



Bonne Année 2014

Issue 4 : January 2014

Happy New Year !

Welcome to our 2014 January newsletter. As we celebrate our 3rd New Year in Méluzien we are certainly reflecting on a busy, very successful and enjoyable 2013 and wonder just where the time has gone.

Some of our key highlights include the delivery of new accommodation in the form of a mobile home which required help from our friendly neighbours and their tractors to get it into place.

One of our biggest building projects was completed during the Easter break with a large new micro station septic tank being installed under the pétanque pitch. More visible perhaps are the new swings which were immediately put into good use. The rush to 'les balançoires' however continues. Maybe we still need more ...



We were very pleased with the success of our first 6th form trip and enjoyed the excuse to organise a visit to one of the famous wine houses in Beaune, as well as a restaurant night in Magny with the local Mayor. In addition we had a tour of Bazoches castle led by the very charismatic owner and also a meeting with pupils from the Lycée in Semur-en-Auxois.

After the miserable weather of earlier in the year the sun arrived at the beginning of June with temperatures peaking in the last week so that kayaking became more of a swimming activity to help cool us down. Matt and Alex also enjoyed a weekend watching the French National canoë-kayak championships in the spectacular setting of the Morvan forest,



supporting our friends at AMCK kayak who helped to organise the event.

It seemed that as soon as everybody had left for the summer break we were back again for the Autumn season. A new team of staff quickly settled in and we had a fabulous few weeks which included some amazing scores in archery (we keep saying the balloons are blown up too big...) as well as fabulous dance moves that are all available for viewing on our facebook page.

We have had a quiet couple of months in the build up to Christmas but now look forward to a new year and welcoming new and old friends to join us in our beautiful and quiet corner of Bourgogne in 2014.

A bientôt!

Follow us on :
[facebook.com/
maisonfontaine](https://www.facebook.com/maisonfontaine)

Staffing News



We are pleased to let you know that Elodie will be returning in February to welcome schools as the manager of the Méluzien site bringing her usual blend of enthusiasm and experience.

Joining Elodie for the Spring season as part of the teaching team are Maureen and Lucie.

Maureen comes from Tournon sur Rhone which is in the southern department of Ardèche.

Lucie joins us from Lisieux in the north west of France and the department of Calvados.

Both are very excited to be joining us and we are very confident that they will really enhance the experiences of all the children who visit us this year.

Supporting our teachers are Chloe and Lissa who join us as our UK students. Chloe is currently on her year abroad from Bristol University where she is studying for a degree in French. Lissa has just finished her A levels at one of our client schools, Thetford Grammar and is on a gap year before starting her studies at University.

Everyone's favourite chef David has been busy painting and gardening over the winter but he will be returning to the kitchen to cook up a treat each week as the new season begins.



Summer Team
2013



Autumn Team
2013



GAP YEAR STUDENTS WANTED

We are currently recruiting for French language students to work with us for 2014 / 2015.

If you know anyone who might be interested please tell them to contact us as soon as possible.

Educational Updates

Over the past year we have continued to look at educational areas to improve and develop and we hope you will see the changes when you come to us. We have worked hard to plan lessons of a consistently high standard that support activities and excursions as well as meeting the needs of individual groups. Our aim is to send pupils back to school with a wealth of new vocabulary as well as bundles of energy and enthusiasm for their future French studies.

New activities this year include a visit to the local town of Avallon with a role play at the station and a questionnaire about the shops

on the high street. We have also adapted the drama activity to be a final review session towards the end of the week where pupils use the vocabulary they have learnt to prepare short presentations ideal for an assembly on your return to school. Our meal time presentations have proved popular and help to develop confidence in speaking French in front of peers. In addition we have created some work sheets that can be used for the coach journey. We aim to make the most of every moment that you are in France !

It is important to us that we provide an educational

experience that matches your needs and links to the work that you do with pupils at school so that the impact of what we offer is maximised. For that reason we have developed individual schemes of work for all the schools who come to us on a regular basis. We will continue to do this during the year for any new schools or those who have not been for a while. If you would like to discuss any element of this with us we would be very happy and indeed encourage you to contact us with your ideas and any specific needs you may have.

Jingle Bells

No more no more !!! Alex has jingle bells ringing in her ears after spending a day at the local primary school in Magny teaching everyone the Christmas song as part of the end of term celebrations. Pupils of all ages (3 to 11) took part in a range of workshops organized by all their class teachers. As well as singing they made their own bells to jingle, Christmas decorations,

chocolate cakes and also played a Christmas game. As a finale we sang a combination of *Jingle Bells* and *Vive le Vent* with ringing bells until it was definitely time to go home ...



The work we have been doing with Magny school is part of our desire to give something back to the local children and community. In March we are planning our very first 'English Experience Days' at Maison Claire Fontaine. We will be running English classes and activities as well as cooking an English breakfast, fish 'n chips for lunch and preparing an afternoon tea ... mmmmm !

Communications

On the social media side we realise how important communications with parents are and the expectations that they have about knowing what their sons and daughters are up to every second of the day!

It is for this reason we recommend that you tell them about our twitter feed. This is accessible from the front page of our website and is updated with news of your safe arrival as well as information about what you are up to each day. Schools who have used this have found it a very quick and easy way of communicating

with parents without the need for long telephone trees or worries about getting a phone signal to send the messages back. We also hope it takes some of the pressure of yourselves to enable you to spend more time with the pupils whilst you are here.

In addition, please do also have a look at the blog page on our website. We have found this a very useful way of showing parents what we are doing as well as encouraging pupils to write diary entries that are then published. We do of course

twitter

Find us on:
facebook®

need to request permission before using any photographs and we have forms to give to parents if you need them.

We also have a Maison Claire Fontaine facebook page. Please do LIKE and FOLLOW us !

Congratulations to ...



Merchant Taylors' School who top the archery league table for 2013. Thomas and Otto scored a massive 45 points to go above Twycross in the very last week of the Autumn season. Alex also received an MCF t-shirt award as he actually scored 38 points just by himself - fantastique !

The challenge is now on to see who can beat them in 2014 ...

The MCF Shop



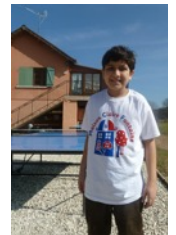
Our onsite MCF shop continues to be popular with items for sale ranging from 1€ for an MCF pen or pencil to 10€ for an MCF t-shirt.



The introduction of local Flavigny bonbons has proved very successful as well as our beautiful new postcards. Thank you to Mr. Lund from Prestfelde school and Mr. Coulson from Sandroyd school for help with the photographs.



A reminder that we can provide personalized t-shirts, polo shirts or hoodies if ordered at least 3 weeks in advance.



DIARY DATES

January 18th : ALL London January Event at SOAS

February 1st : ISMLA Annual Conference at City of London School

