there.

The history of Spain is touched upon and the children read about some of the key periods in Spanish history, such as the early Iberian people, the Moors and the Spanish Civil War.

Pupils thoroughly enjoy learning to sing Spanish songs and this progresses to listening to traditional Spanish flamenco and classical guitar music.

To reinforce learning in Art, works of art by famous Spanish artists such as Joan Miro, Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dali are explored and appreciated.

## Reasons for learning a MFL

Language learning provides an opening to other cultures. It fosters pupils' curiosity, deepens their understanding of the world and provides them with an introduction to the essential knowledge they need to be educated citizens. In learning about different cultures, children learn to appreciate the similarities and differences between races, religions, values, traditions and beliefs and they develop an understanding, respect and tolerance for other countries and people and for diversity itself.

Language learning inspires an interest and fascination about the world and instils a desire in pupils to explore and discover the world for themselves.

International studies have shown that language learning enhances pupil's mental development, by increasing critical thinking skills, creativity and flexibility of mind. Pupils who learn a foreign language do better in maths tests than those that don't.

Learning a language when young may lay the foundations for a fantastic career in the future. Businesses want to employ people with knowledge of other languages and cultures. Fundamentally, pupils need language skills in order to compete effectively in a global economy and to contribute as global citizens.

### **We measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:**

- ✓ **Pupil conferencing** – Are children happy, engaged, motivated to do well, challenged? Do they know more? Can they remember more?
- ✓ **Assessment** – Exit quiz and evaluations completed at the end of each topic to assess pupil's understanding, knowledge and skills. The information from assessments will be used to inform leaders of school improvements or skills that need to be further enhanced.
- ✓ **Book Looks** – Are all children making at least sufficient progress from their various starting points? Images and videos of pupil's practical learning.
- ✓ **Lesson Visits** – Quality of teaching and learning is good to outstanding
- ✓ **Subject portfolio** – Can you see progression of skills and knowledge across the school? Is the curriculum ambitious and goes beyond the National Curriculum?