



- toC, toC, toC !!
- qui c'est ?
- C'est lapinou
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- Lapinou year !

Bonne Année 2013



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Happy New Year !

It has been a while since we had the opportunity to send news to everyone from our quiet little hameau of Méluzien and we would like to start by wishing you all a prosperous, fulfilling and above all else healthy 2013.

2012 went by in an absolute rush and as we dust ourselves down from a particularly fun packed French Noël and Jour de l'an we are now busy getting to grips with the forthcoming season.

It is certainly going to be busy at MCF in 2013 with a record number of schools confirmed as visitors. We are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone and hope that we can continue to build on the improvements to the educational services and centre facilities that we have made so far.



The MCF summer team with Madame Wilson from Westbourne House

We absolutely loved welcoming everyone last year and having the opportunity to show what we are about as owners of MCF.

Of course it also gave us plenty of inspiration and new ideas for the future and we are excited by what lies ahead.

Our overriding impression from 2012 was of the energy and enthusiasm that your pupils arrived with and applied during their stay with us. We are determined that we and all our team will match the pupils commitment each and every day of their visit.

Staffing News

We are also pleased to let you know that your MCF team for 2013 is full of experienced and familiar faces.

Elodie will be here to welcome schools as the manager of the Méluzien site. Fadila, who manages the Lac Sauvín schools will also be joining us at Méluzien for the Spring and early summer seasons until Lac Sauvín opens at the beginning of June.

Our third teacher is Amélie who joined us for the Lac Sauvín season last year and has been with us ever since. Amélie is from the local town of Semur-en-Auxois, so she brings a genuine Bourgogne feel to the team together with our favourite chef David who continues to cook up a treat for every school each week.

We are also really pleased to announce the return of our teaching assistants Matt and Charlie who enjoyed the Autumn season so much that they are coming back for more !

A Busy Winter

As soon as the last school left at the end of the Autumn season, David exchanged his chef's hat for his paint brushes and has left no wall, ceiling or window untouched. As well as making sure everything is ready for a busy season, Mark has also been working hard on establishing his workshop in the garage ready to do some antique restoration when time allows.

Leaving Mark and David to their 'bricolage', Alex and Elodie spent January in the UK, visiting schools and attending the ISMLA conference in York as well as the ALL conference in London. We were pleased to meet a number of new faces as well as catch up with some friendly MCF supporters. We would like to say a big big thank you to everyone who hosted us and helped us with our UK tour.

Winter is a quiet time in Méluzien and it has given us further opportunities to enjoy the beauty of our surroundings and get further integrated into our little community. We had a lovely evening with our neighbours following their wedding and have enjoyed some truly warm hospitality from many new friends. 2012 was our first full year of operating MCF and we are both now even more certain that we have chosen a perfect business and location for our new life.



We are particularly pleased with our purchase of new bar stools ...

Educational Update

Over the past year we have been working hard to improve the quality of the activities and excursions that we offer. Our focus is on the educational and enjoyment elements of what we provide as we aim to give your pupils the best possible experience. As part of this work we do now have a few new activities and excursions to offer you.

Highly recommended is a day trip to the beautiful town of Beaune. This includes a visit to the famous *Musée de l'Hôtel-Dieu de Beaune* as well as a tour and tasting at *La Moutarderie* of the Fallot family who have been producing Dijon mustard using traditional methods since 1840.

We are also fortunate to be able to offer you access to a new educational centre, opened by the French government last year at Alésia, the site of the final battle between the Gauls and the Romans. A tour of the site and museum as well as a demonstration of Gaul and Roman fighting techniques is a good half day excursion or with the addition of a visit to the remains of a nearby Gallo-Roman town can be extended to a whole day activity.

Another new activity which has proved popular is the introduction of handball at the centre since our expert Amélie joined the team. We are hoping we may inspire the next generation of GB handball players following success at the recent Olympics

We have also spent some time as a team together developing the quality of the whole educational package that we provide. We have looked at teaching techniques as well as content, with a focus on developing themes that run throughout the week. We hope that you will see this reflected in the week you experience with us.

Christmas in Meluzien



Alex and Mark were busy in the kitchen before Christmas preparing home made mince pies and sausage rolls for the 60 pupils of our local primaire at Cussy-les-forges.

We have found that food is a good way to win the hearts of the local French children and it certainly provided a gouter with a difference. They were most bemused by the English tradition of Christmas crackers and nervously put on their paper hats. Explaining the English 'blagues' was a slightly harder task !

However, everyone was able to join in with the 12 days of Christmas to finish off a very English Christmas experience at the end of term.



Don't forget the hoodies !

Personalised hoodies (£20), polo shirts (£15) and t-shirts (£10) are now available to order ready for your visit.



T-shirts (10€) and baseball caps (6€) are now available to buy at the centre.

Out with the old ... in with the new

Nothing much happens in sleepy Meluzien, but when a big lorry with a new mobile home arrives everyone is available to help.



Fortunately a friendly neighbour with a 4 x 4 and then a tractor helped us to move the old mobile home out and the new one in, despite rather wet soil and a bit of a game of 'stuck in the mud'.



School Winners 2012

Congratulations to Emrys, Matthew and Ethan from Merchant Taylors School who topped the archery league this year with a impressive total of **22 points**.

The winning puzzlers for 2012 are Jamie, Dylan and Rohan from Bedford Prep School in a time of **27 minutes and 10 seconds**. Just behind them in the the best time for a 2 person team are Betty and Maddy from Bruton School in **27 minutes and 24 seconds** .

The challenge is now on for 2013



Bookings for 2014 and 2015

We did have a couple of problems this year with changes in school calendars requiring a change of week. PLEASE confirm dates with us as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.