###### **Idées d’activités pour la classe**

Maison Claire Fontaine is in Meluzien, close to the town of Avallon in the Yonne which is part of the beautiful French region of Burgundy or Bourgogne as it is known in France. Burgundy, which is one of the twenty-two regions in mainland France, covers 12,000 square miles and is larger than the entire country of Belgium, although sparsely populated with just 1,630,00 inhabitants. The area is full of history and beautiful landscapes as well as famed for its food and wine.

As part of your preparation for your trip, see what you can find out about this area of France. Present your findings in an information sheet, not more than 2 sheets of A4, designed for pupils of your own age. Try to include interesting pictures and as many French phrases as you can.

***Some suggested topics are listed below :***

Burgundy is famous for it’s food and wine. See what you can find out about Burgundian gastronomy.

Avallon is the nearest town to Maison Claire Fontaine and is steeped in history. What can you find out about Avallon and the Avallonais region ?

Vezelay is a beautiful town on top of a hill very close to Maison Claire Fontaine. It is a centre for Christianity. Can you find out why ?



Asterix and Obelix are popular Gauls, but can you find out about Vercingetorix who led the Gaul nation to fight Julius Caesar in the Burgundy town of Alesia. This was the beginning of French history some fifty years BC.

The 14th and 15th centuries in Europe were the high point of Burgundian architecture and a civilisation that revolved around the Dukes of Burgundy. The Order of the Golden Fleece is the symbol of this age. What is the Order of the Golden Fleece and how does it exist today ?

Meluzien is situated on the edge of the Morvan Forest, a natural park covering nearly a quarter of a million hectares. What can you find out about the history, flora and fauna of this beautiful area ?

Burgundy is rich in architecture with a variety of impressive castles. Many are ‘chateau forts’ where defence was a priority. Others reflect the renaissance period where style was important. See if you can find some examples to compare.

One tourist guide states that ‘*the history of Burgundy is inextricably linked to its Geography’.* What do you think it means by this ?