

Tomorrow's Garden Comenius Project 2011-2013

Shoscombe Primary School has been involved in previous Comenius Projects from 2006-2008, and from 2008-2010. In November 2010 we received the International School Award in recognition of our work.

We are very fortunate to have received funding from the British Council for the third time for our current project called '**Tomorrow's Garden**'. It is great to be able to work once again with our previous partner schools from France and Ireland. Over the 2 years of the project partner schools we have been

- Producing multi media research about local area - the landscape, industry, buildings, wildlife and local myths and legends.
- Developing environmentally friendly vegetable gardens and marketed the produce to the local community.
- Working on trying to establish safe walking routes to school.
- Working with local environmental artists to produce work using different mediums - sculpture, painting, dance, literature, theatre and music.
- Contributing to a shared web-site for the project.

Over the course of the project pupils and staff from Shoscombe have opportunities to travel to our partner schools to see at first hand how our shared project is progressing.

Our schools are situated in different environments.

- Shoscombe is a small rural village school.
- Ecole Lafon Feline is a large urban school in Le Bouscat, a suburb of Bordeaux.
- Gurraneasig NS is a very small primary school on the coast of South Cork. The local area is mainly agricultural.



Staff from the French and Irish schools also visited.

The partnership has provided opportunities for pupils and staff to get to know the language, culture, history and geography of our different countries. Despite our differences we share a common interest in protecting our environment for the future. As co-ordinating school Shoscombe was proud to be able to host the first 'mobility' of the new project. In November 2011 six French children stayed with host families of Year 6 children at Shoscombe.

Visit to Bordeaux

From March 25th - 28th 2012 Staff and children from Shoscombe and Gurraneasig travelled to Bordeaux for the 2nd mobility of this project.

Six of our Year 6 children (Tamar, Edie, Thomas, Joseph, Louis and Oscar) travelled to Bordeaux with Mr Poirot, Mrs Fossaceco and Mrs Hampton

We flew from Bristol to Toulouse and then travelled by TGV train to Bordeaux, where our children were collected by their host families. Children from Ireland were also placed with host families. Staff from both visiting countries stayed in a hotel in central Bordeaux.

During our 3 day stay, staff and children were able to visit the sights of the beautiful city of Bordeaux and to sample local cuisine. The glorious weather made the visit all the more enjoyable.

We spent time at Ecole Lafon Feline and children participated in sports activities, lessons and playtimes. Our children actually delivered a lesson - teaching an English clapping game and rhyme that caught on like wildfire in the playground! Staff were able to see the school in action, compare the French and English education systems, and answer questions from the French children. We were also able to see how the French gardening project is progressing.

Our children experienced at first hand life in a French family, and were able to put into practice the French they had learned prior to the trip. Our children were treated with great kindness and hospitality by the host families.

Firm friendships were established (and existing friendships strengthened) between the children and staff from all 3 countries. When looking at the Christian value of 'Friendship' (our assembly theme at Shoscombe School this term) it is important for us all to realise that geographical distance and differences of culture and language are not a barrier to friendship. This is particularly the case in this era of easy air travel and communication via the Internet. Over the next few months we aim to keep in touch with our friends through our shared website established by the French school and also through email, Skype or Facetime.

All too soon the visit was over and we flew home from Bordeaux to Gatwick.

After landing Tamar and Edie had the good fortune to be invited into the plane cockpit by a very friendly pilot. We then caught the train back to Bath. It was interesting to compare the train networks in both countries (The French system is smoother, cheaper and very punctual!) and interesting to note that although all Shoscombe children had flown before, some had never travelled on a train!



I think all participants would agree that it was a very enjoyable and informative few days. We are very grateful to Comenius for the funding we receive for this project. It reinforces the all important message, that as well as being part of the Shoscombe School community, we are all citizens of Europe and the world.

Tamar 'At the start I was slightly nervous...If I knew how lovely the family was I wouldn't have been so worried. At the host's family house we had very French food like chicken stuffed with vegetables. For breakfast we had croissants. The children at the school were very sweet and welcoming to us, they even spoke some English. Whilst at the school Edie and I taught the class Tick,Tack,Toe a clapping game. They loved it. Edie and I had the chance to see Bordeaux at night with our kind family. It was absolutely gorgeous! Seeing all the pretty lights while going across the bridge was quite a sight to see. I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and feel very fortunate to have gone. I made lots of new friends and will remember them forever.'

Oscar 'I went to stay with Alexis...Alexis had been to my house in November so it was nice to see him again. The school was big and in the city with not much green grass. French children go to school at 8.30 and they do not wear school uniform, which I think is a good idea as you can be really relaxed. On Tuesday we went on a trip round Bordeaux. We walked around looking at fountains and old buildings. The weather was great and hot. It was a great trip and I will remember it for a long time'



Thomas 'After experiencing 3 modes of transport - plane, taxi and train we finally arrived at a hot and sunny Bordeaux. We were introduced to our French hosts - Maxime, his mum and his older sister. Maxime's mum prepared supper for us, potato dauphinoise accompanied by foie gras followed by fromage frais. The next day when we arrived at the French school we were swamped by French children who were very pleased to see us and invited us to join in their games. Before lessons began we sang a wake up song with actions, much the same as our Wake and Shake. We had an English translation lesson together, we read out some French words and the French children had to say them in English. After break we played a form of Bingo where we had to name different body parts in French and English. At break time we played football with the French and Irish children. It was great to see Michael again who I stayed with in Ireland. The next day we all went sightseeing we saw the Cailhau Gate and the Grand Theatre.

Edie 'I enjoyed being able to go onto a plane and train to get there. I enjoyed seeing the different atmosphere in the city and trying new foods with the family we were staying with.

I learnt that French lessons are very different to English lessons because they use blackboards instead of interactive whiteboards.

I really enjoyed the whole experience especially meeting new friends, and I hope to see them again. I seemed to understand more French than when we arrived there.'

Joseph 'On Tuesday morning it was my birthday. I was eleven. As I walked into the kitchen I saw the lights were off and Alexis and his Mum came out with a cake to wish me Happy



Birthday. Then we went sightseeing...we bought some very delicious ice-cream. Sadly our last day come on Wednesday and we had to say au-revoir to everyone'

Louis ' My trip to Bordeaux was a great experience and I learnt a lot. I tried a lot of new things. I especially enjoyed the sightseeing because the landscapes were mind blowing'



Our Environmental Art project - All the children at Shoscombe worked with local artist Edwina Bridgeman to create art about the local history of Mining and Framing

Our Garden - We have grown lots of vegetables in our raised beds. We look after them, harvest them and sell to the local community to raise money to buy more seeds



Shoscombe Mobility October 2012



Irish and English children on 'Walk to School'



On the Bath Bus Tour

Visiting At Bristol



and the Docks